

Pubic Hearings – Cablevision Franchise Agreement  
May 27, 2015

The Town Board held a Public Hearing on the above date at the Town Hall, 238 Main Street, Cold Spring, New York at 7:30 p.m. The purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear comments for/against the Cablevision Franchise Agreement for the Northern and Southern areas of Philipstown between Cablevision of Wappingers, Inc. and the Town of Philipstown.

**PRESENT:**

Richard Shea	Supervisor
Nancy Montgomery	Councilwoman
John Van Tassel	Councilman
Michael Leonard	Councilman
Robert Flaherty	Councilman

Town Clerk Merando read the public notice.

Supervisor Shea stated that the Town Board has been reviewing the proposed agreement and the Supervisor has met with members of the community and the seniors. Cablevision has been generous to the Town of Philipstown in offering services, such as free Internet access for Chestnut Ridge, as well as the schools and emergency services.

Dan Ahouse, Area Director of Government Affairs, noted that the agreement before the Board is a ten (10) year term. They mirror the current agreement with the exception of some updates as required by federal and state laws, and technical updates. Cablevision is totally built out, therefore, no construction is required. Ten (10) areas in the town are offered free services, as mentioned above. Maintenance will be provided for the town's municipal channel as well as a \$10,000 grant to upgrade the government access channel. The agreement also includes a 5% franchise fee payable to the town.

Councilman Leonard stated that in the southern area of Philipstown the audio is very low. Mr. Ahouse acknowledged that there is a problem and they had some engineers at the Town Hall today looking at the equipment. They had some complaints about the sound and video quality. Mr. Ahouse stated that today was the first time that he had heard of quality issues in the southern area of broadcast.

Councilman Van Tassel questioned free services for the firehouses. Mr. Ahouse responded saying that they are included.

Joyce Blum compared FIOS with Cablevision and the increased costs for CATV customers. Mr. Ahouse reported that Cablevision is building a large WiFi (hot spots) in this area that are free. He went on to explain three (3) new products that are now available, the first being FREEWHEEL, a mobile phone that works off of WiFi. It offers text, phone and unlimited access to the Internet, which is

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more affordable than mobile plans. Second, a low cost broadband product is now available and a digital antenna. All of these services are less expensive than even the promotional cost for new customers. Cablevision is bringing new products to address affordability issues, recognizing that there are now many ways customers can access programs, for example, NETFLIX, etc.

Councilwoman Montgomery then responded to a question that Ms. Blum posed earlier and that is that Fios has no desire to come into Philipstown - the numbers are just not there. Supervisor Shea added that FIOS needs to have 90% coverage within five years and the terrain in Philipstown is too rugged.

There being no further comments from the public, Councilman Leonard made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Montgomery and unanimously carried to close the Public Hearing at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Tina M. Merando  
Town Clerk