



Agenda Date: 7/23/14
Agenda Item: IIIC

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
Board of Public Utilities
44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor
Post Office Box 350
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350
www.nj.gov/bpu/

CABLE TELEVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF)
CABLEVISION OF NEW JERSEY, LLC FOR THE) FIFTH ORDER OF AMENDMENT
CONVERSION TO A SYSTEM-WIDE FRANCHISE)
IN THE BOROUGH OF TENAFLY) DOCKET NO. CE09030230

Parties of Record:

Adam Falk, Vice President, Government & Public Affairs, Cablevision Systems Corporation
Lisette Aportela-Hernandez, Clerk, Borough of Tenafly, New Jersey

BY THE BOARD:

On June 10, 2009, the Board of Public Utilities ("Board") issued an order memorializing the conversion by Cablevision of New Jersey, Inc. ("CVNJ, Inc.") of its municipal consent-based franchise in the Borough of Fair Lawn to a System-wide Franchise in the above referenced docket number for a term of seven years to expire on March 20, 2016. Subsequently, CVNJ, Inc. underwent a name change and is now known as Cablevision of New Jersey, LLC ("Cablevision of New Jersey"). On August 4, 2010, the Board issued an Order of Amendment to include six additional municipalities: the Borough of Bergenfield, the Borough of Dumont, the Borough of Haworth, the Borough of Hillsdale, the Borough of Oradell and the Borough of Paramus. On September 16, 2010, the Board issued a Second Order of Amendment to include five additional municipalities: the Borough of Closter, the Borough of Emerson, the Borough of Norwood, the Borough of Rockleigh and the Borough of Woodcliff Lake. On November 10, 2010, the Board issued a Third Order of Amendment to include the Borough of Saddle River and the Township of River Vale. On February 10, 2011, The Board issued a Fourth Order of Amendment to include the Borough of Demarest, the Borough of Harrington Park, the Borough of New Milford and the Borough of Northvale.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-25.1 and N.J.A.C. 14:18-14.13, a cable television operator with a municipal consent-based franchise or franchises issued prior to the effective date of P.L. 2006, c. 83 ("System-wide Cable Television Franchise Act" or "Act") may automatically convert any or all of its municipal consent-based franchises upon notice to the Board and to the affected municipality or municipalities. In addition, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 14:18-14.14, a cable television company operating under a system-wide franchise may add municipalities to its system-wide franchise upon notice to the affected municipality or municipalities and the Board.

On June 12, 2014, Cablevision of New Jersey filed notice with the Borough of Tenafly that it would convert its municipal consent-based franchise in the Borough, thereby making them part of its Cablevision of New Jersey system-wide franchise, and it confirmed that it would abide by the provisions of N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28 (h)-(n), as required by the System-wide Cable Television Franchise Act. That notice was received by the Board on June 13, 2014.

DISCUSSION

Under N.J.S.A. 48:5A-25.1, a cable television operator with a municipal consent-based franchise or franchises issued prior to the effective date of the Act may automatically convert any or all of its municipal consent-based franchises upon notice to the Board and to the Borough of Tenafly without meeting the requirements applicable to cable television operators applying for a system-wide franchise, except that the commitment requirements under N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28 (h)-(n) shall be applicable to all system-wide franchises, including conversions. N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(h)-(n) impose requirements on all cable television companies operating under a system-wide franchise and includes commitments as to line extensions; public, educational and governmental ("PEG") access channels; interconnection with other cable television companies; free cable and Internet service to public schools and municipal buildings; training and equipment for access users; PEG access return feeds; and compliance with customer protection regulations. As noted above, Cablevision of New Jersey has committed to provide service to the Borough of Tenafly as required by these provisions.

DISPOSITION OF CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL AND UNDERLYING MUNICIPAL CONSENT

As discussed above, the Act allows a cable television company, operating under a municipal consent-based franchise, to "automatically convert" its system in any or all of its municipalities without approval from the Board or the impacted municipalities. N.J.S.A. 48:5A-25.1(a). Furthermore, N.J.S.A. 48:5A-19 provides that a "certificate of approval issued by the board shall be valid for 15 years from the date of issuance... or until the expiration, revocation, termination or renegotiation of any municipal consent upon which it is based, whichever is sooner."

