

WANTAGE TOWNSHIP

ORDINANCE 2009-20

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING MUNICIPAL CONSENT TO THE ISSUANCE OF A FRANCHISE TO SERVICE ELECTRIC CABLE T.V. OF NEW JERSEY, INC., TO CONSTRUCT, OWN, OPERATE, EXTEND AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM IN THE TOWNSHIP OF WANTAGE, COUNTY OF SUSSEX, SETTING FORTH CONDITIONS ACCOMPANYING THE GRANT OF SAID MUNICIPAL CONSENT AND PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION AND USE OF SAID SYSTEM.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex and State of New Jersey as follows:

SECTION 1. Introductory Provisions/ Purpose of the Ordinance.

The Municipality hereby grants to the company its non-exclusive consent to place in, upon, along, across, above, over and under the highway, streets, alleys, sidewalks, public ways, and public places in the Municipality, poles, wires, cables, and fixtures necessary for the maintenance and operation in the Municipality of a cable television system and cable communications system. Construction, pursuant to said consent, is conditioned upon prior approval of the Board of Public Utilities.

SECTION 2. Definitions.

For the purposes of this Ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words and their derivations shall have the meaning given herein. Such meaning or definition of terms is supplemental to those definitions given by the Federal Communications Commission (F.C.C.) Rules and Regulations, 47 C.F.R. subsection 76.1 *et seq.*, and the Cable Communications Policy Act, 47 U.S.C. section 521 *et seq.*, as amended, and the Cable Television Act, N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 *et seq.*, and shall in no way be construed to broaden, alter or conflict with federal or state definitions:

- (a) "Municipality" or "Township" is the Township of Wantage, County of Sussex, State of New Jersey.
- (b) "Company" is the grantee of rights under this Ordinance and is known as Service Electric Cable T.V. of New Jersey, Inc.
- (c) "Act" or "Cable Television Act" is Chapter 186 of the General Laws of New Jersey, and subsequent amendment thereto, section 48:5A-1 *et seq.*

SECTION 3. Statement of Findings.

A public hearing concerning the consent herein granted to the Company was held, after proper public notice, on August 13, 2009, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Act. Said hearing, having been held and fully open to the public, and the Municipality having received all comments regarding the qualifications of the Company to receive this consent, the Municipality hereby finds that the Company possesses the necessary legal, technical, character, financial, and other qualifications, and that the Company's operating and construction arrangements are adequate and feasible.

SECTION 4. Grant of Municipal Consent.

The Township hereby grants to the Company a non-exclusive consent to the issuance of a franchise by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to construct, erect, operate, modify and maintain, in, upon, along, across, above, over, and under the highways, streets, alleys, sidewalks, public ways and public places now laid out or dedicated and all extensions thereof and additions thereto, in the Township of Wantage, such poles, wires, cables, underground conduits, manholes, and other television conductors and fixtures necessary for the maintenance and operation in the Township of a cable television system and cable communications system for the purpose of distributing television and radio signals, and other electronic impulses in order to furnish television and radio programs, and various communications and other electronic services to the public. The rights so granted include the right to use and occupy said highways, streets, alleys, public ways and public places, and all manner of easements for the purposes herein set forth and as provided by federal and state law, and are subject to the terms and conditions herein.

SECTION 5. Duration of Franchise.

The consent herein granted shall expire fifteen (15) years from the date of expiration of the previous Certificate of Approval as issued by the Board of Public Utilities (BPU). The Company further agrees to extend service to the entire Township and to build out all uncabled areas of the Township.

SECTION 6. Franchise Fee.

Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Act, the Company shall, during each year of operation under the consent granted herein, pay to the Municipality two percent (2%) of the gross revenues from all recurring charges in the nature of subscription fees paid by subscribers to its cable television reception service in the Municipality, or any amount permitted by the Cable Television Act or otherwise allowable by law.

SECTION 7. Rates.

Rates shall be set by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities as required by law or as otherwise specified by federal or state law, to the extent applicable.

SECTION 8. Township Remedies.

In the event the Company breaches its responsibilities herein, the Township reserves the right to seek redress administratively through the Board of Public Utilities, or at law in a court of competent jurisdiction.

The Company will restore any property damaged by the installation of its wires or facilities to its original condition at its own cost and expense. In the event it fails to so restore said property upon the receipt of thirty (30) days written notice by the Township to do so, the Township may withdraw a portion of the performance bond posted with the Township to compensate the owner for the restoration cost. In the event said funds are withdrawn, the Company shall restore the balance of the \$25,000.00 performance bond upon thirty (30) days written notice by the Township to do so.

SECTION 9. Territory.

The consent granted herein to the Company shall apply to the entirety of the Municipality, and any property hereafter annexed.

SECTION 10. Extension of Service.

The Company shall be required to proffer service to any persons, residents or business in conformance with its Tariff on file with the Office of Cable Television including any policies for non-standard installations.

SECTION 11. Construction Requirements.

