



Town of Topsfield
Comcast & Verizon Cable Contract Renewal Period

Please be informed that the Town of Topsfield is currently involved in the process of negotiating renewal cable television licenses with both Comcast and Verizon. Both licenses are issued under the terms of both the federal cable act, 47 USC sec. 521 et. seq., and the Massachusetts state cable statute, MGL c. 166A sec. 1 et seq.

These statutes establish the negotiation framework within which we are working. While the selectmen cannot, for instance, negotiate cable rates or programming, they can negotiate for equipment and funding to support the town's cable television public access programs. The federal cable act permits the cable operator to pass through the costs of any such negotiated benefits to cable subscribers.

The selectmen have already conducted one public hearing on the Comcast renewal. Any resident who wishes to be heard on topics related to the renewal of either license should submit written comments to the Selectmen's Office. The public may attend the continuation of the Public Hearing which will be posted on a future Board of Selectmen meeting agenda. In the meantime, any member of the public is welcome to submit written comments with their input with regard to the town's current and future cable-related community needs.

It is anticipated that the Public Hearing will be continued on December 19, 2016 or on January 9, 2017. Please submit any written comments **by Friday, December 16, 2016 at 12:00 Noon** to the Board of Selectmen, Attn: Kellie A. Hebert, Town Administrator, Topsfield Town Hall, 8 West Common Street, Topsfield, MA 01983 or via email at: selectmen@topsfeld-ma.gov.

In accordance with 207 CMR Section 2.02(1), the following public notice was published in the Tri-Town Transcript on November 21, 2016 and November 28, 2016:

*Please take notice that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Topsfield, Massachusetts, as Issuing Authority for a cable television license under M.G.L. c.166A, will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 21, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.** The public hearing will be held in the **Proctor School Library located at 60 Main Street, Topsfield, MA 01983.** The purpose of the public hearing will be to determine whether to issue a cable television license to Comcast of Massachusetts. All applications, reports, statements and license drafts to be considered at the hearing that constitute public records under state law are available for public inspection during regular business hours and for reproduction at a reasonable fee. Members of the public are invited to attend and be heard on the topic: (a) whether the current cable operator is in full compliance with its currently-existing cable license; and (b) what are the Town's future community cable-related needs.*