

**TOWN OF McCANDLESS
MINUTES – PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 11, 2016 TOWN HALL**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Public Services Committee Chairman Walkauskas with the following in attendance: Committee members Zachary, Aufman, Mertz, Powers, Walkauskas, LeDonne and McKim; Town Manager Cordek, Assistant Manager Ebner, Zoning Officer Betty, John Borjarski, Communications Assistant, Marie Haller, Administrative Assistant and citizens as the sign-in sheet.

**PUBLIC HEARING
TENTATIVE ORDINANCE No. 1457
CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT – CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATION**

Committee Chairman Walkauskas provided an overview of an ordinance tentatively identified as Ordinance No. 1457, an ordinance authorizing the execution of a cable franchise agreement negotiated by the North Hills Council of Governments which renews the Cable franchise agreement between the Town and Consolidated Communications Enterprises, Inc.

Town Manager Cordek reported the North Hills Council of Governments (NHCOG) negotiates cable contracts collectively, with four currently providing services to the Town. He discussed the Federal regulatory changes made in 1996, which allows municipalities to audit rates and regulate the activities of cable companies within the Town's rights-of-way.

Councilman LeDonne questioned if the NHCOG has discussed allowing their customers to select individual channels. Town Manager Cordek explained this would be considered part of the market place and would be regulated by the Public Utility Commission (PUC).

Councilwoman Zachary asked if Comcast is the other internet provider bidding for this franchise. Town Manager Cordek explained that each company does not bid, but has a right to construct a cable system in a territory defined by PUC regulations. He noted other companies currently servicing the Town have individual agreements; they do not bid, but compete and will be negotiated in accordance with the individual terms of each agreement.

Councilwoman Zachary questioned the amount budgeted for cable services provided to the Town. Town Manager Cordek reported the Town's cable expense includes internet service for Police vehicles and for Wi-Fi at Town Hall. Cable is provided free of charge to Town Hall under Comcast's franchise.

Barbara Richards, 305 Manor Court, asked if other cable companies will be required to go through the same process. She commented she has received offers for Verizon Fios Internet, TV and Phone services but has since received information it is not available in her service area. She asked if this could be negotiated. Town Manager Cordek clarified that each contract will be negotiated individually; however Verizon acts under Public Utility Commission and the Town is not involved in the services marketed. Manor Court does not fall into Verizon's territory. Consolidated and

Comcast overlap in territory roughly north of Ingomar Road. Comcast and Verizon overlap South of Ingomar.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marie A. Haller, Administrative Assistant

TMC/mah