Agenda Date: 10/20/10 Agenda Item: IIIF



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center, Suite 801 Newark, NJ 07102 www.nj.gov/bpu/

CABLE TELEVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF SERVICE)	RENEWAL
ELECTRIC CABLE TV OF NEW JERSEY, INC. FOR)	CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL
RENEWAL OF ITS CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL	Ś	JERNI TOXILE OF THE PROVINCE
TO OWN, OPERATE, EXTEND AND MAINTAIN A	í	
CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM IN THE TOWN OF	í	
NEWTON, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, STATE OF NEW	í	
JERSEY)	DOCKET NO. CE10040297

Michael P. Meliti, Esq., Arturi, D'Argenio, Guaglardi & Meliti, Rochelle Park, New Jersey, for the Petitioner

Town Clerk, Town of Newton, New Jersey, by Lorraine Read, for the Town

BY THE BOARD:

On July 2, 1980, the Board granted Service Electric Cable TV of New Jersey, Inc., under the corporate name of Garden State CATV, Inc. ("Garden State") a Certificate of Approval in Docket No. 797C-6503, for the construction, operation and maintenance of a cable television system in the Town of Newton ("Town"). Based on a name change, the holder of the Certificate is now known as Service Electric Cable TV of New Jersey, Inc. ("Petitioner"). On April 19, 2000, the Board issued an Order Adopting Initial Decision-Settlement and Renewal Certificate of Approval to the Petitioner for the Town in Docket No. CE95090432. Although the Petitioner's above referenced Certificate expired on April 19, 2010, it is authorized to continue to provide cable television service to the Town pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-25, pending disposition of proceedings regarding the renewal of its Certificate of Approval.

The Petitioner filed an application for the renewal of its municipal consent with the Town on July 16, 2009, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-23 and N.J.A.C. 14:18-13.1 et seq. On January 11, 2010, the Town adopted a municipal ordinance granting renewal consent to the Petitioner. On January 13, 2010, the Petitioner formally accepted the terms and conditions of the ordinance. On April 27, 2010, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-16, the Petitioner filed with the Board for a renewal of its Certificate of Approval for the Town.

The Board has reviewed the application for municipal consent, the petition for a Renewal Certificate of Approval, and the municipal consent ordinance. Based upon this review and the recommendation of the Office of Cable Television, the Board <u>HEREBY FINDS</u> the following:

- 1. The Petitioner possesses the requisite legal, character, financial and technical qualifications for the awarding of a Certificate of Approval. Further, the Town reviewed these qualifications in conjunction with the municipal consent process.
- 2. The design and technical specifications of the system will ensure that the Petitioner provides safe, adequate and proper service.
- 3. The Petitioner has represented that all previously required construction within the franchise territory is complete.
- 4. The franchise period as stated in the ordinance is ten years. The Board finds this period to be of reasonable duration.
- The Town has reserved the right to review the Petitioner's performance at any time. If the Town determines that the Petitioner has failed to comply with the material terms and conditions of the ordinance, the Town shall provide written notice to the Petitioner of such alleged instances of non-compliance, and shall grant the Petitioner reasonable opportunity to cure such deficiency. If the Petitioner fails to cure said deficiency, the Town may submit any failures on the part of the Petitioner to the Board for review and administrative action, if necessary.
- 6. The Petitioner's rates shall be regulated and tariffs shall be filed for all services, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission, the Board and the Office of Cable Television. The Petitioner shall maintain an informational schedule of prices, terms and conditions for unregulated service, and promptly file any revisions thereto.
- 7. Pursuant to statutory requirements, the ordinance specifies a complaint officer to receive and act upon complaints filed by subscribers in the Town. In this case, it is the Office of Cable Television. All complaints shall be received and processed in accordance with the applicable rules.
- 8. The Petitioner shall maintain a local business office or agent within Sussex County for the purpose of receiving, investigating and resolving complaints. Currently, the local office serving this provision is located at 320 Sparta Avenue, Sparta, New Jersey.
- 9. The franchise fee to be paid to the Town is specified to be 2% of the Petitioner's gross revenues from all recurring charges in the nature of subscription fees paid by subscribers for its cable television reception service in the Town, and shall be increased as required by N.J.S.A. 48:5A-30. Additional regulatory fees shall be paid to the State in an amount not to exceed 2% of Petitioner's gross operating revenues derived from intrastate operations. The Board finds these fees to be reasonable.

