

MEMO

Town of Nantucket

TO: L. Gibson, Town Manager

FROM: G. Tivnan, Assistant Town Manager

CC: L. Getter, F. Rullo

DATE: 11/1/18

RE: Comcast Contract Renewal Update



On October 13, 2019 the Town's contract with Comcast, Inc for franchise cable service expires. This contract is for cable television services only and does not include internet service. The current contract can be found on the Town's website under *Community > Nantucket Community Television* (<http://www.nantucket-ma.gov/1088/Nantucket-Community-Television>).

This renewal process is an opportunity for the Town to partner with Comcast for improved and expanded cable and PEG Channel services including software and hardware upgrades. The Board of Selectmen has final approval over the negotiated renewal agreement.

Per the Cable Communications Act of 1984, Section 626 the issuing authority (the Town) and the cable provider (Comcast) are compelled to reach a renewal agreement through a formal process that takes over 18 months to properly conduct. The Town was notified of this formal renewal process via a notice from Comcast dated March 13, 2017 (attached). This begins the Town's "ascertainment" period during which a cable access workgroup must be formed and specific steps must be taken to meet the requirements of the renewal process that include a public survey, development of a business plan addressing access needs/requests, and negotiations with Comcast.

The cable access workgroup consists of: Gregg Tivnan, Lisa Getter, Florencia Rullo, Linda Rhodes, Jenn Ericksen, Karen McGonigle, Andrew Cromartie and Jason Bridges (ad hoc). In addition to multiple calls with counsel and staff tasks the workgroup has met eight times to create the survey and address the business plan:

- March 20, 2017 (Town Building)
- July 18, 2017 (NCTV Office)
- September 28, 2017 (NCTV Office)
- October 26, 2017(Town Building)
- January 29, 2018 (NCTV Office)
- July 26, 2018 (NCTV Office)
- October 18, 2018 – Part 1 (Community Room)
- October 18, 2018 – Part 2 (NCTV Office)

from the desk of . . .

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NCTV engaged the services of Attorney William Solomon to assist with the creation of the business plan. Attorney Solomon facilitated a meeting with department stakeholders on October 18 and has met with the workgroup via conference call or in person three times.

The timeline to completion remains similar:

1. Subscriber Survey..... Completed January 2018
2. Distribute Subscriber Survey.....April 2018 tax bills/2018 ATM/Online
February-September
3. Draft Business Plan..... Summer 2018
4. Survey Results..... Sept./Oct. 2018
5. Finalize Draft Business Plan November 2018
6. Public Outreach..... January-March 2019
7. Begin Negotiations with Comcast..... April 2019
8. Complete Negotiations..... September 2019