

UPPER MILFORD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TOWNSHIP BUILDING, OLD ZIONSVILLE, PA 18068
MARCH 19, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.
WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: Supervisors; George DeVault, Daniel Mohr, Robert Sentner; Township Manager, Daniel DeLong; Asst. Township Manager, Timothy Haas; Solicitor, Marc Fisher

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 P.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This meeting is being recorded principally to aid in the preparation of Minutes and for such other purposes as the Board sees fit. For that reason, will each person wanting to give any comments during this meeting, please state your name for the record and address the Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Resident, Mr. James Krippe, raised concerns over storm water on Mill Road by a property currently under construction. As water runs off of the property it pools on the road, and with the colder temperatures, the pooled water freezes. Twice in the last month he was almost struck by motorists that drive in the opposite lane to avoid the ice. Chairman, DeVault assured Krippe that the Public Works Department is aware of the matter and they will look into options to remedy the situation.

Resident, Ms. Mary Marger, raised concerns over the price of her current cable package, the lack of cable alternatives, and the contracted monetary amount received annually by the Township from Service Electric Cable Television. Her concerns were addressed later in the meeting.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Representatives of Service Electric Cable Television (SECTV), Mr. Jeff Kelly, Director of Engineering, Mr. John Turner, Manager of Customer Service & Technical Services, and Mr. Timothy Himmelwright, Director of Community Affairs, spoke to the public regarding full conversion from analog signal to digital signal, digital converter boxes, advantages of digital signal, cost, and channel programming. Kelly began by describing the digital converter box. He explained that all current SECTV customers will receive two (2) digital converter boxes at no charge. A few residents in attendance mentioned that they had not received the digital converter boxes. He explained that the digital converter boxes are shipped from Florida, and apologized for the inconvenience of some residents not receiving their digital converter boxes. Residents that have not yet received the digital converter boxes can pick them up at the new SECTV location in Emmaus, located at 1245 Chestnut Street. He also explained why the transfer to full digital signal was necessary. Full digital signal

provides better picture quality, more High Definition channels, security, and increased internet speeds.

Supervisor Sentner asked what the digital converter box costs. Kelly explained that the box costs \$50.00. SECTV provides them to the customer for a \$2.95 monthly rental fee. Sentner asked how many customers SECTV services per mile. Turner answered that an average of 35 customers are serviced per mile. Himmelwright explained that SECTV has 65 franchises within the Counties of Lehigh, Northampton, and Northern Bucks. Upper Milford Township is in the bottom ten (10) percent of customers per mile. To date, SECTV is the only Cable/TV/Internet service provider that has serviced Upper Milford Township. Currently, there are 2,000 SECTV customers in the Township. The contract the Township holds with SECTV is non-exclusive franchise, meaning other service providers can provide service to the residents. That company would have to install an additional line of wire throughout the entire Township. Such installation would cost millions of dollars.

Manager DeLong asked what the future of wires is in relation to providing service. Mr. Kelly explained that wires will always be required due to internet streaming. Supervisor Sentner asked if every type of television requires the digital converter box. Kelly answered that all televisions will require the digital converter box.

Resident, Ms. Gail Lichtenwalner asked why a senior citizens discount is not available to Township residents. Himmelwright answered that the Township Supervisors haven't requested a discount for senior citizens at this time.

Resident, Mr. Robert Doney brought up concerns regarding SECTV customer service. Kelly assured him that all employees are well trained in the area of the company in which they serve.

Resident, Mr. Frank Caputo brought up concerns regarding Comcast Network channels costing more money and the lack of communication surrounding SECTV customer service. Kelly answered that the channel will cost extra if customers are part of a bulk rate. Customers not a part of a bulk rate agreement are not subject to the extra fee. The extra fee is assessed by the programming channels, SECTV has no say in the matter.

Resident, Ms. Mary Marger brought up concerns regarding the prices charged by SECTV for their services. Himmelwright explained that the programmers set the channel rates. Programmers also set how the channels are bundled. These rates and channel bundles are passed along to SECTV, which in turn pass them to the consumer. SECTV would like to have the opportunity to create an order-by-channel package, but the programmers presently do not allow such activity.

Chairman, DeVault thanked the SECTV representatives for taking the time to come out to educate the residents as well as answer their questions. DeVault also assured the audience that the Township will look into the request for a senior citizen discount for SECTV customers.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: 7:31 P.M.

George D. DeVault, Chairman

Date

Timothy Haas, Asst. Twp. Manager/Secretary