

**RENEWAL**  
**CABLE TELEVISION LICENSE**  
**FOR**  
**THE TOWN OF HARDWICK,**  
**MASSACHUSETTS**

**EFFECTIVE DATE OCTOBER 30, 2012**

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# **HARDWICK RENEWAL LICENSE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

WHEREAS, Comcast of Massachusetts/Virginia, Inc. (hereinafter "Licensee"), is the duly authorized holder of a renewal license to operate a cable television system in the Town of Hardwick, Massachusetts (hereinafter "Town"), said license having commenced on October 1, 2001;

WHEREAS, Licensee filed a written request for a renewal of its license by letter dated October 30, 2008 in conformity with the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 ("Cable Act") and filed a renewal proposal dated June 10, 2011;

WHEREAS, there has been an opportunity for public comment, as required by Section 626(h) of the Cable Act;

WHEREAS, the Issuing Authority has determined that the financial, legal, and technical ability of the Licensee is reasonably sufficient to provide services, facilities, and equipment necessary to meet the future cable-related needs of the community, and desires to enter into this Renewal License with Licensee for the construction and continued operation of a cable system on the terms and conditions set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, the Town's Board of Selectmen, as the Issuing Authority, finds that Licensee has complied with the terms of its previous license.

NOW THEREFORE, after due and full consideration, the Issuing Authority and Licensee agree that this Renewal License is issued upon the following terms and conditions:

**ARTICLE 1**  
**DEFINITIONS**

**SECTION 1.1 - DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this Renewal License, capitalized terms, phrases, words, and abbreviations shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, as amended from time to time, 47 U.S.C. §§ 521 et seq. (the “Cable Act”), and Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 166A (M.G.L.c.166A), as amended from time to time, unless otherwise defined herein.

(a) Access Provider – shall mean the person, group, entity, or non-profit, designated by the Issuing Authority for the purpose of operating and managing the use of Public, Educational and Governmental Access funding, equipment and channels on the cable television system in accordance with this Renewal License and 47 U.S.C. 531.

(b) Basic Cable Service – shall mean the lowest tier of service which includes the retransmission of local television broadcast signals.

(c) Cable Act – shall mean the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, Public Law No. 98-549, 98 Stat. 2779 (1984), 47 U.S.C. 521 et. seq., amending the Communications Act of 1934, as further amended by the 1992 Cable Consumer Protection and Competition Act, Public Law No. 102-385 and the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Public Law No. 104-458, 110 Stat. 56 (1996) and as may be further amended.

(d) Cable Division – shall mean the Competition Division of the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable established pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 166A (M.G.L. Chapter 166A) or its successor

(e) Cable Service – shall mean the one-way transmission to subscribers of (i) video programming, or (ii) other programming service, and subscriber interaction, if any, which is required for the selection or use of such video programming or other programming service.

(f) Cable Television System or Cable System – shall mean the facility owned, constructed, installed, operated and maintained by Licensee in the Town of Hardwick, consisting of a set of closed transmission paths and associated signal generation, reception, and control equipment that is designated to provide cable service which includes video programming and which is provided to multiple subscribers within a community, but such term does not include (a) a facility that serves only to retransmit the television signals of one or more television broadcast stations; (b) a facility that serves subscribers without using any public right-of-way; (c) a facility of a common carrier which is subject, in whole or in part, to the provisions of Title II of the Cable Act, except that such facility shall be considered a cable system (other than for purposes of section 621(c) of the Cable Act) to the extent such facility is used in the transmission of video programming directly to subscribers unless the extent of such use is solely to provide interactive on-demand services; or (d) an open video system that complies with section 653 of this title, or (e) any facilities of any electric utility used solely for operating its electric utility systems.

(g) Drop – shall mean the coaxial cable that connects a home or building to the Subscriber Network or Video Return Line.

(h) Effective Date – shall mean October 30, 2012.

(i) FCC – shall mean the Federal Communications Commission or any successor governmental entity.

(j) Franchise Fee – shall mean the payments to be made by Licensee to the Issuing Authority, the Town of Hardwick and or any other governmental subdivision, such as an Access Provider, which shall have the meaning as set forth in Section 622(g) of the Cable Act.

(k) Gross Annual Revenues – means the Cable Service revenue derived by the Grantee from the operation of the Cable System in the Franchise Area to provide Cable Services, calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”). Cable Service revenue includes monthly basic, premium and pay-per-view video fees, advertising and home shopping revenue, installation fees and equipment rental fees. Gross Revenue shall not include refundable deposits, bad debt, late fees, investment income, programming launch support

payments, advertising sales commissions, nor any taxes, fees or assessments imposed or assessed by any governmental authority.

(l) Issuing Authority – shall mean the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Hardwick, Massachusetts, or the lawful designee thereof.

(m) Licensee – shall mean Comcast of Massachusetts/Virginia, Inc, or any successor or transferee in accordance with the terms and conditions in this Renewal License.

(n) License Fee – shall mean the payments to be made by Licensee to the Issuing Authority, the Town of Hardwick and or any other governmental subdivision, which shall have the meaning as set forth in M.G.L.c. 166A, § 9.

(o) Modulator – shall mean CATV modulator or equivalent device used for video signal transport.

(p) Multichannel Video Programming Distributor – shall mean a person such as, but not limited to, a cable operator, a multichannel multipoint distribution service, a direct broadcast satellite service, or a television receive-only satellite program distributor, who makes available for purchase, by subscribers or customers, multiple channels of video programming.

(q) Outlet – shall mean an interior receptacle that connects a television set to the Cable Television System.

(r) PEG Access User – shall mean a Person utilizing the Cable Television System, including all related facilities for purposes of production and/or transmission of PEG Access Programming as opposed to utilization solely as a Subscriber.

(s) Person – shall mean any natural person or any association, firm, partnership, joint venture, corporation, or other legally recognized entity, whether for-profit or not-for profit, but shall not mean the Issuing Authority.