- The Petitioner shall provide service along any public right-of-way in the primary service area of the Town at no cost beyond standard and non-standard installation charges as set forth in the Petitioner's application and its tariff on file with the Office of Cable Television. For any extension outside of the primary service area, the Petitioner shall utilize the line extension policy ("LEP") attached to the Certificate as Appendix "I". The minimum homes per mile figure is 35.
- The Petitioner shall provide public, educational and governmental access channels and facilities in accordance with the ordinance and the application for a cable television franchise. Specifically, the Petitioner shall provide one channel for community access and a community bulletin board.
- 12. The Petitioner shall provide cable service to certain locations in the Town, free of charge, as follows: three connections at the Town Police Department; five cable connections at the Town Fire Departments, except to the Firehouse at 20-22 Mill Street which shall receive one connection; 24 classroom cable connections at the Halstead Middle School; 30 classroom cable connections at the Merriam Avenue School; 12 classroom cable connections at the Saint Joseph's School; one cable connection at the Dennis Library; three cable connections at Town Hall; four cable connections at the Town Department of Public Works; two cable connections at the Town Water Department; two cable connections at the Town Sewer Department; one cable connection at the Main Street Newton office; and two cable connections at the Town Fire Museum. The Town shall pay standard installation charges for each connection.
- 13. The Petitioner shall provide one high-speed Internet connection to the Main Street Newton office and to the Town Fire Museum at its actual cost.

Based upon these findings, the Board <u>HEREBY CONCLUDES</u>, pursuant to <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:5A-17(a) and 28(c), that the Petitioner has the municipal consent necessary to support the petition; that such consent and issuance thereof are in conformity with the requirements of <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:5A-1 et seq.; that the Petitioner has complied or is ready, willing and able to comply with all applicable rules and regulations imposed by or pursuant to State or federal law as preconditions for engaging in the proposed cable television operations; that the Petitioner has sufficient financial and technical capacity, meets the legal, character and other qualifications necessary to construct, maintain and operate the necessary installations, lines and equipment; and that the Petitioner is capable of providing the proposed service in a safe, adequate and proper manner.

Therefore, the Petitioner is <u>HEREBY ISSUED</u> this Renewal Certificate of Approval as evidence of Petitioner's authority to construct and operate a cable television system within the entirety of the Town.

This Renewal Certificate is subject to all applicable State and federal laws, the rules and regulations of the Office of Cable Television, and any such lawful terms, conditions and limitations as currently exist or may hereafter be attached to the exercise of the privileges granted herein.

The Petitioner shall adhere to the standards set forth by the Federal Communications Commission's rules and regulations, 47 <u>C.F.R.</u> §76.1 <u>et seq.</u>, including, but not limited to, the technical standards 47 <u>C.F.R.</u> § 76.601 through § 76.630. Any modifications to the provisions thereof shall be incorporated into this Certificate.

Failure to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations and orders of the Board or Office of Cable Television and/or the terms, conditions and limitations set forth herein may constitute sufficient grounds for the suspension or revocation of this Certificate.

This Renewal Certificate is issued on the representation that the statements contained in the Petitioner's applications are true, and the undertakings contained therein shall be adhered to and enforceable unless specific waiver is granted by the Office of Cable Television pursuant to the authority contained in N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq.

This Certificate shall expire on April 19, 2020.

DATED: 1

10/20/10

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BY:

LEE A. SOLOMON

PRESIDENT

JEANNE M. FOX
COMMISSIONER

NICHOLAS ASSELTA COMMISSIONER JØSEPH L. FIORDALISO COMMISSIONER

ELIZABETH RANDALL COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public

Utilities

APPENDIX "I" OFFICE OF CABLE TELEVISION LINE EXTENSION POLICY

SERVICE ELECTRIC CABLE TV OF NEW JERSEY, INC. **TOWN OF NEWTON**

A cable operator is required to absorb the cost of extensions to the system in the same proportion that the extension is to the remainder of the system.

Actual subscribers served by the extension are required to absorb the remainder of the cost.

