



**Portsmouth  
Cable Commission Meeting  
3:30 p.m. – October 23, 2008  
City Hall/City Manager’s Conference Room**

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The Portsmouth Cable Commission met on Thursday, October 23, 2008 at 3:30 p.m.

- I. Call to Order** - The following were present:
- John Bohenko, City Manager
  - John Gregg, Chairman
  - Louis Vinciguerra, Commissioner
  - Kathy Pearce, Commissioner
  - Gary Lowe, Commissioner
  - Brian Gregg, Commissioner

Also present were Alan Brady, City of Portsmouth Communications Supervisor and Suzanne Woodland, Assistant City Attorney.

Chairman John Gregg called the meeting to order at approximately 3:35 p.m.

- II. Consideration of FairPoint’s Proposed Trial Of Video Services** – The Chair stated the primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss FairPoint Communication’s request to begin a trial cable video service in Portsmouth. Suzanne Woodland presented Commission members with a letter from FairPoint outlining their request.

The Chair highlighted that the trial would be small (250 households or less), generate no income for FairPoint and not be in conflict with the Franchise Agreement with Comcast. The expressed purpose of the trial would be for FairPoint to test its new IPTV technology and determine customer satisfaction.

Louis Vinciguerra asked how long FairPoint would be conducting this trial period. Suzanne Woodland responded that discussion had revealed this could be a brief as 3 month, but that this would be clarified in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and FairPoint.

Suzanne Woodland said that if we agree with the concept then we can make a recommendation for City Council to authorize the City Manager to enter into negotiations and terms of a MOU with FairPoint’s proposed video trial.

The Chair suggested that FairPoint agree to report regularly to us during the trial period to keep us apprised of their activity. The City Manager suggested that the Chair along with FairPoint come to the City Council and give a final report on their findings.

**MOTION** made by Louie Vinciguerra to accept FairPoint’s letter and prepare a letter to City Council asking to give their authorization to the City Manager to proceed with this pilot program. Seconded by Kathy Pearce. Motion passed unanimously.

The City Manager will place this on the November 20<sup>th</sup> Agenda.

**III. Next Steps Regarding PEG** – The City Manager and the Chair thanked each of the members for their time and effort in negotiating a new franchise agreement with Comcast.

The Chair asked if the committee would like to continue with its regularly scheduled meetings by discussing PEG access channel development in Portsmouth.

Alan Brady pointed out that the Capital Improvement Plan process has begun and that he believes the studio equipment supporting Channel 22 needs to be replaced at a cost of approximately \$20,000. He read his proposed submission for the CIP plan which included a total of \$30,000.

**MOTION** made by Kathy Pearce to accept Alan Brady's submission for the CIP in the amount of \$30,000, \$20,000 as amended for cable broadcast equipment, the balance to be used for future cable needs. Seconded by Brian Gregg. Motion passed.

The Chair suggested sending a letter to the School Board and Superintendent notifying them of the availability to the City of a Channel for Education or Public Access use as of September 15, 2009 and asking them to indicate their interest. This knowledge would help the Commission in planning for development of Public Access.

**MOTION** made by Kathy Pearce to send a letter to the School Board offering the 2<sup>nd</sup> channel in the city for Educational use highlighting known costs and the need to consider the terms in the Franchise Agreement which specify that the second channel in this case, (Educational Access) be fully programmed in order to undertake use of a 3<sup>rd</sup> channel in this case, (Public Access) in February 2010 or thereafter. The letter should request a response by January 15, 2009. Seconded by Brian Gregg. Motion passed.

Louie Vinciguerra informed the Committee of his intent to resign from the Commission now that the Franchise Agreement process has been completed. The Chair and the Commission thanked him for his service and asked that he join them at their next meeting for further recognition.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2008.

Alan Brady will be preparing a schedule of meetings for 2009.

**Adjournment - MOTION** made by Kathy Pearce to adjourn. Seconded by Gary Lowe. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Elaine E. Boucas