(t) Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Access Channel – shall mean a video channel designated for non-commercial use by the public, educational institutions such as public or private schools, but not “home schools,” community colleges, and universities, as well as the Issuing Authority.

(u) Public, Educational and Government (PEG) Access Programming – shall mean non-commercial programming produced by any Hardwick residents or organizations, schools and government entities and the use of designated facilities, equipment and/or channels of the Cable System in accordance with 47 U.S.C. 531 and this Renewal License.

(v) Public Buildings – shall mean those buildings owned or leased by the Issuing Authority for municipal government administrative purposes, and shall not include buildings owned by Issuing Authority but leased to third parties or buildings such as storage facilities at which government employees are not regularly stationed.

(w) Public Way – shall mean the surface of, and the space above and below, any public street, highway, freeway, bridge, land path, alley, court, boulevard, sidewalk, way, lane, public way, drive, circle or other public right-of-way, including, but not limited to, public utility easements, dedicated utility strips, or rights-of-way dedicated for compatible uses and any temporary or permanent fixtures or improvements located thereon now or hereafter held by the Issuing Authority in the Town of Hardwick, which shall entitle Licensee to the use thereof for the purpose of installing, operating, repairing, and maintaining the Cable System. Public Way shall also mean any easement now or hereafter held by the Issuing Authority within the Town of Hardwick for the purpose of public travel, or for utility or public service use dedicated for compatible uses, and shall include other easements or rights-of-way as shall within their proper use and meaning entitle Licensee to the use thereof for the purposes of installing, operating, and maintaining Licensee's Cable System over poles, wires, cables, conductors, ducts, conduits, vaults, manholes, amplifiers, appliances, attachments, and other property as may be ordinarily necessary and pertinent to the Cable System.

(x) Renewal License or License – shall mean this Agreement and any amendments or modifications in accordance with the terms herein.

(y) Signal – shall mean any transmission which carries Programming from one location to another.

(z) Standard Installation – shall mean the standard two hundred foot (200’) aerial Drop connection to the existing distribution system.

(aa) Subscriber – shall mean a Person or user of the Cable System who lawfully receives Cable Service with Licensee’s express permission.

(ab) Subscriber Network – shall mean the trunk and feeder signal distribution network over which video and audio signals are transmitted to Subscribers.

(ac) Town – shall mean the Town of Hardwick, Massachusetts.

(ad) Trunk and Distribution System – shall mean that portion of the Cable System for the delivery of Signals, but not including Drop Cable(s) to Subscriber’s residences.

(ae) Video Programming or Programming – shall mean the programming provided by, or generally considered comparable to programming provided by, a television broadcast station.

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **GRANT OF RENEWAL LICENSE**

#### **SECTION 2.1 - GRANT OF RENEWAL LICENSE**

(a) Pursuant to the authority of M.G.L. c. 166A, and the Cable Act the Issuing Authority hereby grants a non-exclusive Renewal License to Comcast of Massachusetts/Virginia, Inc., a Delaware Corporation, authorizing and permitting Licensee to construct, operate and maintain a Cable Television System in the Public Way within the municipal limits of the Town of Hardwick. Nothing in this License shall be construed to prohibit Licensee from offering any service over its Cable System that is not prohibited by federal or state law.

(b) This Renewal License is granted under and in compliance with the Cable Act and M.G.L.c. 166A, and in compliance with all rules and regulations of the FCC and the Cable Division in force and effect during the period for which this Renewal License is granted.

(c) Subject to the terms and conditions herein, the Issuing Authority hereby grants to Licensee the right to construct, upgrade, install, operate and maintain a Cable Television System within the Public Way.

#### **SECTION 2.2 - TERM: NON-EXCLUSIVITY**

The term of this non-exclusive Renewal License shall be for a period of ten (10) years and shall commence on October 30, 2012, following the expiration of the current license, and shall expire at midnight on October 29, 2022.

#### **SECTION 2.3 - POLE AND CONDUIT ATTACHMENT RIGHTS**

Pursuant to M.G.L.c. 166, §§22-25, permission is hereby granted to Licensee to attach or otherwise affix including, but not limited to cables, wire, or optical fibers comprising the Cable Television System to the existing poles and conduits on and under public streets and ways,

provided Licensee secures the permission and consent of the public utility companies to affix the cables and/or wires to their pole and conduit facilities. By virtue of this License the Issuing Authority grants Licensee equal standing with power and telephone utilities in the manner of placement of facilities on Public Ways.

#### **SECTION 2.4 - RENEWAL**

(a) In accordance with the provisions of federal law, M.G.L.c. 166A, § 13 and applicable regulations, this Renewal License shall be subject to additional renewals for the periods not to exceed ten (10) years or such other periods as allowed by law.

(b) In accordance with applicable law, any such renewal or renewals shall be upon mutual written agreement by Licensee and the Issuing Authority and shall contain such modified or additional terms as Licensee and the Issuing Authority may then agree.

#### **SECTION 2.5 - RESERVATION OF AUTHORITY**

Nothing in this Renewal License shall (A) abrogate the right of the Issuing Authority to perform any public works or public improvements of any description, (B) be construed as a waiver of any codes or bylaws of general applicability and not specific to the Cable Television System, Licensee, or this License, or (C) be construed as a waiver or release of the rights of the Issuing Authority in and to the Public Ways. Any conflict between the terms of this Renewal License and any present or future exercise of the municipality's police and regulatory powers shall be resolved by a court of appropriate jurisdiction.

#### **SECTION 2.6 - NON-EXCLUSIVITY OF LICENSE**

(a) Licensee acknowledges and agrees that the Issuing Authority reserves the right to grant one or more additional licenses to other Cable Service providers within the Town for the right to use and occupy the Public Ways or streets within the Issuing Authority's jurisdiction. If

any such additional or competitive license is granted by the Issuing Authority which, in the reasonable opinion of Licensee, contains more financially favorable or less burdensome terms or conditions than this Renewal License, including, but not limited to: franchise fees; payment schedules, insurance; system build-out requirements; performance bonds or similar instruments; public, education and government access channels and support; customer service standards; required reports and related record keeping; and notice and opportunity to cure breaches; the Issuing Authority agrees that it shall amend this Renewal License to include any more favorable or less burdensome terms or conditions.