Cablevision of New Jersey's Certificate of Approval and the underlying municipal consent ordinance in the Borough of Tenafly was set to expire on February 10, 2020. Because Cablevision of New Jersey has now converted the municipal consent based-franchises in the Borough of Tenafly to a system-wide franchise, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-19 and N.J.S.A. 48:5A-25.1(a), the Board **FINDS** that Cablevision of New Jersey's Certificate of Approval for the Borough of Tenafly is hereby terminated.

Cablevision of New Jersey is authorized to provide cable television service to the Borough of Tenafly, pursuant to its converted System-wide franchise and the requirements of N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(h)-(n) and applicable law.

With regard to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-28(h), a system-wide cable television franchise operator is required to meet or exceed the line extension policy ("LEP") commitments of the cable television company operating under a municipal consent-based franchise at the time the franchise is granted. Therefore, because Cablevision of New Jersey was the incumbent municipal consent-based franchise holder in the Borough of Tenafly, it is required to continue to provide, at a minimum, service to any residence in the Borough of Tenafly in accordance with its policies in effect at the time of conversion. Accordingly, in the Borough of Tenafly, Cablevision of New Jersey shall provide service to any resident in the municipality at no cost beyond the installation rates contained in its schedule of prices, rates, terms and conditions filed with the Board.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-30(d), Cablevision of New Jersey is **HEREBY REQUIRED** to pay to the Borough of Tenafly each year, beginning from the date of conversion to a system-wide franchise, a sum equal to 3.5 percent of gross revenues, as such term is defined by N.J.S.A. 48:5A-3(x), derived from cable television service charges or fees paid by subscribers in the municipality to the cable television franchisee, and an additional amount not to exceed one-half of one percent of those gross revenues to the State Treasurer for a "CATV Universal Access Fund" to offset basic cable television service rates for low income (Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Aged and Disabled eligible) seniors and disabled persons.

Based upon the elements of the System-wide Franchise, and the legal mandates under which the Board operates, this Order **HEREBY RATIFIES** the addition of the Borough of Tenafly to Cablevision of New Jersey's System-wide Franchise.

This Fifth Order of Amendment to the System-wide Franchise serves to add the Borough of Tenafly to Cablevision of New Jersey's System-wide Franchise, and does not, in any manner, modify, change or otherwise affect the terms and conditions of that June 10, 2009 Order, except with respect to the LEP and payment of the franchise fee, as discussed above.

Without limitations to the full requirements set forth in that Order, the Board reminds Cablevision of New Jersey that, under the System-wide Franchise, it is subject to all applicable State and federal laws, the rules and regulations of the Office of Cable Television, and any such lawful terms, conditions and limitations as currently exist or may hereafter be attached to the exercise of the privileges granted herein. To the extent possible based upon the technology used in providing service, Cablevision of New Jersey shall adhere to the operating standards set forth by the Federal Communications Commission's rules and regulations, 47 C.F.R. § 76.1 et seq., including, but not limited to, the technical standards 47 C.F.R. § 76.601 through § 76.630. Any modifications to the provisions thereof shall be incorporated into the System-wide Franchise.

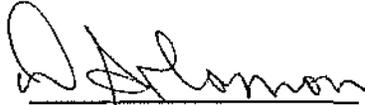
Failure to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, or orders of the Board or the Office of Cable Television and/or the terms, conditions, or limitations set forth herein may subject Cablevision of New Jersey to penalties, as enumerated in N.J.S.A. 48:5A-51, and/or may constitute sufficient grounds for the suspension or revocation of the System-wide Franchise.

This Fifth Order of Amendment to the System-wide Franchise is issued on the representation that the statements contained in Cablevision of New Jersey's applications, notices, and other writings are true, and the undertakings therein contained shall be adhered to and be enforceable, unless specific waiver is granted by the Board or the Office of Cable Television pursuant to the authority contained in N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq.

This Order shall be effective on August 4, 2014.

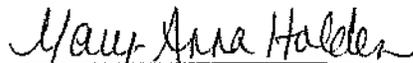
DATED: 7/23/14

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES
BY:


DIANNE SOLOMON
PRESIDENT


JEANNE M. FOX
COMMISSIONER

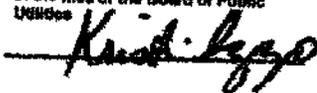

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO
COMMISSIONER


MARY-ANNA HOLDEN
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

KRISTI IZZO
SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within
document is a true copy of the original
in the files of the Board of Public
Utilities



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