Restoration: In the event that the Company or its agents shall disturb any pavement, streets, surfaces, sidewalks, driveways or other surfaces in the natural topography, the Company shall, at its sole expense, restore and replace such places or things so disturbed to as good a condition as existed prior to the commencement of said work.

Relocation: If at any time during the period of this consent, the Municipality shall alter or change the grade of any street, alley or other way or place, the Company, upon reasonable notice by the Municipality, shall remove, re-lay and relocate its equipment, at the expense of the Company.

The Company shall temporarily move or remove appropriate parts of its facilities to allow for the moving of buildings, and machinery, or in other similar circumstances. The expense shall be borne by the party requesting such action, except when required by the Municipality, in which case the Company shall bear the cost.

Removal or Trimming of Trees: During the exercise of its rights and privileges under this franchise, the Company shall have the authority to trim trees upon and overhanging streets, alleys, sidewalks and public places of the Municipality, so as to prevent the branches of such trees from coming in contact with the wires and cables of the Company. Such trimming shall be only to the extent necessary to maintain proper clearance for the Company's facilities.

SECTION 12. Local Office.

During the term of this franchise, and any renewal thereof, the Company shall maintain a local business office in Sussex County for the purpose of receiving, investigating and resolving all complaints regarding the quality of service, equipment, malfunctions, and similar matters. Such local business office shall be staffed from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. to receive complaints and requests for repair service telephonically. Said local business office shall be open during normal business hours, and in no event less than 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

SECTION 13. Municipal Complaint Officer.

The Office of Cable Television is hereby designated as the complaint officer for the Municipality, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5a-25(b). All complaints shall be received and processed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:17-7.1.

SECTION 14. Performance Bond.

During the life of the franchise, the Company shall give bond to the Municipality, which bond shall be in the amount of \$25,000.00. Such bond shall be to insure the faithful performance of all undertakings of the Company as represented in its Application and incorporated herein.

SECTION 15. Local Programming and Public Educational and Governmental Access.

The Company shall provide public, educational, and governmental (PEG) access channels and facilities in accordance with its Application for Renewal of Municipal Consent.

SECTION 16. Free Services.

The Company shall provide services in accordance with its Tariff for Cable Television Service approved by the Board of Public Utilities on January 1, 2009.

SECTION 17. Programming.

Although nothing herein shall require the Company to carry or transmit any particular television stations or programming source, the Company shall provide the subscribers in the Township with at least the same broad categories of programming, in approximately the same quantity, as are now provided, and which appear in the Application for Municipal Consent.

SECTION 18. Liability Insurance.

The Company agrees to maintain and keep in full force and effect, at its sole expense, at all times during the term of this consent, sufficient liability insurance naming the Municipality as an insured and insuring against loss by any such claim, suit, judgment, executor or demand, in the minimum amount of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) combined single limit for bodily injury or death to one person and five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) for property damage resulting from any one accident.

The contractor building the cable television lines shall file a worker's compensation certificate of insurance with the Township Clerk prior to commencing the work.

SECTION 19. Filing with Township Engineer.

The Company shall cause all construction plans relating to work on any extensions of its plant, or work which could have significant impact on public works within the Township, to be filed with the Township Engineer's Office.

SECTION 20. Activities Prohibited.

The Company shall not allow its cable or other operations to interfere with television reception or persons not served by the Company, nor shall the system interfere with, obstruct or hinder in any manner, the operation of the various utilities serving the residents of the Township.

SECTION 21. Incorporation of the Application.

All of the commitments and statements contained in the Application and any amendment thereto submitted in writing to the Municipality by the Company, except as modified herein, are binding upon the Company as terms and conditions of this consent. The Application and any other relevant writings submitted by the Company shall be annexed hereto and made a part hereof by reference, as long as it does not conflict with state or federal law.

SECTION 22. Severability.

Should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason by any Court of competent jurisdiction, such provision(s) shall be deemed severable and the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 23. Consistency with Future Federal and State Statutes, Regulations, Rules and Orders.

Should any of the Federal or State Acts, Regulations, or pronouncements applicable to the regulation of cable television service be modified in any way, such modification, to the extent it embodies required terms and conditions, and meaningfully can be incorporated into this Ordinance, shall be so incorporated, consistent with any applicable effective dates specified in such modification. To the extent that any such modification(s) place(s) limits on permissible terms and conditions, and any provision of this Ordinance becomes invalid by virtue of such modification(s), the preceding section, SECTION 22, shall apply.

SECTION 24. Repealer.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances or resolutions that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION 25. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its final passage and publication according to law.

Parker Space, Mayor

ATTEST:

James R. Doherty, Administrator/Clerk

NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that the above entitled ordinance was introduced at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage, on October 15, 2009, and will be considered for final passage after public hearing at a regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Wantage to be held on October 29, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 888 Route 23 South, Wantage, New Jersey.

James R. Doherty
Administrator/Clerk

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