

Meeting Minutes

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

Wednesday, September 25, 2002 - 6:00 P.M.

City Conference Room - 1515 Strongs Avenue Present: Chairman Rackow, Commissioners Colantonio, Curtis, Lysne, Patton, Pintar, Wyhuske, Alderman/Commissioner Phillips

Absent: Alderman/Commissioner Walther

Also Present: Clerk Zdroik, Alderpersons Sevenich, Sowieja (left at 6:25 p.m.), Telecommunications Coordinator Quirk, John Klismet (V of Park Ridge, left at 6:20 P.M.), Hank Becker (T of Linwood, left at 6:20 P.M.) Tom Hagen (V of Whiting), Jim Ebenhoe (Charter Communications), Jessie Hlad (Charter Communications)

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6. Survey results on the future role of the Telecommunications Commission.
7. Date, time, and location of next meeting.
8. Adjournment.

1. Approval of minutes of August 21, 2002.

Commission Patton moved, Commissioner Wyhuske seconded, for approval of the minutes of August 21, 2002.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

2. Report of Charter Communications.

a. Charter= s Cable Service in the western portion of the Town of Plover - Chairman

Rackow reported the renewal effort with the Town of Plover is getting closer. The problem in the western portion of the town is that the middle portion of the town is not densely populated and the houses are not close enough together for any cable company to want to serve. The western portion of the town is being served by Wood County Telephone Company. The Town of Plover is hesitating to approve the franchise agreement with Charter because Wood County Telephone does not want to meet the same conditions as Charter does.

There were additional complications in the western portion of the town when two or three or four residents served by WCT asked Charter for cable service in the last few years. Charter said no because there were too few houses, it is not close enough and Charter was not required to build there. It was not economically feasible. Charter= s engineers said the agreement states there have to be 25 houses per mile before service has to be extended. The Draft Regulatory Ordinance specifies that there have to be 15 houses per half mile, so we are not quite there now.

Jessie Hlad, Charter Communications, said the existing agreement did not say anything about density. The extension is looked at on a yearly basis to see if service can be offered in the area. The extension will not come from Wisconsin Rapids, it will be run from the rest of the Town of Plover plant.

Jim Ebenhoe, Charter Communications, noted that Charter will still have to build an extension plant. He added there are priorities set.

A lot of concerns were voiced on holding the executed documents from the seven municipalities now because the three townships have not acted on their documents. The Commission members would like to get the seven executed documents on hand released to Attorney Grogan for acceptance by Charter as soon as possible.

Alderman/Commissioner Phillips said the Commission does not have control over the situation. Let Charter, Wood County Telephone and the Town of Plover straighten it out since the Commission cannot vote on the matter anyway.

Chairman Rackow asked how do you think Charter will respond if the three townships were added at a later date?

Mr. Ebenhoe said it is not an issue at this time.

b. Charter= s programming in the Wautoma area - Charter reported the digital upgrade project in the Wautoma Area/Waushara County (including Neshkoro) is near completion. Charter Digital Cable was introduced on September 4. This will mean additional channels plus many added features, the report said.

Alderman/Commissioner Phillips moved, Commissioner Patton seconded, to accept the report and place it on file.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

3. xDSL.com - August 20, 2002.

Copy attached.

4. Communications Law Update - September 13, 2002.

Copy attached.

5. Stevens Point/Plover Area Telecommunications Commission.

Work continues on getting the last three municipalities involved.

6. Survey results on the future role of the Telecommunications Commission.

There were eleven survey forms received. The results of the survey showed most or all of the responsibility of the cable commission should be transferred to the Regional Commission.

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

The next Telecommunications Commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 29, 2002, at 6:00 P.M., in the City Conference Room, 1515 Strongs Avenue.

8. Adjournment - 7:00 P.M.

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