



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: October 2, 2017 – Workshop
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Chairman Pepe, Vice Chair Woodbury, Members Stevens, Hicks, Monette, and Interim Administrator Ross

At 6:00 p.m. Chairman Pepe called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Discussion with Charter Communications

Anna Lucey, Director of Government Affairs for Charter Communications met with the Board to answer questions and provide an update on the process for channel line-up changes.

Current License Agreement Status/Plan for Renewal

Ms. Lucey reported that the Town and Charter are in year four of a ten year agreement. Discussions for entering into a new agreement will begin in 2020.

Channel Line-up Changes

Ms. Lucey explained that channel drops are not always in their control. Charter has transmission contracts with each station and at times it can be difficult to settle on renewal terms thereby making it a challenge to come to an agreement. She noted that Channel 11 Sports is scheduled to be dropped.

Dr. Hicks asked that the Board be notified directly with regard to any changes to the channel line-up.

Charter's Revised Structure with Spectrum

Mr. Pepe asked about Spectrum and if there any changes coming. Ms. Lucey explained that Spectrum is Charter's outward brand. Aside from the removal of Channel 11 Sports, there are no other changes expected at this time.

Mary Braney, SCA received a letter from Charter regarding retransmission consent status and asked for clarification. Ms. Lucey explained that it refers to NBC affiliates and the right to rebroadcast stations as indicated in the letter.

Mike Toomey, Ash Street, asked to bring the Springfield Channel back for Spencer residents since weather events come to Spencer from Springfield and would provide more appropriate coverage than a channel out of Boston. Ms. Lucey said it may not be possible; nevertheless she will ask her manager and report back to the Administrator. The Board thanked Ms. Lucey for her time.

Review TA Job Description

Dr. Hicks reported that the TASC met recently and made a few minor changes to the draft TA Job Description.

Mary Braney will revise in accordance with the changes as requested by the TASC. Mr. Stevens would like to see a specific reference that the Administrator will represent the Town as a direct liaison to the business community and agencies working with the Economic Development Committee. Ms. Braney will verify whether or not this is in line with the Town Charter.

Mr. Ross reported that certified new growth is \$541,000, which is \$441,000 higher than the amount utilized in the draft budget. The growth is related to solar projects. He commended Principal Assessor Linda LeBlanc on a job well done.

Mass State Development has asked to meet with Mr. Ross to discuss options to salvage the Sugden building.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Administrative Assistant

Referenced Materials

TA Job Description