

July 2, 2013

A special meeting of the Riverton Borough Council was held on the above date. Mayor Brown presiding

PRESENT: Council members Azelby, Creighton, Cairns Wells, Corbi and Solicitor Bruce M. Gunn

ABSENT: Council members Kinzler and Myers

The following statement was read by Mayor Brown:

Public notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, has been given by the Municipal Clerk in the following manner:

- (a) Having written notice of this meeting published in the Burlington County Times on June 27, 2013
- (b) Sending written notice to the Courier Post on June 24, 2013 for informational purposes only
- (c) Posting written notice on the official bulletin board on June 24, 2013

Mayor Brown introduced Fred DeAndrea, Director of Government & Regulatory Affairs for Comcast Cable, who was sworn in by Solicitor Bruce M. Gunn for this required public hearing. For the record, it should be noted that there was no one from the public present for this hearing.

Mr. DeAndrea stated that he was here tonight in further pursuance of Comcast's non-exclusive franchise renewal in the Borough of Riverton. As part of this proposed agreement, the Borough is compensated annually by way of franchise fees. This process is governed by both federal and state law. Mr. DeAndrea provided a detailed overview of the renewal process as well as the reasons why a renewal should be granted by the Governing Body. The renewal application is on file with the Municipal Clerk.

Ms. Cairns Wells reported that at the last meeting, she provided Council with a synopsis of the initial meeting that occurred with Mr. DeAndrea, the Clerk and the School Board Secretary. Some highlights of the meeting clarified that it was a non-exclusive agreement, the term would be for 15 years, and then automatically renewed for an additional 10 years. Comcast had agreed to give the Borough a \$10,000.00 technology grant, and we would still retain complimentary cable service in the Borough Office, Fire Department, and one single free line for the school and library. Ms. Cairns Wells reported that the 2% franchise fee that the Borough receives is for cable use only and that this was regulated by the State. This fee is added onto each customer's bill. Ms. Cairns Wells reported that with a new agreement the Clerk's Office would no longer handle complaints; this would be handled by the Office of Cable Television.

Mr. Creighton asked whether Comcast would be willing to provide an internet connection for the new grandstand. Ms. Cairns Wells stated that in the past we have had to rig up a system at this location. She asked Mr. DeAndrea if Comcast could assist us in this regard. Mr. DeAndrea responded that it could be written into the agreement that Comcast would provide courtesy video service to any existing and future owned Borough facilities. Mr. DeAndrea will have Comcast's construction team out to survey the location.

Mr. Gunn asked if there were any other items that Council wanted to negotiate. Mr. De Andrea reported that a preliminary proposal had been submitted and they could take a further look at this for any potential changes. Ms. Cairns Wells commented that

she has reviewed it and there might be some minor changes. The Clerk commented that the agreement needs to reflect that the amount of the technology grant will be for \$10,000.00. Mr. DeAndrea stated that the courtesy video service at the park would also need to be included. Ms. Azelby asked if the same \$10,000.00 grant could be available for the 10 year automatic renewal. Mr. De Andrea responded that typically this grant is paid once, up front. However, Mr. DeAndrea stated that this issue could be discussed outside of the agreement. Mr. DeAndrea commented that at the end of the 15 year renewal, the Board of Public Utilities does conduct a review to make sure that Comcast has upheld their commitments to the Borough.

Mr. Gunn suggested continuing this public hearing at next week's meeting to finalize the agreement. For the record Mr. Gunn announced that this public hearing is now closed.

Ms. Cairns Wells moved that the meeting be adjourned. This was seconded by Ms. Azelby, with all present voting in the affirmative.



Mary Longbottom, RMC
Municipal Clerk