

PATTERSON TOWN BOARD MEETING  
PUBLIC HEARING  
PATTERSON TOWN HALL  
1142 ROUTE 311  
PATTERSON, NY 12563

COMCAST

March 26, 2014

MINUTES

PRESENT: MICHAEL GRIFFIN, SUPERVISOR  
KEVIN BURNS, COUNCILMAN  
CHARLES W. COOK, DEPUTY SUPERVISOR  
PETER DANDREANO, COUNCILMAN  
ROBERT MCCARTHY, COUNCILMAN  
ANTOINETTE KOPECK, TOWN CLERK  
DONALD M. ROSSI, TOWN COUNSEL

Salute to the Flag and Roll Call.

Supervisor Griffin called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. with 15 in attendance.

Mr. Rossi, Town Counsel, read the following legal notice:

Mr. Griffin stated if anyone has any questions, please come up to the microphone and ask your question.

Mr. Rich Williams stated I took a look at the contract and one of the things I found that concerned me greatly is that Comcast is currently the only provider of certain services within the Town, digital telephone and television. The standards that they have in there for their obligation provides service not for a rural standard. The number of units per mile, we would be buying in areas such as Putnam Lake or some of our older residential neighborhoods, but when you get into East Branch Road, Haviland Hollow Road, Couch Road, we have a density that is much less than what their showing in the contract, but they are obligated to provide service for. That combined with the fact that, again, they are only providers and they are not covering the whole Town. I would like to see some sort of obligation on their part to extending that service to areas where we don't currently have service, such as the roads I mentioned.

Mr. Cook stated basically what you just said, can you put into memo form to Don and we can forward that up to the Comcast representative and get their reaction.

Mr. Rossi stated Rich has already communicated that to me via email. I have been waiting for the Public Hearing to be completed before getting in touch with Sharon.

Mr. Williams stated I'll get the actual densities for some of the roads we have.

Mr. Burns stated in terms of modifying the contract, there is a suggestion that we try to get them to agree to bring service within a certain period of time or do you have any thoughts as to how we approach it with them.

Mr. Williams stated really they have most of the Town covered already. My concern here is that they start upgrading services rather than having a commitment to build out the Town with upgraded services, they may say, "you don't need the density requirements as per the contract." I think it is something we should take a look at. They already built it out, they shouldn't be opposed to giving us a density that they already built to. For future upgrades, I don't want to see us limited.

Ms. Cari Weizenecker stated I have a question, because people have asked and I am totally uninformed as to how the decision is made that we have Comcast. How come we never get other choices like Verizon, FIOS or any other.

Mr. Burns stated we've asked.

Mr. Cook stated they don't want to come in.

Mr. Griffin stated one of the problems with cable versus phone and electricity, the FCC hasn't determined that cable TV is a utility, whereas a telephone and electric is a utility. The deregulations allowed everyone to say you can come into Patterson to sell phone service or electricity in Patterson. They have to carry it on the system. Verizon owns the system, but they have to allow any phone company that wants to come in here and allow them to be our phone company. The same thing with NYSEG. I can get electricity from almost any provider and NYSEG has to allow them on their system. Cable doesn't work that way. It's not considered a utility. Say for example, if Time Warner wanted to come in to Patterson, they would have to rewire the Town themselves. Comcast is under no obligation to allow them to use their wires. Verizon we spoke with time and time again and they have no interest in coming in and wiring the Town of Patterson. It's just not something they want to do.

Mr. Burns made a **motion** at 7:15 p.m. to close the Public Hearing at 7:15p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Cook. All In Favor: Aye. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

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ANTOINETTE KOPECK, TOWN CLERK