

Meeting Minutes

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, April 23, 2002 - 6:00 P.M.

County-City Building - Conference Room D

1516 Church Street Present: Chairman Rackow, Commissioners Curtis, Pintar, Patton (arrived 6:40 P.M.), Wyhuske; Alderman/Commissioner Phillips

Excused: Commissioners Colantonio, Lysne; Alderman/Commissioner Walther

Also Present: Mayor Wescott, Clerk Zdroik, Alderperson Sevenich, Tom Hagen (V of Whiting), Ken Shibilski (V of Plover), Jim Ebenhoe (Charter), Jessie Hlad (Charter)

Index of these Minutes:

1. Approval of minutes of March 20, 2002.
 2. Stevens Point/Plover Area Telecommunications Commission.
 3. Report of Charter Communications.
 4. Date, time, and location of next meeting.
 5. Adjourn into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(e) to discuss telecommunications franchise negotiations.
 6. Adjournment
1. Approval of minutes of March 20, 2002.

Commissioner Curtis moved, Alderman/Commissioner Phillips seconded, for approval of the minutes of March 20, 2002.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

2. Stevens Point/Plover Area Telecommunications Commission.

Chairman Rackow noted that when a new franchise agreement is acted upon and adopted, the Telecommunications Commission can start working on the Regional Commission.

3. Report of Charter Communications.

Jessie Hlad, Charter Communications, reported Charter will no longer pay franchise fees on cable modem service based on the FCC's news release dated March 14, 2002.

Mayor Wescott asked Ms. Hlad if the City has been officially notified of this intended change on the payment of franchise fees. Any official notification must be directly addressed to the City Clerk, the Mayor said.

Ms. Hlad said a letter to this effect has been sent to the City Clerk. Mayor Wescott asked Ms. Hlad to fax a copy of the letter and also send a copy via U.S. mail.

IMPORTANT PROGRAMMING INFORMATION.

Ms. Hlad said this is not a legal notice. It is more or less a courtesy copy to let the City know what is happening to the digital service.

On the subject of the Wood County Telephone Company offering cable service to the Town of Plover, Ms. Hlad reported the Town of Plover Board did not act on the Resolution. Charter agreed to the Resolution being presented by the Town of Plover Board but WCTC did not have a representative at the board meeting. Mr. Ebenhoe is coordinating this matter with Attorney James T. Quinn, who the Town of Plover hired to advise the Town in this matter.

Commissioner Wyhuske questioned how Wood County Telephone Company can surface and service the Town of Plover?

Chairman Rackow explained that Wood County Telephone Company services the western end of the Town of Plover.

Alderperson/Commissioner Phillips asked if a municipality can have as many cable operators as the municipality wants?

Chairman Rackow said yes, although the Town of Plover does not have enough residents between the eastern and western portions of the town for a cable company to want to serve the residents in the middle of the town.

Mayor Wescott reminded the members of the Commission that the Telecommunication Commission does not have authority in the Town of Plover. Only the Town Board has the jurisdiction in the Town.

Commissioner Curtis wanted some clarification as to the City's ability to negotiate with another cable operator while negotiating with Charter. It is his understanding that the City cannot negotiate with another cable operator while negotiating with Charter.

Mayor Wescott said that is correct. WCTC approached the Town of Plover.

Mr. Ebenhoe stated WCTC services customers in the Town of Plover with terms and conditions other than what Charter offers in the Town.

Commissioner Wyhuske asked if it is possible for WCTC to service Stevens Point?

Mr. Ebenhoe said it is possible.

Ms. Hlad noted that a letter from M. Celeste Vossmeier, Charter Communications, concerning policies for late fees with other communities was not included in the packet.

4. Date, time, and location of next meeting.

The next Telecommunications Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28, 2002, at 6:00 P.M. in Conference Room D, County-City Building, 1516 Church Street.

5. Adjourn into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(e) to discuss franchise negotiations.

Commissioner Pintar moved, Alderperson/Commissioner Phillips seconded, to adjourn into closed session.

Roll Call: Ayes: Chairman Rackow, Commissioners Curtis, Patton, Pintar, Wyhuske; Alderman/Commissioner Phillips.
Nays: None. Motion carried.

6. Adjournment - 7:06 P.M.

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