

TOWN OR MEREDITH
PUBLIC HEARING
DTC & TIME WARNER CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENTS
July 8, 2008

The Town of the Meredith Town Board Public Hearing was held on July 8, 2008 at the Meredith Town Hall. The following were in attendance:

Supervisor: Keitha Capouya

Council Members: Ronald Bailey
Roger Hamilton
Paul Menke

Absent: Daniel Birnbaum

Clerk: Betsy Clark

Townspeople: 5

The supervisor called the Public Hearing to order at 6:45 p.m. She announced this was a Public Hearing for Franchise renewal agreements for Delhi Telephone Cable and for Time Warner.

The Town Clerk read the public notice for the Public Hearing for both Franchises.

The Supervisor asked if anyone would like to make any comments.

Lisa Burrows made comments about Delhi telephone and Time Warner's service and the problems she has had with them. She also commented on the installation of the Cable Companies installation of their fiber optic lines. The company who was contracted to install the lines was sloppy. They have left stainless steel cable pieces throughout a field that is used for production of hay. She stated these cast off pieces if baled and fed to cows can kill them. A roll of cable left behind also got caught in a piece of the farm machinery used to hay the fields and broke it. This machinery is expensive and the delays caused are costly to the farmer. Mr. Edwards said he would look into this for them.

Russell Birnum requested to speak. He said he wanted cable TV. Mr. Birnum referred to the New York State Official Compilation of Codes and Regulations of the State of New York that he had gotten off the internet. Title 16 Department of Public Service, chapter 8 Cable Television, subchapter B, General, part 895 Franchise Standards. He then went specifically to section 4B of this document, description of renewal agreements. He read this section. He questioned the future plan of the companies.

Councilman Ron Bailey asked Mr. Birnum if they could ask Doug Edwards of Delhi Telephone Company who is present to address this question. Mr. Birnum went on to speak about Tele Labs equipment that just needed a card to get service.

Mr. Edwards disagreed and explained that it is much more complicated than that. DTC does use Tele Lab equipment. He went on to explain the technology and how it worked with different systems and what was required by the Cable companies. Mr. Edwards then went on to explain the economics of an expansion. He stated DTC would love to expand but they will not commit to an expansion plan that will unduly cost their customers or will not have the quality they want to provide.

There was further discussion regarding different types and quality of service.

Mr. Birnum made one last statement regarding an expansion plan. Mr. Edwards said it was covered in Exhibit A of the Franchise Agreement. He also said this same agreement was reviewed by the Public Service Commission two years ago and they asked for a few changes. These were provided and the agreement was okayed.

The Supervisor asked for any further comments. There was none so the meeting was closed.

A motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Ron Bailey. The motion was seconded by Paul Menke and passed. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Betsy Clark
Meredith Town Clerk

