



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Selectmen's Minutes 05/19/2005

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
 BOARD OF SELECTMEN
 Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 19, 2005

8:00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Hurd, Chair, Mr. Greeley, Mrs. Mahon, and Ms. LaCourt.

Also present: Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Maher, and Mrs. Sullivan.

Absent: Mrs. Dias

In Attendance for discussion of the cable matters were:

John Leone, Esq., Stephen Gilligan, Kathleen Colwell, Julie Kuhn, Glenn Koenig, Charlotte Pierce, Kathleen Darcy, Bob Chebator, Phil McCarthy, and Jim Clements.

Cable Matters

Mr. Maher requested this meeting so that the Selectmen, Town Counsel, Town Cable Counsel, the Cable Advisory Committee, and ACMI Board Directors could discuss the cable matter of ACMI to be voted as the PEG access provider to Comcast and an overview of the legally regulated process of the Comcast negotiations involved in license renewal. The Selectmen were provided with these documents:

An overview of the legally regulated process-prepared by Town Cable Counsel, Attorney Solomon.

A bullet point summary of the Request for Proposal to Comcast-prepared by Town Cable Counsel, Attorney Solomon.

ACMI's business plan.

A summary of amounts of money.

A Request for Proposal.

Mr. McCarthy, Chair of the Cable Advisory Committee, led the discussion requesting the Selectmen to 1) vote to designate ACMI (Arlington Community Media Inc.) as future PEG access provider, and 2) approve release of the Request for Proposal to Comcast.

Comcast has 30 days from this point to respond, and then Arlington starts negotiations with Comcast. The current Comcast contract expires October 19, 2005.

Attorney John Leone, Vice President of ACMI, stated the purpose of ACMI, an access corporation to the Town, is to take advantage of an opportunity available to the Town of Arlington. The opportunity available to the Town consists of 3 television channels, and enough capital and operating funds to provide valuable programming content. The Board of Selectmen will contract with ACMI to provide local cable television programming. ACMI is a nonprofit public educational organization with a 15 person Board of Directors and general membership open to anyone involved in Arlington, and employed staff. An ascertainment study and needs assessment was done by a consultant, Attorney

William Solomon, in order to demonstrate need required by federal and state regulations.

After much discussion, the Board of Selectmen agreed to endorse the recommendations of the Cable Advisory Committee, Town Counsel, and the Town Manager.

Mrs. Mahon moved approval of the Request for Proposal SO VOTED (4-0)

Mr. Greeley moved to approve and designate ACMI as the successor to PEG access subject to review of bylaws. SO VOTED (4-0)

A True Record: Attest:

Mary Ann Sullivan