

North Suburban Communication Commission
January 5, 2006
Roseville, MN

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

The Commissioner Chairman, Rick Talbot, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at CTV North Suburbs, Roseville facility.

II. Roll Call

The following Commissioners were in attendance:

Craig Wilson, Arden Hills
Rick Talbot, Falcon Heights
Heather Bukowski, Alternate, Lauderdale
Barb Haake, Mounds View
Steve Larson, New Brighton
Jim Johnston, North Oaks
Tom Kough, Roseville
Clarence Ranallo, St. Anthony
Ady Wickstrom, Shoreview

Others present:

Coralie A. Wilson, Executive Director
Steve Guzzetta, Bradley & Guzzetta, LLC
Kathy Donnelly-Cohen, Director of Government Affairs, Comcast
Pat Doocy, Administration/Human Resource Manager

III. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Larson moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Haake moved, seconded by Mr. Wilson, to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2005, meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. Public Forum

No one was present to speak at the public forum.

VI. Reports

A. Executive Report

Ms. Wilson updated the Commissioners on the bill introduced by Senator Jim DeMint, which would eliminate local cable franchising.

Ms. Wilson reported that she had just received a letter from Kathy Donnelly-Cohen explaining the refund plan required by the settlement with Comcast on equipment and installation rates. Ms. Wilson reported she forwarded the email version of the plan to Mr. Treich, who reported the initial review of the plan looked good, but he will spend more time reviewing it in its entirety.

Ms. Wilson reminded the Commissioners of the NATOA legislative and regulatory workshop in Washington, DC March 23-24. She added that there will be a couple sessions on second franchises and franchises from telephone companies such as Qwest. Ms. Wilson

asked the Commissioners and their cities to notify the Commission office if approached by Qwest for a franchise to prevent jeopardizing the present franchise with Comcast.

B. Attorney

Mr. Guzzetta stated that Qwest has been contacting cities in the metro area regarding a franchise. He and Ms. Wilson agree that, although they welcome a second franchise, steps need to be taken to ensure the company follows the same rules as Comcast.

Mr. Guzzetta reviewed the DeMint bill, which would eliminate local authority.

Mr. Guzzetta noted that, at their December 2005 meeting, the Commission adopted a rate order requiring that Comcast submit a refund plan. He added that the refund is approximately \$2.89 per subscriber.

C. Cable Company

Ms. Donnelly-cohen referred to Comcast's monthly newsletter that was included in the packet. She pointed out the Sprint/Nextel joint agreement with Comcast. Ms. Donnelly-Cohen also pointed out the introduction of the Family Tier, which will have programming that is family-friendly. She added that this tier will require the use of a digital converter, which has easy-to-use parental control features.

Ms. Donnelly-Cohen reported Comcast has added some billing system enhancements, which give much more detail on the customer's bills.

VII. Consent Agenda

VIII. General Business

A. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Wickstrom moved, seconded by Ms. Haake, to approve the November 2005 Treasurer's Report. The motion was approved unanimously.

B. Stipend for Cable Reimbursement

The Commission discussed the history of the cable service reimbursement stipend. Ms. Wickstrom, Commissioner from Shoreview, stated that since she is receiving a salary from her city as a member of the City Council she opposes receiving a stipend from the Commission.

Mr. Ranallo moved, seconded by Mr. Larson, to increase the monthly stipend for cable service reimbursement from \$80 to \$100 for 2006 and to increase annually based on the Consumer Price Index. The motion was passed by majority vote with one "no" vote from Commissioner Wickstrom of Shoreview.

C. Contribution to NATOA Legislative Effort

Ms. Haake moved, seconded by Mr. Ranallo, to contribute \$5,000 to NATOA for legislative and regulatory lobbying, communications and legal representation. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Wickstrom moved, seconded by Mr. Johnston, to direct staff to send a letter to NATOA asking to include lobbying fees in the regular annual dues in order that all involved pay their fair share. The motion was approved unanimously.

D. Comments on FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Mr. Talbot moved, seconded by Mr. Larson, to participate in the joint comments on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on local cable franchising (MB Docket 05-311) to be prepared by Bradley & Guzzetta, at a cost not to exceed \$2,500. The motion was approved

unanimously.

E. Appointment of Nominating Committee

Mr. Larson, Mr. Kough and Ms. Haake agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee.

After a discussion on need for the committee to have a formal meeting, Ms. Haake moved, seconded by Ms. Wickstrom, to reelect Mr. Talbot as Chairman and Mr. Larson as Vice Chair and to approve the nomination of Mr. Craig Wilson as Secretary/Treasurer. The motion was approved unanimously.

IX. Announcements

X. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted:

Pat Doocy, Administration/HR Manager

Barb Haake, Secretary Treasurer