

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9 – 6:00 PM
SALISBURY TOWN HALL – CONFERENCE ROOM A
5 BEACH ROAD, SALISURY, MA 01952**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chuck Takesian, Chairperson, Freeman Condon, Wilma Mahoney McDonald, Henry Richenburg, Ronalee Ray-Parrott

ALSO PRESENT: Neil Harrington, Town Manager

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Takesian called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. He then announced that the meeting would be conducted in accordance with the Open Meeting Law.

II. Vote to Issue Preliminary Assessment of Denial of Comcast Cable TV Renewal Proposal

Town Manager Neil Harrington summarized for the Board the contract negotiations that have been taking place between the Town and Comcast since May of this year. He reminded the Board that, in addition to himself, Atty. Peter Epstein has been representing the Town at the negotiations. Mr. Harrington informed the Board that, although progress had been made in some aspects of the negotiations, Comcast would not agree to provide anywhere near the level of capital equipment funding that the Town had requested in the RFP that was issued in April, and that was the main sticking point in the negotiations.

Board members asked Mr. Harrington what the next steps would be if the Board issued a denial, and he replied that the Board would then be required to issue a written Statement of Reasons detailing the rationale for its decision. Comcast would continue its operations in Town and would appeal the denial to the State Dept. of Telecommunications and Cable, which would hold a hearing on the matter and then issue a decision aimed at resolving the dispute.

Selectman McDonald then offered the following motion:

The Board of Selectmen, in its role as statutory Issuing Authority for the Town of Salisbury, hereby issues a preliminary assessment of denial of Comcast's cable television renewal proposal to the Town of Salisbury, dated April 14, 2017. The Board of Selectmen will issue a written Statement of Reasons, in accordance with 207 CMR 3.06(3), detailing the reasons for its preliminary assessment of denial.


Selectman Condon seconded the motion, and it was adopted unanimously.

III. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. McDonald moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Condon seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Neil Harrington, Town Manager

Approved by: 

Ronalee Ray-Parrott, Clerk