



## Special Public Hearing Meeting of the Lee County Board

August 16, 2021 5:30 p.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Boardroom  
Old Lee County Courthouse  
112 E. Second Street  
Dixon, IL 61021

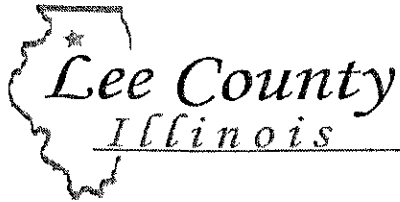
Present were Chairman Olson, County Clerk Petersen, State's Attorney Boonstra, Joan Sage from Comcast, and Board Members: Allen, Bally, Considine, Farster, Horstman, Hudson, Humphrey, Koppien, Nicholson, Norberg, Palen, Schielein, Shippert, Skrogstad, White, Williams and Zeman.

There was no public present.

Lee County Board Chairman Olson opened the Public Hearing at 5:30p.m.

Chairman Olson stated Public Hearing pursuant to 55 OLCS 5/5-1095(a) of the Illinois Counties Code and 47 U.S. s 542 of the Cable Act specifically regarding the proposed implementation of a 5% franchise fee with Comcast of Illinois/Indiana/Ohio, LLC (Comcast). He stated that this hearing is being conducted for the purpose of taking public comment on the implication of the cable franchise fee pursuant to the same act 47 U.S. section 542, the cable act authorizes the lee county board to implement a franchise fee up to 5% of annual gross revenues received from the operation of the cable systems in the franchise area. Notice of this public hearing was published August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in the sauk valley newspaper. The board is proposing to implement a 5% franchise fee which will go into effect once the process is complete. Which will be between 60 to 90 days after the execution of the franchise agreement with Comcast of Illinois/Indiana/Ohio LLC. The hearing procedure will be as follows, any member of the public that wishes to comment will be recognized and allowed to speak at the podium for a total of 5 minutes. At the conclusion of the public comment any board member that wishes to speak on the proposal will be recognized. Chairman Olson opened the floor to any member of the public, no one was present to speak so the floor was opened to the county board.

Comments from the county board members: Mr. Horstman had a question or clarification on the proposal, looks like this only governs the television aspect and not the internet. Ms. Sage from Comcast spoke about that question and stated that the FCC are the ones that enacted the cable act and it is only to be govern cable, which was implanted back in the 1980's and at that time internet was not what it is today so it's just the video portion. This is a standard model agreement that over 500 communities have signed in the last 12 to 14 years. Ms. Shippert asked the question about the other communities with this agreement and if they all have opted for the 5%



fee or are there are any lesser percentages. Ms. Sage stated that all the communities are now at 5%, Lee County has decided to go with a 5 year contract versus the 10 year contract so we can visit this again after 5 years. Mr. Koppien asked the question about notification of this change, and it was stated that all Comcast customers will be notified 30 days in advance after this agreement is passed and signed. Comcast then pays the county 45 days after the end of each quarter. Mr. Hudson states his concern with all those people out there that are on a fixed income. Mr. Humphrey asked for the area map that this fee is going to affect. Unincorporated Lee County and mainly rural subdivisions. All cities in Lee County are charging the 5% at this present time.

There was no public comment.

On a motion by Mr. Nicholson to approve the 5% over 5 years and then renegotiate at that time, second by Mr. Palen; a roll call vote is called.

YES: Humphrey, Nicholson, Norberg, Palen, Schielein, Skrogstad, White, Williams, Zeman, Allen, Bally, Considine, Farster, Horstman, and Olson.

NO: Hudson, Koppien and Shippert.

**Motion carried by a roll call vote.**

Chairman Olson closed the hearing at 5:45 p.m.