

PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES

March 21, 2019 –Supervisors’ Large Conference Room

Supervisor	Present	Absent	Late	Time In
Shwartz	X			
Bradstreet		X		
DiVeronica	X			
Jones		X		
Magliocca	X			

**PRESENT:**

Committee: **Eve Ann Shwartz, Rocco DiVeronica and Joe Magliocca.**

Absent: Roger Bradstreet and Dave Jones

County Staff: Melissa Martel Felton, Mark Scimone, and Gwen Williamson

Additional Present: Bill Buchan

Meeting called to order at 1:03 P.M.by Shwartz

MINUTES: The Committee unanimously approved the Feb 28, 2019 meeting minutes on a **MOTION** by DiVeronica and seconded by Magliocca at 1:03 P.M. 3/0/0

A-1: Bill Buchan shared the following information:

Mr. Michael VanDow, a professor at SUNY Cobleskill and Founder of SCHOPEG has been actively negotiating for public access. He has already done what we are starting. Some comments he made was that he organized 15 towns who agreed that they wanted change. He said to look for co-terminus dates. His negotiations started at 3% of basic cable and ended at 5% of gross revenues because of the group leverage. They hired professional consultants (FSI – municipal consultants in the Albany area) – who were three former and or retired PSC people. Their focus was on public access channels, which isn’t really our need. They did eventually get a map (extension of services) and their final best numbers for the franchise agreements was 20 houses per linear mile. He referred us to consult with his consultants, so that could be an option for us. The Committee agreed by consensus to direct Bill Buchan to contact the consultants and ask for a free initial meeting. Melissa received consensus from the Committee to reach out to our local attorneys to make them aware and informed on this issue. A letter will be drafted and sent to Eve Ann, Bill and Mark for review prior to sending. Buchan noted that according to the Cable Act, there must be franchise agreements. Magliocca commented that the City of Oneida’s shared revenues have been all over the board from 2011-2018.

A-2: Shwartz started discussion regarding holding a meeting with the supervisors from the affected municipalities to a meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>. They need to know our objective and to be informed. There was a review of the franchise spreadsheet. There are six towns now that would be eligible for renewal. Melissa asked if it would be worth asking to renew the whole county at once, in one agreement. It may not be agreed to by the towns with the higher percentages already. Buchan reminded the Committee that “Schoharie tells us that leverage works!” Shwartz will try to get MCPLUS on the agenda for the Committee of the Whole on April 9, 2019 to talk about the RFP and franchise agreements. Melissa will update and rework the spreadsheet to be more concise and user-friendly. Melissa will send the updated spreadsheet to the supervisors prior to the meeting. Buchan said that negotiating for the whole County at once would not change the current structure; each town would still have their individual agreements, but terms would be negotiated at the same time.

A-3: An email was reviewed from Michael Weber of Scientel Solutions regarding questions about the RFP. The Committee’s response is for Madison County to remain transparent and equal in this process. It was not recommended to answer these questions except to say “make your proposal with whatever technology you are proposing”. Eve Ann will ask Laurie to respond that we are open to all proposals. Some of the specifics will become more apparent throughout the process, depending on who submits a proposal.

A-4: Letters were drafted and sent to Representative John Salka, Senator Rachel May and Ryan Moses regarding Frontier Telephone and Internet Service Issues in Madison County. Senator May as Chair of Rural Resources Committee promised to investigate the issue and Representative Salka will do whatever he can to help. Mark heard from Ryan that he is very busy right now but will look at it soon. It was noted that the Attorney General works on behalf of individuals, not municipalities. Eve Ann commented that the Syracuse office has been most helpful so far, at least by saying that they will work on this dispute.

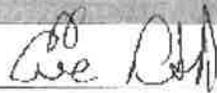
New Business: Magliocca reported that some Spectrum customers should have gotten a large credit on their bill last month. There was an article regarding Spectrum offering a refund and also additional free services, but to get the additional incentives, you must call by May. Mark will put it up on the Facebook page if possible.

Next Meeting: Eve Ann wants to set a regular, consistent time for meetings. It was decided to have meetings the same day as the Planning Committee; on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (and sometimes the 4<sup>th</sup>) Thursdays. The next scheduled MCPLUS meeting will be April 18, 2019 at 1:00 P.M. Gwen will send a list of the meeting dates to the Committee for the rest of the year.

Meeting was adjourned on a **MOTION** by DiVeronica and seconded by Magliocca at ~1:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted: Gwen Williamson

Sign in Sheet

PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	
Date of Meeting:	21-Mar-19
Eve Ann Shwartz	
Roger Bradstreet	
Rocco DiVeronica	
Dave Jones	
Joe Magliocca	

Others Present:

 - MC Planning Dept  
  
  
Mark Simone  
Melissa C. Umsted - Gellert - County attorney's  
office