(b) In the event an application for a new cable television license is filed with the Issuing Authority, proposing to serve the Town, in whole or in part, the Issuing Authority shall serve a copy of such application upon any existing Licensee or incumbent cable operator by registered or certified mail or via nationally recognized overnight courier service within a reasonable time thereafter.

(c) To the extent allowed by applicable law(s), the grant of any additional cable television license(s) shall be on equivalent terms and conditions as those contained in this Renewal License.

(d) The issuance of additional license(s) shall be subject to all applicable federal and state laws, including M.G.L.c. 166A and applicable regulations promulgated thereunder.

(e) In the event that Licensee believes that any additional license(s) has been granted on terms or conditions more favorable or less burdensome than those contained in this Renewal License, the Issuing Authority shall convene a public hearing on such issue, within not more than thirty (30) days of receipt of a hearing request from Licensee. Along with said written request, Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with written reasons for its belief. At the public hearing, the Issuing Authority shall afford Licensee an opportunity to demonstrate that any such additional license(s) are on terms more favorable or less burdensome than those contained in this Renewal License. Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with such financial or other relevant information as is reasonably requested.

(f) Should Licensee demonstrate that any such additional license(s) have been granted on terms and conditions more favorable or less burdensome than those contained in this Renewal License, the Issuing Authority shall make equitable amendments to this Renewal License within a reasonable time.

(g) In the event that Licensee demonstrates that an existing or future Cable Service provider in the Town has been provided relief by the Issuing Authority from any obligation of its license, then Licensee shall be awarded an equivalent amount of relief from obligations herein. Such relief shall be in writing and in the form of an amendment to this License. The Issuing Authority shall convene a public hearing on the issue within sixty (60) days of Licensee's notification to the Issuing Authority requiring such relief, unless otherwise mutually agreed to. Licensee shall provide reasons for its belief in the notification. At the public hearing, the Issuing Authority shall afford Licensee an opportunity to demonstrate that any existing or future service providers in the Town have been provided relief by the Issuing Authority from any obligation of its cable television license. Licensee shall provide the Issuing Authority with such financial or other relevant information as is reasonably requested to justify its belief; provided, however, that the parties' counsel mutually and reasonably deem said information is non-proprietary.

### **ARTICLE 3**

#### **SYSTEM SPECIFICATIONS AND CONSTRUCTION**

##### **SECTION 3.1 - AREA TO BE SERVED**

(a) Licensee shall make Cable Service available to every residential dwelling unit within the Town where the minimum density is at least fifteen (15) dwelling units per aerial mile and thirty (30) dwelling units per underground mile, both as measured from the existing Trunk and Distribution System and where the Licensee is able to obtain from property owners any necessary easements and/or permits in accordance with Cable Act. Licensee shall make service available to multiple dwelling units (MDU) where economically feasible and where Licensee is able to obtain from the property owners any necessary easements, permits and agreements to provide service to said MDU. Subject to the density requirement, Licensee shall offer Cable Service to all new homes or previously unserved homes located within two hundred feet (200') of Licensee's Distribution Cable. For non-Standard Installations, Licensee shall offer said service within ninety (90) days of a Subscriber requesting Service for aerial installations and one hundred eighty (180) days, weather permitting, of a Subscriber requesting Service for underground installations. With respect to areas of the Town which are currently served by Licensee from a contiguous cable system or currently unserved but could be served by abutting Town (s) served by Licensee, Licensee shall have the option to serve such areas from its cable television system in such abutting Town.

(b) Installation costs shall conform with the Cable Act. Any dwelling unit within an aerial two hundred feet (200) of the Trunk and Distribution Cable shall be entitled to a Standard Installation rate in accordance with applicable federal and state laws. Underground installations are considered non-standard. All non-standard installations shall be provided at a rate established by the Licensee in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.

(c) Provided Licensee has at least ninety (90) days' prior written notice concerning the opening of residential subdivision trenching, or of the installation of conduit for the location of utilities, Licensee shall install its cable in such trenching or conduits or may seek permission to utilize alternative trenching or conduits within a comparable time frame. If a substantial quantity of cable is required for a large subdivision and said quantity is not in stock, Licensee shall be allowed additional time for said installation. The Issuing Authority, or its designee, shall exercise reasonable efforts to have the Planning Board and developers give timely written notice of trenching and underground construction to Licensee. Developer shall be responsible for the digging and back-filling of all trenches.

### **Section 3.2---LINE EXTENSION POLICY**

(a.) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3.1(a) above, the Licensee shall extend its cable plant in Hardwick and make Cable Service available along the portions of the following Public Ways and in the manner described below within three (3) years of the Effective Date of this Renewal License:

Greenwich Road: beginning at pole #6/47 extend the cable plant on Greenwich Road to pole #51/57.

Partridge Hollow Road: beginning at pole #39/45 on Greenwich Road, extend the cable plant on Partridge Hollow Road to pole #18/18.

Thayer Road: beginning at pole #39/45 on Greenwich Road, extend the cable plant on Thayer Road to pole #28/16.

Hall Road: beginning at pole 8/8 on Thayer Road, extend the cable plant on Hall Road to pole #12.

Fisk Road: beginning at pole #5/6/6 on Thayer Road, extend the cable plant on Fisk Road to pole #29/20.

Short Road: beginning at pole #29/20 on Fisk Road, extend the cable plant on Short Road to pole #8/8.

Old Greenwich Plains Road: beginning at pole #29/23 at the corner of Minor Road and Collins Road, extend the cable plant on Old Greenwich Plains Road to pole #6/6.

Miner Road: beginning at pole #21/27 on Old Greenwich Plains Road extend the cable plant on Miner Road to pole #14.5.

Collins Road: beginning at pole #29/23 at the corner of Old Greenwich Plains Road, extend the cable plant on Collins Road to pole #24/8.

