

Meeting Minutes

TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Wednesday, January 27, 2000 - 6:00 P.M.

Portage County Annex - 1462 Strongs Ave.

Present: Chairman Rackow, Aldermen Phillips, Walther; Commissioners Bartosz, Colantonio, Curtis, Pintar, Wyhuske

Absent: Commissioner Patton

Also Present: Mayor Wescott, Telecommunications Coordinator Quirk, Alderperson Sevenich, John Klismet (Park Ridge), Tom Hagen (Whiting), Ken Shibilski (V of Plover), John Holdridge (Hull), Susan Kampmeier (Journal), Bill Oldenberg (Charter), Tim Schieffer (Charter), Jim Ebenhoe (Charter), Doug Duba (Charter), Tom Bauman (Charter), Steve Frost (Charter), Sean O'Leary (Charter)

1. Approval of minutes of December 16, 1999.

Commissioner Pintar moved, Alderman Phillips seconded, for approval of the minutes of December 16, 1999.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

2. Adjourn into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(e) to discuss telecommunications franchise negotiations, approximately 1 hour.

Commissioner Phillips moved, Alderman Walther seconded, to adjourn into closed session.

Roll Call: Ayes: Chairman Rackow, Aldermen Phillips, Walther; Commissioners Bartosz, Colantonio, Curtis, Pintar, Wyhuske.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

3. Reconvene into open session to consider instructions to the negotiating committee at approximately 7:00 P.M.

Commissioner Curtis moved, Commissioner Wyhuske seconded, to reconvene into open session.

Roll Call: Ayes: Chairman Rackow, Aldermen Phillips; Commissioners Bartosz, Colantonio, Curtis, Pintar, Wyhuske.

Nays: None. Motion carried.

4. Report of Charter Communications

a. Status of corrective action on subscriber bills in Stevens Point.

Ms. Susan Jirgl of Charter said the company had been having problems with the bills for Stevens Point. She said Charter had been undercollecting the franchise fee. The collections of the FCC fee and sales tax have been made and the receiving agencies have been paid what is due them. She said Charter's February bills will reflect the franchise fee in the appropriate amount. She said no subscriber had been overcharged. In response to a question as to whether Charter intended to make up for its undercollection, Ms. Jirgl responded that was not yet decided.

b. Replacing channel 11 with channel 55.

Ms. Susan Jirgl of Charter said until a week ago the temporary antenna for Channel 55 was not good enough for people in Stevens Point to receive it off the air. Now Channel 55 has its permanent antenna up and functioning. Fox has the authority to block out Fox here because residents can get WLUK from Green Bay. Channel 55 is in a growth mode.

5. Presentation by Charter Communications on its new services.

Tim Schieffer of Charter gave a presentation on the new service called Charter Digital Cable. The new service is available to provide 140 additional channels and other items. Subscribers need to subscribe to two levels of existing service to be eligible to subscribe to the new service. Subscribers get a Digital Converter with associated remote control for \$8.95 per month. A Digital Converter is required for each TV set on which the subscriber wishes to receive the addition service. Services are Family Choice at \$3.95 per month, News and Information at \$2.95 per month, and Movies and Music at \$3.95 per month. The combined services may be obtained as Digital Choice at \$5.95 per month.

Steve Frost of Charter made a presentation on high speed Internet service. He said Charter's service is more economical than others because the whole connection is made through Charter instead of getting a telephone company and getting a server through some other provider. He said the service is also much faster. It allows those who now have a second telephone line for an Internet connection to terminate that line.

Stevens Point is being offered this service ahead of many communities of similar and even larger size. There are now 50 modems in operation in the area. Commercial services will be made available in the near future.

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

The next Telecommunications Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 9, 2000, at 6:00 P.M. at a place to be designated.

7. ADJOURNMENT - 8:30 P.M.

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