

December 1, 2014

Chairman Dennis Macheska called the public hearing for the Comcast Ordinance to order at 6:30 pm at 2435 Hickory Lane. Also present were board members David Bird, William (Bud) Brown, Secretary Sarah Griggs and Attorney Ed Scacchitti.

Ed Scacchitti presented the highlights of the contract. Ed advised that there will not be a cable cost increase. The supervisors have the right to increase the fees but agreed not to put that increase on the residents of the township. Ed advised that the township will be getting free internet in the main township building with the new contract. The other townships buildings will also be getting free cable. Ed stated that the new contract is ten years with rates staying the same. With the new contract the township has the ability to request audits of Comcast and quarterly statements to make sure the township is getting what they are supposed to. Ed advised that there will also be some technical upgrades to the equipment. Ed stated that the most important part of the contract was that there was no price increase to the customers who are residents of the township.

Bud Brown questioned if the cable will be upgraded to fiber optics. Ed stated that they are not obligated to do that under the new contract. Dennis Macheska added that the representative of Comcast said in the future they may upgrade to it.

Ed stated in the contract the township is able to have other cable companies come into the township but if the township gives the other companies a better deal the township will then owe Comcast the difference.

Ed Scacchitti advised that the contract is on the agenda to be voted on at the supervisors meeting following the public hearing. Dennis stated that the contract agreements were done through the Abington COG with each township paying the legal fees for the lawyers used in the making of the contract.

Ed Scacchitti added some of the changes that Comcast has made are they have upgraded their customer complaint procedures, credit for disrupted service for more than six hours, and four hour appointment window for service calls. Ed stated that they do offer discounted services known as bundle packages. With the bundle packages Comcast does have the right to reduce the townships share due to the discounts with the bundle packages. Ed advised Bud Brown that under the contract they do have to carry digital cable.

Being there was no further input the public hearing was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Griggs