If new subscribers are added to the extension the cost is adjusted and those who previously paid receive an appropriate rebate.

1.	# of homes in extension mileage of extension	=	homes per mile (HPM) of extension
2.	HPM of extension Minimum HPM that company actually constructs in the system *	=	ratio of the density of the extension to the minimum density which the company constructs in the system ("A")
3.	Total cost of building the extension times "A"	=	company's share of extension cost
4.	Total cost of building extension less company's share of extension cost	=	total amount to be recovered from subscribers
5.	Total amount to be recovered from subs Total subscribers in extension	= on	each subscriber's share

In any case, the company shall extend its plant along public rights of way to:

- All residences and businesses within 150 aerial feet of the operator's existing 1. plant at no cost beyond the normal installation rate.
- All residences and businesses within 100 underground feet of the operator's 2. plant at no cost beyond the normal installation rate.

^{*} The minimum HPM that the company actually constructs in the system or municipality is the minimum number of homes that the company has historically constructed at its own cost. This is a function of the operator's break-even point and its rate of return. Unbuilt systems will use the primary service area rather than construction.

The operator's installation policies shall apply to construction beyond the public right of way.

Detailed accounting and/or financial information to support the minimum HPM shall be supplied to the Office for its approval in such form as required. The minimum HPM shall be updated as appropriate.

When a request for service is received, and unless good cause is shown, cable companies shall:

- 1 Provide a written estimate within 30 days of such a request.
- Begin construction within 60 days of receipt of any deposit monies from potential subscribers.
- Complete construction within six months of receipt of any deposit monies from potential subscribers.
- 4. Inform each home passed along the extension of the potential costs for subscribers.

Subscribers who pay for an extension shall be entitled to rebates in the following manner:

- 1. If the company acquires new subscribers subsequent to the initial calculation of step 5 above, the formula will be adjusted and those who have previously paid for the extension will be entitled to an appropriate rebate. In no event shall the amount of the rebate exceed the subscriber's contribution.
- 2. The company shall keep accurate records of the cost of the extension, the amounts paid by subscribers and any appropriate adjustments.
- 3. The company shall notify subscribers in the extension of their rights responsibilities concerning the extension.
- 4. Once an individual dwelling has paid its share of the extension cost future reconnections or installations shall be made at the company's standard rates.
- 5. After a period of five years from the installation of the first dwelling unit in the extension no further adjustments shall be made. Installations after five years shall be at the company's standard rate.
- 6. Once a subscriber is installed, that person shall not normally be entitled to a refund of any monies paid for the installations, except in accordance with the rebate procedure outlined in this policy.

Definitions

Primary Service Area

The Primary Service Area (PSA) can be an entire municipality, but in many instances the PSA is a limited area within a community outside of which a line extension policy may apply. The PSA is depicted by a franchise map and narrative, presented and recorded during the franchise proceedings. It normally remains a fixed geographic area throughout the life of the franchise.

Line Extension Survey

Potential subscribers residing outside the PSA who request service are entitled to an estimate of their share of the cost to secure service. When conducting a survey and estimating costs, a cable company should factor in all potential subscribers who could practicably be included in the extension and give consideration to apparent residential construction in areas contiguous to the proposed extension.

SERVICE ELECTRIC CABLE TV OF NEW JERSEY, INC. RENEWAL CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL TOWN OF NEWTON DOCKET NO. CE10040297

SERVICE LIST

Michael P. Meliti, Esq. Arturi, D'Argenio, Guaglardi & Meliti Mack Center I 365 West Passaic Street, 1st Floor Rochelle Park, NJ 07662

Lorraine Read Town Clerk Town of Newton 39 Trinity Street Newton, NJ 07860-1823

Robert Williams, Esq. Service Electric Cable TV of New Jersey, Inc. 320 Sparta Avenue Sparta, NJ 07871

Alex Moreau
Deputy Attorney General
Division of Law
124 Halsey Street
Newark, NJ 07102

Celeste M. Fasone, Director Office of Cable Television Board of Public Utilities, Suite 801 Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102

Karen A. Marlowe
Administrative Analyst I
Office of Cable Television
Board of Public Utilities, Suite 801
Two Gateway Center
Newark, NJ 07102