

FIVE TOWN CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
Representing the Towns of Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Sheffield and Stockbridge
December 12, 2023
Lenox Town Hall Auditorium, Lenox, MA

Members Present: Linda Miller – Lenox
Dennis Arseneau - Lenox
Tom Hatch – Great Barrington
Rene Wood – Sheffield
Anita Schwerner – Stockbridge
Patrick White - Stockbridge

Others Present: Rich Frederick, CTSB
John Maher – Charter

6:30pm Linda Miller called the public hearing to order.
Quorum met with representatives from 4 towns, Lenox, Great Barrington, Sheffield and Stockbridge.

The purpose of the public hearing is for public comment on the renewal license for Charter d/b/a Spectrum in Massachusetts.

This is a requirement that we have an open meeting for public comment.

PRESENTATION OF RENEWAL NEGOTIATIONS

- Dennis Arseneau presented a power point presentation to review the details of the negotiations for renewal.
- The five towns cable license has expired effective February 28, 2023.
- Since early last year our sub-committee has been diligently following a two phase process laid out by the MA Telecommunications to renew cable licenses.
 - Phase 1 – Hearings, surveys, meetings and a comprehensive ascertainment report which is posted on each town website.
 - Phase 2 – Subcommittee submitting a draft renewal license before license expiration in December 2022.
 - Currently finalizing License renewal negotiations.
- Sub-committee was introduced:
 - Linda Miller, Rene Wood and Dennis Arseneau
 - Thank you and compliments to all of the hard work from the sub-committee and Charter.
- Some Highlights of Negotiations:
 - Ten year license term
 - 5% funding PEG channels
 - Improved billing statements
 - Process to transition CTSB to HD
- Some Non-Negotiable items
 - Return CTSB to Spectrum channel line up under channel 50.
 - Senior/low income based pricing.
 - Reclassification of Western MA into proper classification (we live in MA, not NY)

- Final draft is in Charter's hands now.
 - John Maher indicated that we should be getting comments back in a week or so.
- Each license has to be passed by its respective town.

The public hearing/power point presentation can be viewed in full on CTSBTV.org.

Rene Wood made a motion to adjourn and close the public hearing.

Dennis Arseneau seconded the motion and was passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Curtin

Recording Secretary