- (b.) The Cable Television System shall be further extended to all areas in the Town that do not meet the requirements of section 3.1 (a) above upon the request of the dwelling unit owners in such areas and based upon the following cost calculation: The cost of wiring such areas shall be calculated by taking the capital cost of extending such service divided by the number of dwelling units requesting Cable Service in such area minus the costs of extending Cable Service to dwelling units in an area that meets the density requirement specified in Section 3.1 (a) above. The resulting cost shall equal the per dwelling unit contribution relating to line extension of Cable Service in that particular area of the Town, or:

$$\frac{C}{LE} - \frac{CA}{P} = SC$$

- C equals the cost of construction of new plant from the termination of existing Trunk and Distribution System;
  - LE equals the number of dwelling units requesting Cable Service in the line extension area, who subsequently pay a contribution in aid;
  - CA equals the average cost of construction per mile in the primary Service area;
  - P equals the 15 dwelling units per linear mile of aerial plant or 30 dwelling units per linear mile of underground plant both as measured from the existing Trunk and Distribution System; and
  - SC equals the per dwelling unit contribution in aid of construction in the line extension area.
- (c.) The Town shall make its best efforts to notify the Licensee, including, without limitation, having the Town Clerk so notify the Licensee, in advance whenever new developments are under consideration by Town agencies.

**SECTION 3.3--- LINE EXTENSION PROCEDURES**

- (a) Any potential Subscriber located in an area of the Town without Cable Service may request such Cable Service from the Licensee. In areas meeting the requirements of Section 3.1 (a) above, the Licensee shall extend Cable Service to the area promptly, but in no case later than ninety (90) days after all necessary permits and pole attachment licenses are obtained, subject to Force Majeure (including the performance of make-ready work). The Licensee shall expeditiously seek all necessary permits and pole attachment licenses.
  
- (b) In those areas with less than fifteen (15) dwelling units per aerial mile or thirty (30) dwelling units per underground mile of cable plant, both areas as measured from the existing Trunk and Distribution System, the Licensee, shall, within forty-five (45) days following a request for Cable Service, conduct a survey to determine the number of dwelling units in the immediate area and shall inform each participating dwelling unit of the possible contribution in aid of construction (see Section 3.2 (b) above) that will be charged. The Licensee shall apply for all necessary permits and pole attachment licenses within thirty (30) days of receiving the contribution in aid of construction from all participating dwelling units. Cable Service(s) shall be made available and fully activated to all requesting dwelling units who made a contribution in aid of construction within ninety (90) days of receipt of all necessary permits and pole attachment licenses by the Licensee, subject to Force Majeure (including the performance of make-ready work).

**SECTION 3.4 - SUBSCRIBER NETWORK**

Licensee shall maintain a Cable Television System, fully capable of carrying a minimum bandwidth of 750MHz.

**SECTION 3.5 - SUBSCRIBER NETWORK CABLE DROPS**

(a) Licensee shall maintain the current level of existing active Drops, Outlets and Basic Cable Service, at no charge to the Town, to each Public Building, public school, police and fire stations, public libraries and other Public Buildings as designated by the Issuing Authority within

the Town, listed in **Exhibit A** attached hereto, provided such are considered to be a Standard Installation.

(b) Upon written request by the Issuing Authority, Licensee shall provide one (1) Standard Installation Drop, Outlet and Basic Cable Service at no charge to any new Public Buildings and other Town owned Public Buildings, along the Trunk and Distribution Cable subject to the limitations set forth above. The Issuing Authority or its designee shall consult with a representative of Licensee to determine the appropriate location of the Public Building's Outlet prior to requesting that Licensee install service at no charge.

(c) Nothing in this Section shall require Licensee to move existing or install additional Drops or Outlets at no charge to those buildings included in **Exhibit A**, or to move existing or install additional Drops or Outlets to buildings already installed pursuant to subsection (b) above.

(d) It is understood that Licensee shall not be responsible for any internal wiring of such Public Buildings.

### **SECTION 3.6 - PARENTAL CONTROL CAPABILITY**

(a) Pursuant to applicable law, upon request, and at no separate, additional charge, Licensee shall provide Subscribers with the capability to control the reception of any channel on the Cable System.

(b) The Issuing Authority acknowledges that the parental control capability may be part of a converter box and Licensee may charge Subscriber for use of said box.

### **SECTION 3.7---EMERGENCY ALERT OVERRIDE CAPACITY**

Licensee shall comply with the FCC's Emergency Alert System ("EAS") regulations.

## **ARTICLE 4**

### **TECHNOLOGICAL AND SAFETY STANDARDS**

#### **SECTION 4.1 - SYSTEM MAINTENANCE**

(a) In installing, operating and maintaining equipment, cable and wires, Licensee shall avoid damage and injury to trees, structures and improvements in and along the routes authorized by the Issuing Authority, except as may be approved by the Issuing Authority if required for the proper installation, operation and maintenance of such equipment, cable and wires.

(b) The construction, maintenance and operation of the Cable Television System for which this Renewal License is granted shall be done in conformance with all applicable laws, bylaws/ordinances of general applicability, codes and regulations, including but not limited to OSHA, the National Electrical Safety Code, and the rules and regulations of the FCC as the same exist or as same may be hereafter changed or amended.

(c) Operating and maintenance personnel shall be trained in the use of all safety equipment and the safe operation of vehicles and equipment. Licensee shall install and maintain its equipment, cable and wires in such a manner as shall not interfere with any installations of the Town or any public utility serving the Town.

(d) All structures and all equipment, cable and wires in, over, under, and upon streets, sidewalks, alleys, and public rights of ways of the Town, wherever situated or located shall at all times be kept and maintained in a safe and suitable condition and in good order and repair.

(e) The signal of any Broadcast station carried on the Cable Television System shall be carried without material degradation in quality at all subscribing locations within the limits imposed by the technical specifications of the Cable System and as set forth by the FCC. The Cable System shall be operated and maintained so as to comply with the technical standards set forth in the FCC's rules and regulations as they apply to cable television systems.

