

BOONSBORO MAYOR & COUNCIL
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020
PUBLIC HEARING
BOONSBORO – ANTIETAM CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

The Mayor and Council of Boonsboro held a Public Hearing as duly advertised on Monday, January 6, 2020 in the Meeting Chambers. In attendance were Mayor Howard Long, Assistant Mayor Rick Byrd, Council Members Marilee Kerns, Ray Hanson, Terri Hollingshead, Tony Nally and Rick Weaver. Also present were Town Manager Paul Mantello, Town Planner Ethan Strickler and Office Manager Kimberly Miller.

Mayor Long opened the Public Hearing at 6:00 PM for the purpose of receiving public input, either in support of or in opposition of the Boonsboro – Antietam Cable Franchise Agreement. Town Manager Mantello stated that Brian Lynch, President of Antietam Broadband, had stated that he would be attending the Public Hearing, but was not in attendance. He reviewed that the Antietam Cable Television Franchise Agreement, which had lapsed, and Irrevocable Consent to Amendment of Franchise ensures that the Town will not lose the 5% franchise fee commission or the in-kind services of internet due to the guidance issued to Antietam Cable Television by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Council Member Kerns stated that the Franchise Agreement, a non-exclusive proposal, would require Antietam Broadband to pay the Town a franchise fee of 5%, up from the previous 3%, of the company's gross subscriber revenue per year for a 15 year term, noting that due to lack of infrastructure, which is expensive to build, there is not much competition for Antietam in the area currently. She stated that she believes Boonsboro is big enough to attract other service providers.

Mayor Long apologized for Mr. Lynch not attending the Public Hearing and asked if any of the 36 attendees wished to speak in an open forum. The discussion ranged from available internet services, frustration over the current internet service, issues with conducting business when the internet is not working, plans for future development and the new development at Old National Pike and Route 67.

Council apologized and stated that they would reschedule the Public Hearing for Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 6:00PM.

Hearing no further comments, **Motion** by Council Member Hollingshead, second by Council Member Nally to adjourn the Public Hearing at 6:51PM. **Motion carried.**

***Due to a misunderstanding with the time, Antietam Broadband President Brian Lynch came into the Meeting Chambers at 6:55PM. He was told that the Public Hearing was rescheduled. After speaking with Mr. Lynch and based on his availability, the Public Hearing is rescheduled for Monday, February 24, 2020 at 6:00PM*

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A. Miller
Office Manager

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