

8/29/05 - (6)

Don Johnson

From: carol.l.baribeau@verizon.com
Sent: Friday, July 22, 2005 10:33 AM
To: Don Johnson
Subject: Cable Franchise Documents



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Mr. Johnson
Thank you for speaking with me today and I look forward to meeting with you to discuss Verizon's plans to bring high speed internet and Verizon ViOS TV to the Town of Acton. attached are the documents I spoke about if you have any question please feel free to call me or e-mail me. again I look forward to meeting you.

(See attached file: _Cable_Intro_Letter_to_ActonLFFAs.DOC) (See attached file: WRFMAIN-12300018-v1-Initiation_Letter_from_the_Town_Acton.DOC) (See attached file: WRFMAIN-12300017-v1-Waiver_Letter_from_the_Town of Acton_MA.DOC) (See attached file: MASS General Franchising Process Handout.DOC)

Carol
Baribeau
Regional
Director
Public
Affairs
413 731-8606

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Carol L. Baribeau
Regional Director
Verizon Public Affairs

365 State St.
Springfield, MA. 01105
Phone 413 731-8606

July 22, 2005

Don Johnson
472 Main St.
Acton, MA. 01720

Re: Meeting with Town of Acton to Discuss Cable Competition

Dear Mr. Johnson,

Thank you for speaking with me today. I am looking forward to scheduling a meeting with the Town of Acton to discuss Verizon's efforts to bring cable television competition to Acton. As you know, Verizon is in the process of upgrading its telecommunications network (which we call "FTTP" for "Fiber to the Premises") in your town. The FTTP Network will allow Verizon to provide your residents with cutting-edge high-speed internet access, improved telephone service and state-of-the-art cable television programming. The Company is very excited about bringing this new service to Acton.

Verizon, as a common carrier, is constructing the FTTP Network under its existing federal and state authority. However, as you know, before we can offer competitive cable television service to your residents, Verizon first needs to reach an agreement with your community on the terms of a cable franchise.

We would like to start negotiating with you for such an agreement as soon as possible. The attached timeline provides an outline of the cable franchising procedure required by regulations of the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("DTE"). In order for us to begin this process right away, we are asking that you initiate the franchising process by sending a letter to the DTE similar to the one attached.

June 23, 2005

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In addition, we are also asking you to request a waiver of two DTE requirements. The first waiver would reduce the period for filing a franchise application from 60 to 30 days. The second waiver would eliminate the requirement for your town to advertise in a national trade journal. Such waivers would bring competitive cable service to your residents more quickly and would reduce the costs to your town. Similar waivers have been requested by other Massachusetts communities and are routinely granted by the DTE. For your review, also attached to this letter is a sample waiver request.

We are very excited for the opportunity to provide competitive cable television to your town and look forward to setting up a time to meet with the Town officials. In the meantime, please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Carol Baribeau
Verizon Community Affairs

Attachments

July 2005

Ms. Alicia Matthews, Commissioner
Cable Television Division
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Ms. Matthews,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Acton. As indicated in my enclosed letter, the Board has made the decision to initiate the cable television licensing process in the Town of Acton.

The Town of Acton fully anticipates following the statutory licensing requirements throughout the process. However, we are requesting that the Cable Television Division waive the required sixty day filing deadline (207 CMR 3.03(2)). The Town of Acton believes that the granting of this waiver is in the public interest because the sixty day period would cause an unnecessary delay in bringing cable competition to Acton.

The Town of Acton also requests a waiver of the requirement to advertise in a national trade journal (207 CMR 3.03(2)). The Town believes that such a waiver will also be in the public interest because the cost of such advertising is significant and does not appear to be generating applications for other municipalities.

It is my understanding that similar waivers have been granted to other Massachusetts communities.

I would greatly appreciate your prompt attention to these requests.

Sincerely,

Town Administrator

cc: Carol Baribeau

July __, 2005

Ms. Alicia Matthews, Commissioner
Cable Television Division
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

Dear Ms. Matthews,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Acton Massachusetts. On this date, the Board, as the Issuing Authority for the Town, made a decision to initiate the cable licensing process in Belmont, pursuant to 207 CMR 3.02(1)(a).

Pursuant to 207 CMR 3.02(1)(a), this letter confirms this fact and that the Town of Acton will proceed with the cable television licensing process.

Sincerely,

Town Administrator

cc: Carol Baribeau

Franchising Process in Massachusetts

1. Verizon approaches the issuing authority of a community (the Mayor of a city; the town administrator/Board of Selectmen of a town) to request that the licensing process be initiated. Verizon requests that the issuing authority commence the process and request two waivers (to reduce the public notice requirement from 60 to 30 days; and to eliminate the requirement for national advertising).
2. The issuing authority sends two letters to the DTE indicating that the licensing process has been initiated and requesting the above-referenced waivers.
3. The issuing authority solicits cable license applications by placing advertisements in a local paper, and sets a filing deadline for such applications.
4. Verizon submits an application on Form 100 to the issuing authority.
5. The issuing authority issues a written report with specifications for a desired license and sets a deadline for filing an amended application.
6. Verizon submits an amended application to the issuing authority.
7. After receiving Verizon's amended application, and upon at least 14 days public notice, the issuing authority holds a public hearing to ascertain the community's cable-related needs and to discuss Verizon's qualifications.
8. The issuing authority approves Verizon's application.
9. The issuing authority issues a provisional license and then a final license.