

**BLAIR TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
375 CEDARCREST DRIVE
DUNCANSVILLE, PA 16635**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2016**

RE: ATLANTIC BROADBAND CABLE FRANCHISE RENEWAL

Chairman Richard Lasek called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

In attendance were Chairman Lasek and Supervisors Palmer Brown and Edward Silvetti, Secretary/Treasurer Betty Robertson, and reporting on behalf of the Altoona Mirror, Sean Sauro.

Chairman Lasek announced this **Special Meeting** was called for the purpose of discussing the **Atlantic Broadband Cable Franchise Renewal**. It was advertised as required by Second Class Township Code on Saturday, November 5th, 2016. Also, this Special Meeting is being held pursuant to Section 626 of the Federal Cable Act.

Supervisor Brown stated that, as is known, the current Cable Agreement will expire in mid-May 2017.

Supervisor Silvetti noted that this Special Meeting is held to benefit the public. It is an opportunity to gain input and learn of any public concerns, etc. as far as the current and future cable service is concerned.

Atlantic Broadband currently pays the Township five percent of the revenue received from their cable subscribers located within Blair Township. The percentage of the new Agreement is to remain unchanged, but it is proposed that a new Agreement broaden the definition of revenue subject to the five percent received by the Township, for example, revenue from late payments, video on demand and other cable TV-related services.

The Township is being represented by Cohen Law Group, which specializes in dealing with cable providers on behalf of municipalities. The Law Group is being paid \$7,900 for providing the legal counsel relating to the Cable Franchise Agreement.

The Agreement, as proposed by the Supervisors, is to be renewable in 10 years.

Supervisor Brown noted that the municipality is not the only beneficiary to the Agreement, noting that because of the Agreement, Atlantic Broadband gains the right to use Township rights of way. He commented that other companies still would be able to operate within the Township, but they would need to develop their own infrastructure. Supervisor Silvetti added that it is probably inconceivable that another cable television provider would make such an investment in cable infrastructure.

Franchise payments are received quarterly from Atlantic Broadband, totaling \$58,899, to date in 2016. The number of current subscribers was not readily available.

Minutes of Special Meeting of November 15, 2016
Blair Township Supervisors/ Atlantic Broadband Cable Franchise Renewal

The Agreement is in the initial phase of negotiation. A final Agreement is presumed to be negotiated and agreed upon prior to March 17, 2017.

There being no further questions or comments, Chairman Lasek called to adjourn the Special Business Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Betty Robertson
Secretary/Treasurer