



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY BOARD

Thursday, April 17, 2008

5:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 103A (City-County Building)

1 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm.

2 Roll Call

Present: 5 -

Erik S. Paulson; Michael W. Rodgers; Ken W. Pritchard; Jeffrey J. Richter
and Cynthia J. Laitman

Excused: 2 -

Judy Compton and Robert J. Toomey

3 Public Comment

Also in attendance was WYOU Executive Director Charles Uphoff. No one wished to comment on any items that were not already part of the agenda.

4 Approval of Minutes of Meeting of January 17, 2008

The minutes of the meeting of January 17, 2008 were approved on a motion by Laitman, seconded by Rodgers and approved by acclamation.

5 Status of Statewide Video Franchising

Staff delivered a brief oral report and the Board discussed the status of AB 207 (Act 42) and its impact on the City. It was noted that Rulemaking on this legislation continues, and that no draft rules have yet been released. It was also noted that no decision has been made on a potential Legislative Audit Bureau study of the impact of this legislation on PEG television in Wisconsin. Staff will continue to closely monitor the situation.

6 Discussion of municipally-owned cable system in Madison

The Board and staff discussed the feasibility of the City entering into the provision of broadband services. It was noted that, due to current legislative and

regulatory uncertainty, it's unlikely there would be political will to pursue such a venture. However, it was pointed out that this is ultimately an economic development issue and that the possibility of recommending that a feasibility study be conducted should not be dismissed. It was also noted that there might be funding sources for such a study (which could potentially cost as much as \$100,000), so that Madison taxpayers would not have to foot the bill. Staff and the Board will continue to monitor the situation especially as regards Charter's plans for the Madison system (in light of Charter's not including Madison in their application for a statewide franchise).

It was also noted that there exists a potential conflict of interest for Board Chair Jeff Richter. In his role with the Public Service Commission, Mr. Richter will have a role in evaluating proposed telephone deregulation legislation. However, the group TeleTruth Wisconsin has filed comments in this matter, and the BTRB is on record supporting the efforts of TeleTruth in its work against the passage of the "Video Competition Act". Staff and the Board will evaluate this situation to see if some action by either Mr. Richter or the Board is necessary to avoid a conflict, and this situation will be an agenda item for the Board's next meeting.

7 WYOU February - April 2008 Reports

WYOU Executive Director Charles Uphoff distributed a written report on WYOU activities.

The report was accepted on a motion by Paulson, seconded by Laitman and approved by acclamation.

8 Charter Updates

As no representative from Charter was present, this item was tabled by the Chair without objection.

9 Cable TV Coordinator 1st Quarter 2008 Report

The Cable TV Coordinator 1st Quarter Report was accepted (with corrections proposed by Paulson) on a motion by Paulson, seconded by Pritchard and approved by acclamation.

10 Madison City Channel January - March 2008 Reports

The Madison City Channel January - March 2008 Reports were accepted on a motion by Rodgers, seconded by Paulson and approved by acclamation.

11 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the BTRB is set for May 15, 2008. Staff will contact the Chair approximately two weeks before the meeting to set an agenda.

12 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Laitman, seconded by Rodgers and approved by acclamation.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.