(f) Upon written notice from the Issuing Authority, Licensee shall remedy a general deficiency with respect to the technical standards described herein within three (3) months of receipt of notice and a safety deficiency within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt of notice and shall notify the Issuing Authority when the deficiency has been corrected.

#### **SECTION 4.2 - REPAIRS AND RESTORATION**

Whenever Licensee takes up or disturbs any pavement, sidewalk or other improvement of any public right of way or public place, the same shall be replaced and the surface restored in as good condition as possible as before entry as soon as practicable. If Licensee fails to make such restoration within a reasonable time, the Issuing Authority may fix a reasonable time for such restoration and repairs, and shall notify Licensee in writing of the restoration and repairs required and the time fixed for the performance thereof. Upon failure of Licensee to comply within the time specified, the Issuing Authority may cause proper restoration and repairs to be made and the expense of such work shall be paid by Licensee upon written demand by the Issuing Authority. However, prior to such repair or restoration the Town should submit a written estimate to Licensee of the actual cost of said repair or restoration.

#### **SECTION 4.3 - CABLE LOCATION**

(a) In all areas of the Town where all of the transmission and distribution facilities of all public or municipal utilities are installed underground, Licensee shall install its Cable System underground provided that such facilities are actually capable of receiving the Licensee's cable and other equipment without technical degradation of the Cable System's signal quality.

(b) In all areas of the Town where public utility lines are aerielly placed, if subsequently during the term of the Renewal License such public utility lines are required by local ordinance or State law to be relocated aerielly or underground, Licensee shall similarly relocate its Cable System if it is given reasonable notice and access to the public and municipal utilities facilities at

the time that such are placed underground. Any costs incurred by Licensee for relocating utility poles or trenching for the placement of underground conduits shall be entitled to reimbursement of such relocation costs in the event public or private funds are raised for the project and made available to other users of the Public Way.

(c) Provided Licensee has at least ninety (90) days' prior written notice concerning the opening of residential subdivision trenching, or of the installation of conduit for the location of utilities, it shall install its cable in such trenching or conduits or may seek permission to utilize alternative trenching or conduits within a comparable time frame. If a substantial quantity of cable is required for a large subdivision and said quantity is not in stock, Licensee shall be allowed additional time for said installation. The Issuing Authority, or its designee, shall exercise reasonable efforts to have the Planning Board and developers give timely written notice of trenching and underground construction to Licensee. The developer shall be responsible for the digging and back-filling of all trenches.

(d) Nothing in this Section shall be construed to require Licensee to construct, operate, or maintain underground any ground-mounted appurtenances such as customer taps, line extenders, system passive devices, amplifiers, power supplies, pedestals, or other related equipment.

#### **SECTION 4.4 - TREE TRIMMING**

In accordance with applicable law, in installing, operating and maintaining equipment, cable and wires, the Licensee shall avoid all unnecessary damage and injury to trees, structures and improvements in and along the routes authorized by the Issuing Authority.

#### **SECTION 4.5 – PLANT MAPS**

Upon written request, the Licensee shall make available to the Issuing Authority strand maps of all final constructed Cable System plant. If changes are made in the Cable System, the

Licensee shall make available updated maps, not more than once annually, not later than sixty (60) days after each such written request.

#### **SECTION 4.6 - BUILDING MOVES**

(a) In accordance with applicable laws, Licensee shall, upon the written request of any Person holding a building moving permit issued by the Town, temporarily raise or lower its wires to permit the moving of the building(s). Licensee shall be given not less than thirty (30) days' advance written notice to arrange for such temporary wire changes. The cost to raise or lower wires shall be borne by the Person(s) holding the building move permit.

(b) Licensee shall have the right to seek reimbursement under any applicable insurance or government program for reimbursement.

#### **SECTION 4.7 - DIG SAFE**

Licensee shall comply with applicable "dig safe" provisions pursuant to M.G.L.c. 82, § 40.

#### **SECTION 4.8 - DISCONNECTION AND RELOCATION**

(a) Licensee shall, at its sole cost and expense, protect, support, temporarily disconnect, relocate in the same street, or other Public Right of Ways, or remove from any street or any other Public Ways and places, any of its property as required by the Issuing Authority or its designee by reason of traffic conditions, public safety, street construction, change or establishment of street grade, or the construction of any public improvement or structure by any Town department acting in a governmental capacity.

(b) In requiring Licensee to protect, support, temporarily disconnect, relocate or remove any portion of its property, the Issuing Authority shall treat Licensee the same as, and require no more of Licensee, than any other similarly situated utility.

(c) In either case, Licensee shall have the right to seek reimbursement under any applicable insurance or government program for reimbursement.

**SECTION 4.9 - EMERGENCY REMOVAL OF PLANT**

(a) If, at any time, in case of fire or disaster in the Town, it shall be necessary in the reasonable judgment of the Issuing Authority to cut or move any of the wires, cable or equipment of the Cable Television System, the Town shall have the right to do so without cost or liability, provided however that, wherever possible, the Issuing Authority gives Licensee written notice and the ability to relocate wires, cable or other equipment.

(b) In either case, Licensee shall have the right to seek reimbursement under any applicable insurance or government program for reimbursement. All cable operators or public or municipal utility companies shall be treated alike if reimbursed for such costs by the Town.

**SECTION 4.10 – PROHIBITION AGAINST RESELLING OF SERVICE**

No Person shall resell, without the express prior written consent of Licensee, any Cable Service, program or signal transmitted over the Cable System by Licensee.

**ARTICLE 5  
PROGRAMMING**

**SECTION 5.1 - BASIC CABLE SERVICE**

Licensee shall make available a Basic Cable Service tier to all subscribers in accordance with 47 U.S.C. 534.

**SECTION 5.2 - PROGRAMMING**

(a) Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 544, Licensee shall maintain the mix, quality and broad categories of Video Programming as set forth in **Exhibit B**. Pursuant to federal law, all Video Programming decisions, excluding PEG Access Programming, are at the sole discretion of Licensee.

