



**Portsmouth
Cable Commission Meeting
3:30 p.m. – June 5, 2008
City Hall/City Manager's Conference Room**

The Portsmouth Cable Commission met on Thursday, June 5, 2008 at 3:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order - The following were present:

John Gregg, Chairman
John Bohenko, City Manager
Louis Vinciguerra, Commissioner
Nancy Beach, Commissioner
Kathy Pearce, Commissioner
Gary Lowe, Alternate

Excused absence: Brian Gregg and Nancy Beach.

Also present were Alan Brady, City of Portsmouth Communications Supervisor and Suzanne Woodland, Assistant City Attorney. Also present were Russ Van Billiard, a resident, and David Choate, a reporter.

Chairman John Gregg called the meeting to order at approximately 3:40 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes – May 1, 2008 - Voted to approve and accept the minutes of the April 3, 2008 Cable Commission meeting. Motion passed.

III. Planning for digital update – The Chair summarized the conclusions on this topic from the last meeting and referenced that the City has identified some concerns and limitations in distributing information about the forthcoming digital conversion to residents. The Chair stated that primary interest of the Commission is to see that residents who do have antennas, many of whom may be elderly, receive timely, useful information as to what they need to do.

Suzanne Woodland stated there is no easy available mailing list to target the specific community members that we are concerned about. Suzanne suggested the press might remind people to get the information they need relating to the digital conversion and perhaps we could provide another brief summary of who does and who does not need to be concerned. Comcast and satellite subscribers do not need to be concerned about conversion. Their cable provider will manage the conversion for them. There is currently a bulletin board on Channel 22 and the City said they are willing to see that a message is included on the electronic e-mail. However, these mediums are less likely to reach the residents with antennas. Therefore newspaper coverage and television commercials will be particularly important.

Suzanne Woodland stated City staff is exploring if there are any other good options to try to reach the target and will continue to look at this.

FairPoint TV - The Chair presented a letter he and Suzanne Woodland prepared to be sent to FairPoint regarding advertising which announces FairPoint's ability to provide television service within the city. Only the fine print shows that the service is in conjunction with a satellite provider rather than the previously announced FIOS cable installed by Verizon.

Mr. Russ VanBilliard, member of the public, stated he connected to FIOS approximately 2 years ago and at that time was told it won't be long before video would be available. One of the main reasons Mr. Van Billiard connected to FIOS was anticipation of the TV coming in the near future at a lesser cost than Comcast. FairPoint now owns that fiber optic network but has not announced plans to provide video service over it. The Chair informed Mr. Van Billiard that appreciated his concern, has already spoken with the PUC about the desirability of FairPoint following through on Verizon's plans, and have expressed such interest in the proposed letter to be sent to FairPoint. The Committee approved the letter to be sent to FairPoint.

V. Non Public Session (meeting with Legal Counsel)

MOTION made Kathy Pearce to go into non-public session. Seconded by Gary Lowe. Motion passed.

The Commission then went into non-public session.

MOTION made by Kathy Pearce to go back into public session. Seconded by Gary Lowe. Motion passed

The next meeting will be June 17, 2008 subject to confirmation. The regular scheduled meeting for July 10th is still on.

VI. Adjournment - MOTION made by Gary Lowe. Seconded by Louie Vinciguerra. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine E. Boucas