

TOWN OF KIRKWOOD PUBLIC HEARING

December 26, 2017

A public hearing regarding the renewal of a Franchise Agreement to Provide Cable Television Services between Spectrum a/k/a/ Charter Communications, Inc. a/k/a/ Time Warner Cable Northeast, LLC, and the Town of Kirkwood was held on December 26, 2017 at 6:00 PM at the Joseph A. Griffin Town Hall with Supervisor Gordon Kniffen presiding.

Present: Supervisor Gordon Kniffen
Councilman Robert Weingartner
Councilman Lewis Grubham
Councilwoman Linda Yonchuk
Councilman William Diffendorf, Jr.

Also Present: Oliver Blaise III, Attorney
Gayle Diffendorf, Town Clerk
John A. Finch, Jr., Commissioner of Public Works

Mr. Blaise explained that this agreement is basically the same as in the past with just a few tweaks such as a change in the definition of gross revenue, which is the revenue stream on which the Town gets paid. The payment is actually a pass through, for cable subscriptions there is a 3% fee added to the revenue generated by the subscriber's subscription which is collected by Spectrum and passed on to the Town. This is done by State law and allows municipalities to collect a little extra revenue. He explained that the negotiation of the agreement was held up significantly by the Time Warner/Charter cable merger which became Spectrum. Once that went through late last year things moved along fairly quickly.

Supervisor Kniffen reminded everyone that we've been trying to expand cable service to some of the outlying roads and we tried to get that included in the agreement, but that didn't happen. He said that still is a part of the plan that when they merged they promised New York State that they would add 145,000 homes for cable service. He also added that the Town gets 3% and if we ask for more they would just raise rates so that is why we have hesitated to increase it in the past years.

Supervisor Kniffen opened the hearing to public comment. Hearing none, Supervisor Kniffen ordered the hearing closed at 6:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle M. Diffendorf
Town Clerk