(b) Licensee shall comply with 76.1603(c) of the FCC Rules and Regulations as well as 207 CMR 10.02 of the Massachusetts Cable Television Division Rules and Regulations regarding notice of programming changes.

**SECTION 5.3 - REMOTE CONTROLS**

Licensee shall allow Subscribers to purchase remote control devices which are compatible with the converter installed by Licensee, if any, and allow the use of remotes. Licensee takes no responsibility for changes in its equipment or services that might render inoperable the remote control devices acquired by Subscribers.

**SECTION 5.4 - STEREO TV TRANSMISSIONS**

All Broadcast Signals that are transmitted to Licensee's headend in stereo shall be transmitted in same to Subscribers.

**SECTION 5.5 – CABLE CHANNELS FOR COMMERCIAL USE**

Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 532, Licensee shall make available channel capacity for commercial use by persons unaffiliated with Licensee. Rates for use of commercial access channels shall be negotiated between Licensee and the commercial user in accordance with federal law.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### **PEG ACCESS CHANNEL(S) AND SUPPORT**

#### **SECTION 6.1 - PEG ACCESS CHANNEL(S)**

(a) Use of channel capacity for Public, Educational and Governmental (“PEG”) Access shall be provided in accordance with federal law, 47 U.S.C. 531, and as further set forth below. Licensee does not relinquish its ownership of or ultimate right of control over a channel by designating it for PEG use. A PEG Access User – whether an individual, educational or governmental user – acquires no property or other interest by virtue of the use of a channel so designated, and may not rely on the continued use of a particular channel number, no matter how long the same channel may have been designated for such use. Licensee shall not exercise editorial control over any public, educational, or governmental use of channel capacity, except Licensee may refuse to transmit any public access program or portion of a public access program that contains obscenity, indecency, or nudity pursuant to Section 611 of the Cable Act. The Issuing Authority shall be responsible for developing, implementing, interpreting and enforcing rules for PEG Access Channel use which shall ensure that the PEG Access Channel and PEG Access equipment will be available on a first-come non-discriminatory basis.

(b) Licensee shall designate capacity on one (1) channel for a PEG Access Channel to be used for PEG Access Programming provided by the Issuing Authority or its designee. A PEG Access Channel may not be used to cablecast for-profit, political or commercial fundraising programs in any fashion. Unused capacity may be utilized by the Licensee subject to the provisions set forth in subsection (c) below.

## **SECTION 6.2 - PEG ACCESS PROVIDER**

Upon completion of the construction of the video origination location as provided in Section 6.5, the Issuing Authority or its designee shall provide services to PEG Access Users and the Town as follows:

- (1) Schedule, operate and program the PEG Access channel provided in accordance with Section 6.3 below;
- (2) Manage the annual PEG Access funding, pursuant to Section 6.4 below;
- (3) Purchase, maintain and/or lease PEG Access equipment, with the funds allocated for such purposes in Section 6.4 below;
- (4) Conduct training programs in the skills necessary to produce PEG Access Programming;
- (5) Provide technical assistance and production services to PEG Access Users;
- (6) Establish rules, procedures and guidelines for use of the PEG Access Channel;
- (7) Provide publicity, fundraising, outreach, referral and other support services to PEG Access Users;
- (8) Assist PEG Access Users in the production of PEG Access Programming of interest to Subscribers and issues, events and activities; and
- (9) Accomplish such other tasks relating to the operation, scheduling and/or management of the PEG Access Channel, facilities and equipment as appropriate and necessary.

## **SECTION 6.3 - PEG ACCESS CABLECASTING**

(a) In order that PEG Access Programming can be cablecast over Licensee's downstream PEG Access Channel, all PEG Access Programming shall be modulated, then transmitted from the origination location listed in **Exhibit C** to Licensee-owned headend or hub-site on a Licensee-owned upstream channel made available, without charge, to the Town for its use. At the Licensee-owned headend, said PEG Access Programming shall be retransmitted in the downstream direction on one Licensee-owned Subscriber Network downstream PEG Access Channel.

(b) Licensee shall provide and maintain all necessary switching and/or processing equipment located at its hub-site or headend in order to switch upstream signals carrying PEG Access Programming from the location listed in **Exhibit C** to the designated Licensee-owned Subscriber Network downstream PEG Access Channel.

(c) Licensee shall own, maintain, repair and/or replace any Licensee-owned headend or hub-site audio and/or video signal processing equipment. The Town and/or PEG access provider shall own, maintain, repair and/or replace studio and/or portable modulators and demodulators. The demarcation point between Licensee's equipment and the Town's or PEG Access provider's equipment shall be at the output of the Town's and/or the PEG Access provider's modulator(s) at any of the origination locations in **Exhibit C**.

#### **SECTION 6.4 – PEG ACCESS SUPPORT**

(a) Licensee shall provide payments to the Issuing Authority or its designee for PEG Access and/or other cable related purposes, including among other things, salary, operating and other related expenses related to PEG Access operations and programming, and/or related technology, in an amount equal to:

2.00% of Gross Annual Revenues	In License years 1, 2, 3
3.00% of Gross Annual Revenues	In License years 4, 5, 6 & 7
4.00% of Gross Annual Revenues	In License years 8, 9 & 10

(b) The first payment shall be made on February 15, 2013 for the period from November 15, 2012 through December 31, 2012. Quarterly thereafter, Licensee shall provide payments by each May 15<sup>th</sup>, August 15<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup> and February 15<sup>th</sup> based on the Gross Annual Revenues from the previous calendar quarter.

(c) The Licensee shall file with each of the payments pursuant to this Section 6.4, a statement certified by a duly authorized financial representative of the Licensee documenting, in reasonable detail, the Gross Annual Revenue as defined in Section 1.1(k), for the preceding three

(3) month reporting period. Said statement shall list all of the general categories comprising Gross Annual Revenues as defined in Section 1.1(k) herein.

