

Meeting Minutes

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, May 30, 2002 - 6:00 P.M.

County-City Building - Conference Room D

1516 Church Street Present: Chairman Rackow, Commissioners Pintar, Patton, Wyhuske

Excused: Commissioners Colantonio, Curtis, Lysne, Alderman/Commissioners Walther, Phillips

Also Present: Clerk Zdroik, Alderperson Sevenich, Tom Hagen (V of Whiting), Oliver Merriam (V of Plover), John Holdridge (T of Hull), John Klismet (V of Park Ridge), Jessie Hlad (Charter), Jenna Baker (SPASH student)

Index of these Minutes:

1. Approval of minutes of April 23, 2002.
2. Stevens Point/Plover Area Telecommunications Commission.
3. Report of Charter Communications.
  - a. Letter from Jessie Hlad, Charter Communications, April 30, 2002, with two attachments.
  - b. Letter from Jessie Hlad, Charter Communications, May 14, 2002, concerning WINK.
  - c. Attorney Grogan's letter, May 16, 2002, to Attorney Bremer.
  - d. Newspaper article, "Viewers win in VOD, PVR fight."
4. Date, time, and location of next meeting.
5. Adjournment.

1. Approval of minutes of April 23, 2002.

Chairman Rackow moved, Commissioner Patton seconded, for approval of the minutes of April 23, 2002.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

2. Stevens Point/Plover Area Telecommunications Commission.

Chairman Rackow informed members of the Commission the new target date for establishing the Stevens Point/Plover Area Telecommunications Commission is August 1, 2002. Some municipalities will receive franchise fees and other municipalities have the prospect of getting franchise fees.

Chairman Rackow further informed the Commission that Charter is sensitive to giving the number of subscribers. He plans to convert the parts of the organizational document from number of subscribers to the amount of PEG access support fees, which the Chairman thinks is very close to the number of subscribers.

Town of Hull Chairman Holdridge asked the reason why Charter would not give the number of subscribers?

Chairman Rackow said Charter would not want the information to get into the hands of potential competitors.

Jessie Hlad, Charter, explained that one of the reasons why Charter is reluctant to give out the number of subscribers information is that the number fluctuates all the time. A good example is when the university students come and go.

Commissioner Patton advised the use of percent on the number of subscribers.

Ms. Hlad said that is what was provided.

3. Report of Charter Communications.

Clerk Zdroik clarified a statement made by Ms. Hlad in last month's meeting regarding official notification to the City of the intended change on the payment of the franchise fee as it relates to cable modem service. Ms. Hlad informed the Commission last month that an official notification to this effect was sent to the City Clerk's office. That official notification was sent directly to Chairman Rackow not to the City Clerk's office.

One of the letters sent to Chairman Rackow is from M. Celeste Vossmeier, Charter's Vice-President Government Relations which refers to Notice of Revised late fee implementation which will go into effect May 1, 2002. A copy of that letter is attached.

The second letter is from M. Celeste Vossmeier, relating to cable modem offerings. A recent ruling by the FCC ruled that cable modem services are "information services" delivered by a cable system. As a result of the FCC decision, Charter will no longer be collecting franchise fees on cable modem services from customers and the franchise fees remitted to the City will be adjusted.

Jessie Hlad, Charter, reported that WINK interactive television was launched to digital customers in the Stevens Point area on March 28, 2002. Due to some software challenges, Charter will turn the program off to reprogram it. Since this service is free, no refunds or billing adjustments will need to be made.

Attorney Grogan's letter addressed to Attorney Bremer dated May 16, 2002, is asking for a timely response on the final franchise documents as the City of Stevens Point Common Council anticipates taking action on the Regulatory Ordinance and Cable Franchise Agreement at its meeting on Monday, June 17, 2002.

A newspaper article on VOD, PVR was provided by Richard Doxtator to the Telecommunications Commission for information only. A copy of the newspaper article is attached.

Commissioner Patton moved, Commissioner Pintar seconded, to accept the report and place it on file.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

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

The next Telecommunications Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 26, 2002, at 6:00 P.M. in Conference Room D, County-City Building, 1516 Church Street.

5. Adjournment - 7:05 P.M.

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Bottom of Form