



**Portsmouth
Cable Commission Meeting
3:30 p.m. – September 9, 2010
City Hall/City Manager’s Conference Room**

The Portsmouth Cable Commission met on Thursday, September 9, 2010 at 3:30 p.m.

- I. Call to Order** - The following were present:
- John Gregg, Chairman
 - Kathy Pearce, Commissioner
 - Brian Gregg, Commissioner
 - William Southworth, Commissioner
 - Nancy Beach, Commissioner

Also present was Suzanne Woodland, Asst. City Attorney.

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

- II. Approval of Minutes – June 10, 2010 – Motion made by Kathy Pearce to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2010 meeting with the correction in paragraph III “According to the Trust Agreement, the Portsmouth Public Media Board may annually submit a budget to be reviewed by appointees of the Cable Commission, the City Manager and the City Council (total of 3)” and Paragraph V. Suzanne Woodland responded that generally the City avoids getting involved in disputes between individual owners of condominiums and condo associations”. Seconded by Bill Southworth. Motion passed.**
- III. Portsmouth Public Media Request to Access Trust Monies** – The Chair reported there was little new to report at this time. He understood that the Portsmouth Public Media Board (PPM) were accessing the monies from the fund in support of their start up work. Brian Gregg confirmed that the financial advisory committee authorized releasing all funds received from Comcast for FY 2009.
- IV. High Speed Telecommunications Infrastructure** – Bill Southworth led a discussion regarding the merits of developing high(er) speed telecommunications within Portsmouth. He pointed out that communities that have high speed telecommunications are economically stronger and that Portsmouth is losing ground to Boston. Boston is increasing telecommunications speed and is very competitive. He also expressed a concern that the FIOS infrastructure in Portsmouth now owned by FairPoint and potentially superior to Comcast cable will deteriorate if not maintained. He does not believe FairPoint will do so. He felt there were three issues: 1) Preserving the FIOS infrastructure, 2) Developing competition for Comcast, and 3) making Portsmouth more economically competitive. The benefits would accrue to the business community as well as to consumers. He provided the Commission with supporting information he downloaded from the internet. He also mentioned that he still intends to meet with the NH Director of Broadband Development. After some discussion, it

was agreed that while Commissioner Southworth continues to research this topic – especially examples of what other communities are doing, Suzanne Woodland and the Chair will update the City Manager, determine if some other group within the city is/has been looking into this and who, if anyone, should take the lead on this e.g. the Economic Development Commission or the Cable Commission.

V. Network Neutrality – To be discussed at the next meeting.

VI. Adjournment: Motion made by Nancy Beach to adjourn. Seconded by Kathy Pearce. Motion passed.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2010