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Hamilton Wenham Public Television
License Renewal Public Hearing
Tuesday, January 14, 2014
Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street, Wenham Ma

TOWNS OF HAMILTON AND WENHAM NOTICE Cable Television License Renewal Public Hearing A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at Wenham Town Hall, 138 Main Street, Wenham MA, concerning Comcast Cable ("Comcast" or the "Licensee") and the proposed renewal of its non-exclusive Hamilton and Wenham cable licenses both of which are due to expire in March 2015. Members of the public from Hamilton and Wenham are encouraged to testify at this hearing concerning the performance of Comcast and local cable needs in renewal licenses for Hamilton and Wenham. This hearing is held pursuant to 207 CMR 3.00 and 47 United States Code 546 as a public proceeding to identify the needs of each town. Public records pertaining to the renewal will be available for inspection and copying at the Town Hall, Selectmen's Office. The hearing will be conducted by both the Hamilton and Wenham Boards of Selectmen, in their capacity as cable license Issuing Authorities for their respective towns and with respect to separate licenses for each of the two towns, and for the purpose of ascertainment of local cable needs for each town. For further information please contact Michael Lombardo, Town Manager, Hamilton or Mark Andrews, Town Administrator, Wenham, regarding Hamilton and Wenham respectively. By orders of the Hamilton and Wenham Boards of Selectmen. Salem News published 12/27/13, 1/3/14

With a quorum present, Chairman Whittaker called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 7 PM
Selectmen Present: Ken Whittaker, Chair; Jack Wilhelm, Secretary, Hamilton Selectmen Marc Johnson, Chair
Not Present: Patrick Wilson, Vice Chair
Also Present: Mark Andrews, Wenham Town Administrator; Catherine Tinsley, Minutes Secretary
William Melville, HWCAM Executive Director
Hamilton Wenham Cable TV Brian Doser, Warren Gray, Bill Nichols, Tom Rogers
Hamilton Wenham Regional School Superintendent Michael Harvey
Attorney William August, Epstein & August LLP, Boston
Jane Lyman, Comcast Senior Manager of Government and Regulatory Affairs
Wendy Thomas, Court Reporter hired by Comcast

Hamilton Town Official attending but not participating: Town Manager Michael Lombardo; Selectmen Jeff Hubbard, Scott Maddern, and David Neill
This meeting was recorded, with permission, by HWCAM

Public Information:
Agenda
Public Hearing Notice
Letters of reference

Abbreviations used:
BOS Board of Selectmen
HW Hamilton Wenham

Mr. Whittaker opened the hearing at 7:03 PM and read the legal notice to hold a public hearing regarding the Comcast Cable license due to expire on March 1, 2015.
He explained that although Wenham and Hamilton were holding a joint hearing, each town would be voting to renew the Comcast Cable license independently at a future meeting.
Mr. Whittaker asked that those wishing to speak go the podium, give their name and address, and to direct questions to the Selectmen Chairs. Written comments concerning the renewal could be submitted through the Town Administrator/ Manager's offices. He announced that the meeting was being transcribed.

A number of residents, of Hamilton and Wenham, spoke in favor of renewing the Comcast Cable License citing the increased ability to provide local information to the community by broadcasting and making available for replay on line, municipal meetings, school sports, religious services, and other local events. Other comments included the benefit of the community bulletin board to keep residents informed of local activities, and important announcements.

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Many comments were made that the demand for local programming has grown over the past ten year and would likely continue to increase, and it was important to have the ability to meet future programming needs. The students that participate were recognized for their dedication and volunteerism, as was Bill Melville for his teamwork and outstanding programming. The following suggestions were made:

Comcast provide a basic package with fewer channels

Increase “fixed” locations for additional broadcasting

Provide High Definition

Expand the studio at the high school

Consider a discount for senior citizens

The following citizens made public comments:

- Jeff Stinson, Homestead Circle, Hamilton
- Michael Lucy, Wenham Finance & Advisory Committee Chair
- Alexa McCloughan, Bridge Street, Hamilton
- Trudy Reid, Topsfield Road, Wenham - Town Clerk, and former COA Director
- Deirdre McManus, Hickory lane, Hamilton- Librarian
- Selectman Whittaker observed that the quality of the replay on the internet could be improved
- Tom Rogers, Sagamore Street, Hamilton, HW Cable Board of Director
- Carin Kale, Rock Maple Ave, Hamilton, HW League of Women Voters
- Brian Doser, Cedar Street, Wenham, HW Cable Board of Directors
- Michele Bailey, Remington Road, Wenham
- Hamilton Town Manager Michael Lombardo, Cherry Street, Wenham
- Hamilton Selectman Mark Johnson
- Bill Nichols, Topsfield Road, Wenham
- Mark Andrews, Town Administrator

• William Melville spoke about the expansion of the programming over the past ten years and the desire to continue to grow to meet the needs of the community but said the current studio is reaching its capacity. As technology grows, more space is required in the control room. He expounded on the details of the limited physical space of the studio at 12 feet x 18 feet, noting his office is in the IT closet, classes must be limited to 15 students, and groups for talk shows / debates cannot use the studio. An architect has been engaged to consider the expansion of the studio and adding an exterior wall. Mr. Melville reviewed that HWCAM supports two towns and a school district, provides training, high school classes, and assists the Towns with operating data infrastructure as a private fiber network. In closing, he thanked residents for their support.

Copies of letters of reference / support were provided to the BOS. These will be entered as an additional exhibit.

Ms. Lyman confirmed there are no outstanding issues that she is aware of and “for the most part, customers are happy” (with Comcast service).

Mr. August reiterated that the hearing would be continued and the process of the ascertainment would remain open until further notice. Comment should be forwarded to the respective town leaders.

Vote: Mr. Johnson moved, and it was seconded, to continue the hearing. The motion carried unanimously.
It was unanimous to adjourn at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine Tinsley

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