#### **SECTION 6.5 PEG ACCESS VIDEO ORIGINATION CAPABILITY**

Within twelve (12) months of the Effective Date, Licensee shall construct a PEG Access video origination return line from the Hardwick Town Hall, located at 307 Main Street in the Gilbertville section of Hardwick, so that the Issuing Authority or its designee may originate PEG Access Programming from that location. The costs associated with the construction, activation and maintenance of the PEG Access video origination return line shall be considered franchise related costs. Licensee reserves the right to pass through costs related to PEG Access video origination construction and return line maintenance to Subscribers in accordance with applicable state and federal law.

#### **SECTION 6.6 - PROGRAMMING EXCLUSIVITY AND NON-COMPETITION**

The Issuing Authority, or its designee, agrees that it will not use its designated PEG Access channel(s), equipment, or other facilities to provide for-profit commercial services which have the effect of competing with Licensee's business. In addition, any Video Programming produced under the provisions of this Article 6 shall not be commercially distributed to a competing Multichannel Video Programming Distributor without the written consent of Licensee.

#### **SECTION 6.7 – INTERCONNECTION WITH COMPETING CABLE LICENSEE**

In the event a License is issued by the Issuing Authority to a competing Licensee, the competing Licensee may not connect its system to Licensee's current system for purposes of obtaining PEG Access Programming from the Licensee's PEG Access channels without the prior written consent of Licensee.

**SECTION 6.8 - PEG ACCESS PROGRAMMING INDEMNIFICATION**

The Issuing Authority and/or the Access Provider shall indemnify the Licensee for any liability, loss or damage it may suffer due to violation of the intellectual property rights of third parties or arising out of the content of programming aired on any PEG channel and from claims arising out of the Franchising Authority's rules for or administration of PEG Access Programming.

## **ARTICLE 7**

### **CUSTOMER SERVICE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

#### **SECTION 7.1 - CUSTOMER SERVICE**

Licensee shall comply with all customer service regulations of the FCC (47 CFR §76.309) as they exist or as they may be amended from time to time. Likewise, Licensee shall comply with the customer service regulations promulgated by the Cable Division as they exist or as they may be amended from time to time.

#### **SECTION 7.2 - CONSUMER COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

Complaints by any Person as to the operation of the Cable System may be filed in writing with the Cable Division or with the Issuing Authority, each of which shall within ten (10) days forward copies of such complaints to the other. The Issuing Authority and the Cable Division shall be notified by Licensee on forms to be prescribed by the Cable Division not less than annually, of the complaints of subscribers received during the reporting period and the manner in which they have been met, including the time required to make any necessary repairs or adjustments.

#### **SECTION 7.3 - SUBSCRIBERS' ANTENNAS - SWITCHING DEVICES**

Licensee shall not remove any television antenna of any Subscriber but shall, at Licensee's actual cost, plus reasonable rate of return offer an adequate switching device to allow the Subscriber to choose between cable television and non-cable reception.

#### **SECTION 7.4 - SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS**

Pursuant to applicable law(s), in the event that Service to any Subscriber is interrupted for twenty-four (24) or more consecutive hours, the Licensee shall grant such Subscriber a pro rata credit or rebate.

#### **SECTION 7.5 - SUBSCRIBER TELEVISION SETS**

Licensee shall not engage directly or indirectly in the business of selling or repairing television sets; provided however that Licensee may make adjustments to television sets in the course of normal maintenance.

#### **SECTION 7.6 - PROTECTION OF SUBSCRIBER PRIVACY**

Licensee shall comply with all applicable federal and state privacy laws and regulations, including 47 U.S.C. 551 and regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

#### **SECTION 7.7 – MONITORING**

Neither Licensee nor its designee nor the Issuing Authority nor its designee shall, without a court order, tap, monitor, arrange for the tapping or monitoring, or permit any person to tap or monitor, any cable, line, signal, input device, or Subscriber Outlet or receiver for any purpose, without the prior written authorization of the affected Subscriber or user, unless otherwise required by applicable law, provided, however, that Licensee may conduct system-wide or individually addressed “sweeps” solely for the purpose of verifying system integrity, checking for illegal taps, controlling return-path transmission, billing for pay services or monitoring channel usage in a manner not inconsistent with the Cable Act. Licensee shall report to the affected parties any instances of monitoring or tapping of the Cable Television System, or any part thereof, of which it has knowledge, whether or not such activity has been authorized by Licensee. Licensee shall not

record or retain any information transmitted between a Subscriber or user and any third party, except as required for lawful business purposes.

#### **SECTION 7.8 – POLLING**

No poll or other upstream response of a Subscriber or user shall be conducted or obtained, unless: 1) the program of which the upstream response is a part contains an explicit disclosure of the nature, purpose and prospective use of the results of the poll or upstream response, and 2) the program has an informational, entertainment or educational function which is self-evident. Licensee or its designees shall release the results of upstream responses only in the aggregate and without individual references.

#### **SECTION 7.9 – PROPRIETARY INFORMATION**

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in this License, Licensee shall not be required to disclose information which it reasonably deems to be proprietary or confidential in nature. The Issuing Authority agrees to treat any information disclosed by Licensee as confidential and only to disclose it to those employees, representatives, and agents of the Issuing Authority that have a need to know in order to enforce this License and who shall agree to maintain the confidentiality of all such information. Licensee shall not be required to provide Subscriber information in violation of 47 U.S.C. 551 or any other applicable federal or state privacy law. For purposes of this Section, the terms “proprietary or confidential” include, but are not limited to, information relating to the Cable System design, customer lists, marketing plans, financial information unrelated to the calculation of franchise fees or rates pursuant to FCC rules, or other information that is reasonably determined by Licensee to be competitively sensitive. In the event that the Issuing Authority receives a request under a state “sunshine,” public records or similar law for the disclosure of information Licensee has designated as confidential, trade secret

or proprietary, the Issuing Authority shall notify Licensee of such request and cooperate with Licensee in opposing such request.

