

**Shelburne Technology & Cable Advisory Committee
Buckland Cable Advisory Committee
Public Hearing and Ascertainment of Comcast's Past Performance
Minutes of Joint Meeting, March 15, 2022**

Via: Zoom Teleconference

1. Call to order 6:30 pm by Shelburne Chair Michael Duffy

Attending for Shelburne: Michael Duffy, Craig Miller

Attending for Buckland: Donald Wheeler, Dana McNay

Guests:

Otis Wheeler (Falls Cable),

James Sullivan (Falls Cable),

Eileen Leahy (Comcast, senior manager of government relations),

Margaret Olin (Buckland energy committee),

Barry Del Castilho (Buckland Selectman)

2. Assign note-taker: Craig Miller

3. Introductions made.

4. Public Hearing and Ascertainment of Comcast's Past Performance

4a. Comcast Background presentation made by Eileen Leahy (briefly)

EL: Pleased to be here and we look forward to working with the towns.

4b. Falls Cable presentation:

OW: Falls Cable, transitions to digital age, upgraded cameras, studio board, etc, Located at Mohawk Trail Regional HS. Broadcast live from Buckland and Shelburne Town Halls regularly. Broadcast select meeting live whether in person or video-conferenced meetings. Upload content to the web to watch later.

4c. Committees present survey of townspeople regarding Comcast current Performance:

MD: Renewal process starts 3 years before expiration of current 10-year agreement, which will be August 2022. Committees conducted survey in the 2 towns, ask if people were current subscribers, how satisfied, if they watched falls cable. Results: 290 subscribers, 240 very satisfied or satisfied, 48 not satisfied. Among not satisfied, main

complaint was too expensive, no competition, and wish have a la carte rather than bundled viewing packages. 73 watch Falls Cable, 229 did not watch Falls Cable, and many did not reply to that question. Negotiation is under Cable Act of 1990, focus is on cable television – internet or other cable services are not covered by the agreement. Is there any other ascertainment that we did not anticipate?

4.d. Additional remarks:

DW: President of board of Falls Cable. Appreciate working with committee members, and volunteers working for Falls Cable. Wanted to point out the value of Falls Cable and how much the town members appreciate Falls Cable.

4.e. Public Comments:

Barry DC: I am a subscriber, my views reflect your survey, in terms of cost and choice. Reliability is a concern, there were quite a few outages in years past, but none recently, it has been more reliable. I watch Falls Cable both on cable and online. Town Select board appreciates Falls Cable broadcasting the meetings.

Margaret O: Does contract for 10 years eliminate competition? It seems that way to me.

MD: It is a non-exclusive license to operate, there is nothing preventing other cable operators from also getting a license to operate at any time. 10 years is the longest period allowable for the license.

5. DW: Motion to adjourn, seconded by DM. Unanimously approved.