



Meeting Minutes

**Cable Television Advisory Committee
PUBLIC HEARING and Regular Meeting
Lincoln Room, 3rd Floor, City Hall
455 Main St., Worcester, MA December
7, 2022 – 6:00pm
Approved January 11, 2023**

The meeting will be held in person, but you may choose to participate remotely. Remote participation is through WebEx:

To join meeting online using WebEx platform:

- ❖ *go to www.webex.com*
- ❖ *click the "join" button on the top right side of the screen*
- ❖ *enter the meeting ID, 160 794 8474*

To attend via phone:

- ❖ *call 1-415-655-0001*
- ❖ *enter the access code: 160 794 8474*

1. Call meeting to order

6:00pm

2. Roll Call

Present: Sergio Bacelis, Phillip Lwasa, John Keough, Steven Quist, Jeff Levering. (Judith Warren, Director Cable Services)

3. Approval of minutes from November 9, 2022

No action

4. Survey Update (Esther Campbell, ETC)

Levering: Results are done, tabulated data has been generated. Results will be given to board for review soon. Formal presentation of findings by Esther Campbell to follow in January.

5. Ascertainment Consultant Update (Buske)

Levering: Board has been working with Susan Buske on a plan for ascertainment work.

Buske: Walked board through ascertainment process outline, including needs assessment and



compliance review. Key items include focus group meetings, and the potential for an online survey (pending results of survey from ETC).

6. Status/Review/Modify Updated Timeline (Levering)

Levering: Offered the suggestion that Buske's findings could replace PEG needs reports originally anticipated for January. Reports will, regardless, not be due in January.

7. Contract Comparison Review Update (Keough)

Keough: Presented findings from contract comparison, which compared four local licenses and one non-Spectrum city with Worcester. Several areas of potential non-compliance were highlighted, as well as several significant differences between Worcester's license and other licenses. Keough listed several items he considered "negotiable" based on his findings.

Warren: Will follow up with Law Department for clarification/legal opinions on items presented.

Keough: Interested in reviewing additional licenses

Buske: Emphasized complexity of these agreements, and mentioned value of looking at new agreements for comparison as well.

8. Spectrum Franchise Fee Increase, History (Warren)

Warren: Requested written response from Charter/Spectrum, which is currently being worked on. Will follow up with Law Dept on this and other current legal concerns.

9. Board member expirations

Levering/Bacelis both are interested in being re-appointed. Will be approved at City Council.

10. Next Meeting – January 11, 6:00pm

Confirmed

11. Adjournment

Moved: Levering; Seconded: Quist; Roll Call (Yes 5, No 0)

Attachments

- CAC Meeting Planner
- Contract Comparison Presentation - Keough

Cable Advisory Comm. Meeting Planner



As of: December 7, 2022

All dates and subject matter priorities subject to change, updates provided according to meeting schedule (currently monthly)

CAC Meeting Planner – 2022

As of: December 7, 2022

March

- Survey Consultant RFP, Review and Approve
- CAC Meeting Planner Review

April

- NO MEETING DUE TO LACK OF QUORUM
- ~~• Public Hearing re: Spectrum Television Services~~
- ~~• Ascertainment Consultant RFP, Review and Approve~~
- ~~• CAC Meeting Planner Review~~

May

- Survey Consultant Meeting, Approval to Proceed
- Ascertainment Consultant RFP, Review and Approve
- CCATV Preliminary Needs Report review

June

- Public Hearing re: Spectrum Television Services
- ~~• Ascertainment Consultant Meeting, Approval to Proceed (tent. June 15th)~~
- ~~• Survey Consultant First meeting (tent. June 15th)~~

July

- Survey Contract Update
- ~~• Ascertainment RFP Update~~
- Contract Review Update
- Government Channel Preliminary Needs Report review

August

- Survey Consultant (ETC) Kickoff Meeting
- Ascertainment Consultant Update
- Contract Review Update
- Spectrum Franchise Increase Review

September

- Survey Update
- Ascertainment Consultant RFP Review
- ~~• Draft Spectrum Contract Shortfall Review~~
- Schools Channel Preliminary Needs Report review

October

- Survey Update
- Ascertainment Consultant Review and Vote on Recommendation

November

- Public Hearing re: Spectrum Television Services
- Consultant: Survey Update
- Consultant: Ascertainment Consultant Introduction, Next Steps

December

- Consultant: Survey Update
- Consultant: Ascertainment Consultant Update
- Contract Shortfall Review

All dates and subject matter priorities subject to change

CAC Meeting Planner – 2023

As of December 7, 2022


January	February	March	April	May
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PEG Channels Final Report Due• Survey Results Review• Consultant: Ascertainment Consultant Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft Ascertainment Report Review• Consultant: Ascertainment Report Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft Ascertainment Report Review• Consultant: Ascertainment Consultant Report Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final Ascertainment Report Review and Approve	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TBD
June	July	August	September	October
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TBD

All dates and subject matter priorities subject to change



LICENSE ANALYSIS





COMPARING LICENSES

1

Worcester and Local
Municipalities

2

Worcester and Springfield

3

Analysis



LICENSE REVIEW

Worcester - Spectrum (Charter)

October 29th, 2013

Sole License Holder

Specific to Cable Service and Future Cable Needs (3.1)

Boilerplate Language

7 Days for Basic Services (3.3b)

Service Can Be Denied for Population Density (3.3d-i § ii)

PEG Channels shall be connected to other systems (3.4a)

Rates Must be On File (8.1)

Senior Discount Throughout License Term (8.5)

30 Second Response to Calls (10.3)

West Boylston- Spectrum (Charter)

February 28th, 2013

Sole License Holder

Boilerplate Language

7 Days for Basic Services (5.2b)

Service Cannot Be Denied for Population (6.1)

Annual PEG Payments 2.5% of Gross (13.4b)

Senior Discount Throughout License Term (9.3)

On Call Personnel 24/7 (5.7b)

Auburn- Spectrum (Charter)

June 7th, 2013

Sole License Holder

Boilerplate Language

7 Days for Basic Services (5.2)

Third Party Remotes and Boxes (5.13)

Self-Wiring!! (5.19)

Service Cannot Be Denied for Population (6.1)

Annual PEG Payments 4%+ of Gross (13.4b)

Senior Discount Throughout License Term (9.3)

30 Second Call Response (5.1)

Holden- Spectrum (Charter)

June 21st, 2010

Sole License Holder

Boilerplate Language

7 Days for Basic Services (6.1)

Service Cannot Be Denied for Population (6.1)

Annual PEG Payments 4.5% of Gross (13.4b)

Every Rate Change City Must Be Notified (5.3)

Springfield (Comcast)

December 7th, 2011

Boilerplate Language

7 Days for Basic Services (5.2b)

Service Cannot Be Denied for Population (4.1)

4 PEG Channels (6.3a)

Annual PEG Payments 2% of Gross (7.2)

ANALYSIS

Worcester is at a Visible Disadvantage

Negotiable Items

Service Should Never Be Denied
A Senior and Disabled Discount Can Be Enforced
PEG Payments Should Be Much Larger and Annual
Rates Should Be Updated Regularly
PEG To Other Networks
Third Party Equipment



**THANK
YOU!**