

Laurel Hollow Condominium Association BOD Special Meeting

December 29, 2020 – Minutes

Meeting conducted via Uber Conference or dial in – The meeting was recorded.

Present: Joice Fairchild, Lorie Lettinga, Earl Ipsaro, Jeffrey Bench, and Jill Harrison were present at roll call. With all five board members being present, a quorum was certified and the meeting was called to order at 6:32pm. The meeting was chaired by Joice Fairchild.

During this Special Meeting, while the board members primarily conducted the meeting and spoke, on occasion, an owner/attendee did participate as part of the meeting, like with the December 17th meeting.

There was one agenda item for this meeting as it was solely dedicated to the Budget/CableTV/Internet or No Options. The Comcast Cable Contract is a significant item in the Budget and the contract is up for possible renewal in April 2021.

Earl Ipsaro began the meeting with letting attendees know that the Comcast Cable contract has been in force for 10 yrs., which includes the last 5 yrs. renewal. The Comcast contract for 2021 is also a 5 yrs. contract and could not be negotiated for a lesser time. The current cable that we have today is really basic, an old analog based cable TV which is no longer offered. With the new TV proposal, everyone would go to a digital platform (new equipment) and you would no longer have to pay extra for the digital cable boxes. Earl explained that Comcast provided three proposals. The first one was for CableTV only of the digital upgrade. There is a price increase and just this afternoon, an update was received on the pricing because the pricing they gave us back in October was going to change later year in the beginning of 2021, and we currently pay \$31.61 per household. Then with the increases it will be \$9.87 per month per household. If you multiply that by three per quarter it's an additional \$29.61. So you'll see that in our budget we previously talked about. At our last meeting we said that if we sign a new contract with Comcast for just CableTV, we're going to have to region or assessments basically that difference which is \$29.61, called it \$30 a month. This would have quarterly fees go from \$700 to \$730.

The second proposal was discussed and Earl indicated Comcast provided an Internet Only, no TV. Many owners here have internet as well and they're paying extra for it today on their own. Price for Internet was \$39.95 and that was for 400 megabits per second and included the router. Today we're paying \$31.61 and with an increase to \$39.95, that's an increase quarterly of \$25.2 per household. So that's where we figured we would have to raise the assessment from \$700 to \$725. We'd have to go to \$730 for Internet only.

There is a third proposal which is CableTV & Internet combined. Both of them for a \$7.50 increase but we think a bundle should be less so we are waiting for an answer from a Comcast. The quarterly fee would increase to about \$870, somewhat significant. All proposals did include a Wi-Fi connection at the Cabana.

Comcast will only provide a 5 yrs. contract with a 3-4% increase each year.

Earl indicated the fourth option and that is not to have either CableTV or Internet services and owners would buy their own services if they so choose. The quarterly fee would be reduced to \$625.

There was discussion about other providers such as Frontier, AT&T, and Direct TV and people could buy them on their own.

The Board voted on which Comcast packages to bring to vote on the ballot at the Annual Meeting. A motion was made to not have the combined CableTV & Internet package and that vote was 3 to 4, Jill Harrison opposed. The motion was passed.

The Board also discussed Internet only and options that some people had to put their service on hold for vacation or when they are not in occupancy without a charge. Throughout this conversation there was no particular outcome of what really works for every owner.

Earl Ipsaro ask Robert Phillippe, a committee member, to speak about his findings on alternative products and services should no CableTV or Internet services be contracted by LHCA. Robert provided the board with a well-documented and detailed paper that gave various examples of streaming services and costs. Robert explained all these options individuals would have, should they want to, make their own purchases. Highlights include: Channy TV in Venice, Hulu, Sling, YouTube, Netflix, and a few others like a service Jeff Bench uses. Pricing ranges from \$12 to above \$65 a month. Robert also answered questions on equipment and indicated a smart TV or fire stick, or Roku is likely needed to support the streaming devices on each TV that is stream to.

Joice Fairchild then asked Jeff Richardson and James, both on one phone line, to speak regarding internet. James indicated that Internet Only service would be the best route to consider. He also suggested that you only pay somewhere around a hundred and something dollars a month for a service. James likes his price for internet now with the internet \$75 for 200 MBPS. He said you can get Free TV, Peacock movie, a TV series worldwide for free. Basically, James indicated in his opinion, that there was more value in just Internet than CableTV.

Joice Fairchild along with the remaining board members agreed to the earlier decision that three options would be on the ballot to vote on by the community at the Annual Meeting. They are: Comcast CableTV but upgrade to what is current platform, Comcast Internet Only, and NO Comcast Contract. Joice and Lorie Lettinga also discussed that if the Internet Only or No Cable Contract was decided by the membership, that there are people available to help with owner's set ups. Joice reiterated that those who agreed to help are James, Bob, Jeff, Steve, Maria and Fred. She continued with stating we have a whole nice group of people who will help if people decide that they want to do just internet and we can let people know that in some way before the annual meeting.

The board discussed options to change the meeting from 2/16/21 to 3/16/21 because it would give more time for defining the Comcast Contract and further opportunity to provide clarity on Internet and Streaming costs, products, options, and more detailed information for the community to consider as they decide how to vote. It also provides more time, due to COVID-19, for people to feel more comfortable being in a group setting. Lorie Lettinga indicated that she would need to check with the church to see if the date could be moved before there would be a vote to change the Annual meeting date and that LHCA had already signed a proposal on facilities usage. Lorie made a motion to have a continued Special Meeting on Jan. 5th at 6:30pm to continue the Annual Meeting and Comcast Cable Contract discussions and adjourn the meeting. Jeff Bench second the motion and the meeting was adjourned about 7:41pm with minimal community comments for an additional 18 minutes.