

June 24, 2021

The Town Board of the Town of Warwick held a Public Hearing for Cablevision of Warwick, LLC Franchise Agreement, said public hearing was held on Thursday, June 24, 2021 at the Town Hall, 132 Kings Highway, Town of Warwick. Supervisor Sweeton opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ATTENDANCE:** Supervisor Michael Sweeton  
Councilman Floyd DeAngelo  
Councilman Russell Kowal  
Councilman James Gerstner  
Councilman Mickey Shuback

Attorney for the Town, Jay Myrow

**LEGAL NOTICE:** The clerk read the legal notice, which was duly published in the Warwick Valley Dispatch on June 16, 2021. (Copy of this legal notice is printed at the end of these minutes.)

Supervisor Sweeton – This is a renewal of an existing franchise agreement it's a 10-year renewal. The PSC, the Public Service Commission defines clearly the rules for what municipalities can do with a franchise agreement. We regulate television delivery not internet delivery that is precluded by the PSC rules and regulations. There isn't a whole lot we can negotiate within it, but we do what we can and again, we do negotiate by PSC regulations a franchise fee up to 5% and 5% is in our agreement. Due to some requirements for public access when the franchise was renewed the last time rather than the cable company having someone record meetings and publish them on their municipal channel, which we have Channel 21 they made an investment to the town to purchase equipment which is what we are using now. In the new agreement they have agreed to provide the town with a new investment of \$25,000 to upgrade our equipment, our equipment is 10 years old, so I think that's a fair investment bargain. I did in the course of the negotiations with cable with Altice, formally known as Cablevision of Warwick that there have been a lot of complaints about internet service especially during the Covid issues. They had given me some updates on how they tried to respond to that, essentially two complaints dropping internet for customers, obviously a lot of people started working from home using a lot more bandwidth and they responded to that by creating split nodes where they could improve their service in those troubled areas. They also beefed up their customer service response time and that did improve over the course of the pandemic closures and now is at a very low rate of issue and complaint. They are in the process of upgrading their fiber to the town and to the homes with more node splits to improve service and they've given us a timetable that they anticipate to continually do that from now through 2022. Again, PSC doesn't really give the municipalities a lot of flexibility. You could not renew the agreement that is a choice, but if you choose that choice you do have to compensate the cable company for the value of their investment which is millions and millions of dollars and the town isn't interested in running a cable system. I think we work with Cablevision Altice and they have been very responsive the past year to issues that we had. Board Members any questions on the renewal?

Councilman Gerstner – No, I think it's good.

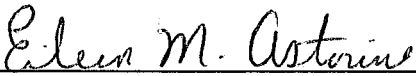
Supervisor Sweeton – I will open it up for public comment if anybody has a public comment they would like to enter into the record.

Greg Galluccio – Does the franchise preclude other major cable companies from operating in the area?

Supervisor Sweeton – It does not and in fact we've had that instance when WVT at one point got into the television business, we just have to make sure that the franchise grants another operator is equal to or equivalent, so we can't give one favoritism over the other. We will take public comment for 10 days and we won't take any action this evening and we will entertain a resolution at our next meeting.

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Motion Councilman DeAngelo, seconded Councilman Gerstner that the public hearing be closed. Motion Carried (5 ayes, 0 nays) 7:13 p.m.**

06-24-21 CP.

  
Eileen Astorino, Town Clerk

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Town Board of the Town of Warwick will hold a public hearing at 132 Kings Highway, Warwick, New York, on June 24, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. to afford all interested parties the opportunity to be heard concerning the renewal of Cablevision of Warwick, LLC's franchise in the Town of Warwick. A copy of the proposed franchise renewal agreement is available for review in the Town Clerk's Office at 132 Kings Highway, Warwick, NY 10990.

All interested parties are urged to attend this hearing, at which time they will be given an opportunity to express their opinion for or against the above proposed Renewal of Cablevision of Warwick, LLC's franchise in the Town of Warwick.

**DATED: June 16, 2021**

**BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD  
OF THE TOWN OF WARWICK  
EILEEN M. ASTORINO  
TOWN CLERK**