

Cable Advisory Committee's Portion of Board of Selectmen Meeting September 9, 2019

5:30 PM Ascertainment Hearing for Comcast Contract Renewal

Robert Marshall, Walter Healey, Thomas Cirignano, members of the Lakeville Cable Television Advisory Committee; Jose Invencio, Executive Director of LakeCAM; and William August, Esquire of Epstein and August were present for the discussion. Also present was Michael Galla from Comcast, Senior Government Affairs Representative for Lakeville,

Chairman Powderly read the legal notice into the record.

Upon a motion made by Chairman Powderly and seconded by Selectman Fabian, it was:

VOTED: To open the Ascertainment Hearing for the Comcast Contract Renewal.
Unanimous in favor.

Chairman Powderly read the introduction statement into the record. Mr. Galla spoke of his experience and the Towns he serves and some of the government programs that he works on for Comcast. Mr. Marshall noted that approximately 10% of Lakeville households responded to the cable television survey. Costs, programming and customer service were identified as main items. Mr. Marshall spoke of the value of LakeCAM. Given the dwindling meeting coverage by the newspapers, it has become difficult for residents to remain informed on issues. Money for the support of LakeCAM is an area of focus. Chairman Powderly asked for any public comments and there were none. Mr. Marshall said there is a lot of information to be gained from the survey. Chairman Powderly asked if the survey will be discussed at the negotiation meetings. Mr. Marshall said yes. Selectman Fabian asked if Comcast sends out information regarding price increases. Mr. Galla said any time there is a change there are notices in bills and the Town receives notice. They don't notify individuals of package changes unless it is a Town wide change.

Attorney August asked Mr. Galla if there are any controversies or disputes going on with Town Departments? Mr. Galla said no. Attorney August asked if things are satisfactory regarding infrastructure in the rights of ways. Mr. Galla said there are no problems. Attorney August asked about problems with subscribers. Mr. Galla said there are none. Attorney August asked if there are any known changes for Lakeville or this region. Mr. Galla said no. Attorney August said the FCC issued a new rulemaking on calculation of the franchise fee. Has Comcast taken issue or announced a position on how that will be implemented. Is there a procedure to work with municipalities to inform them of Comcast's position. Mr. Galla said it is too new to comment.

Chairman Powderly read the closing statement. Attorney August said although the hearing record may close in 14 days, by Federal law, we are in the ascertainment process, which continues, so residents can provide further information through the Board of Selectmen or the Cable Television Advisory Committee.