**SECTION 7.10 - EMPLOYEE IDENTIFICATION CARDS**

All of Licensee's employees, including repair and sales personnel, entering private property shall be required to carry an employee photo identification card issued by Licensee.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### **PRICES AND CHARGES**

#### **SECTION 8.1 - PRICES AND CHARGES**

(a) All rates, fees, charges, deposits and associated terms and conditions to be imposed by Licensee or any affiliated Person for any Cable Service as of the Effective Date shall be in accordance with applicable FCC's rate regulations [47 U.S.C. 543]. Before any new or modified rate, fee, or charge is imposed, Licensee shall follow the applicable FCC and State notice requirements and rules and notify affected Subscribers, which notice may be by any means permitted under applicable law. Nothing in this Renewal License shall be construed to prohibit the reduction or waiver of charges in conjunction with promotional campaigns for the purpose of attracting or retaining Subscribers.

(b) The Issuing Authority acknowledges that under the 1992 Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act, certain costs of Public, Educational and Governmental ("PEG") Access and other license/franchise requirements, may be passed through to the Subscribers in accordance with federal law.

## **ARTICLE 9**

### **REGULATORY OVERSIGHT**

#### **SECTION 9.1 - INDEMNIFICATION**

Licensee shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Issuing Authority, its officers, employees, and agents from and against any liability or claims resulting from property damage or bodily injury (including accidental death) that arise out of Licensee's construction, operation, maintenance or removal of the Cable System, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorney's fees and costs, provided that the Issuing Authority shall give Licensee timely (best efforts of 10 business days) written notice of its obligation to indemnify and defend the Issuing Authority within the timely receipt of a claim or action pursuant to this Section. If the Issuing Authority determines that it is necessary for it to employ separate counsel, the costs for such separate counsel shall be the responsibility of the Issuing Authority. Notice under this provision shall be considered adequate providing that it does not prejudice the ability of the Licensee to defend the Issuing Authority or the Town.

#### **SECTION 9.2 - INSURANCE**

(a) Licensee shall carry insurance throughout the term of this Renewal License and any removal period pursuant to M.G.L.c. 166A, § 5(c) with an insurance company authorized to conduct business in Massachusetts satisfactory to the Issuing Authority protecting, as required in this Renewal License, Licensee and listing the Town as an additional insured, against any and all claims for injury or damage to persons or property, both real and personal, caused by the construction, installation, operation, maintenance or removal of its Cable System. The amount of such insurance against liability for damage to property shall be no less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) as to any one occurrence. The amount of such insurance for liability for injury or death to any person shall be no less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000). The amount of such

insurance for excess liability shall be Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) in umbrella form. Policy will contain a provision that the Issuing Authority will receive thirty (30) days' written notice prior to any cancellation.

(b) Licensee shall carry insurance against all claims arising out of the operation of motor vehicles and general tort or contract liability in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000). Policy will contain a provision that the Issuing Authority will receive thirty (30) days' written notice prior to any cancellation.

(c) All insurance coverage, including Workers' Compensation, shall be maintained throughout the period of this Renewal License. All expenses incurred for said insurance shall be at the sole expense of Licensee. Policy will contain a provision that the Issuing Authority will receive thirty (30) days' written notice prior to any cancellation.

(d) Licensee shall provide Issuing Authority with certificate(s) of insurance for all policies required herein upon expiration of policies.

### **SECTION 9.3 - PERFORMANCE BOND**

(a) Licensee has submitted and shall maintain throughout the duration of this Renewal License and any removal period pursuant to M.G.L.c. 166A, § 5(c) a performance bond in the amount of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) running to the Town with a surety company satisfactory to the Issuing Authority to guarantee the following terms:

- (1) the satisfactory completion of the installation and operation of the Cable System in the time schedule provided herein and otherwise of M.G.L.c. 166A, § 5(a), (m) and (n);
  - (2) the satisfactory restoration of pavements, sidewalks and other improvements in accordance with M.G.L.c. 166A, § 5(g);
  - (3) the indemnity of the Town in accordance with M.G.L.c. 166A, § 5(b);
- and

(4) the satisfactory removal or other disposition of the Cable System in accordance with M.G.L.c. 166A, § 5(f).

(b) Licensee shall not reduce the amount or cancel said bond, or materially change the terms of said bond from the provisions of Section 9.3(a) herein without the Issuing Authority's prior written consent. The Issuing Authority shall not unreasonably withhold its consent.

#### **SECTION 9.4 - LICENSE FEES**

(a) During the term of the Renewal License the annual License Fee payable to the Issuing Authority shall be the maximum allowable by law, per Subscriber served as of the last day of the preceding calendar year, payable on or before March 15th of the said year. Pursuant to M.G.L.c. 166A, § 9, this fee is currently fifty cents (\$.50) per Subscriber, but not less than Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250) annually.

(b) In accordance with Section 622(b) of the Cable Act, Licensee shall not be liable for a total Franchise Fee, as defined by Section 622(b) of the Cable Act in excess of five percent (5%) of its Gross Annual Revenues.

(c) All payments by Licensee to the Town pursuant to this Section shall be made payable to the Town unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the parties.

#### **SECTION 9.5 - REPORTS**

(a) Licensee shall file annually with the Cable Division on forms prescribed by the Cable Division, a sworn statement of its revenues and expenses for official use only. In addition, Licensee shall also file with the Cable Division, a financial balance sheet and statement of ownership which shall be supplied upon written request of the Issuing Authority. These requirements shall be subject to the regulations of the Cable Division.

(b) In addition, Licensee shall maintain for public inspection all records required by the FCC and as specified in 47 CFR §76.305 in the manner prescribed therein.

## **SECTION 9.6 - EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Licensee is an Equal Opportunity Employer and shall comply with applicable FCC regulations with respect to Equal Employment Opportunities.

## **SECTION 9.7 - REVOCATION OF LICENSE**

The License issued hereunder may, after due written notice and hearing per Section 9.8 (Notice and Opportunity to Cure), be revoked by the Issuing Authority or the Cable Division for any of the following reasons:

- (a) For false or misleading statements in, or material omissions from, the application submitted under M.G.L.c. 166A, § 4;
- (b) For failure to file and maintain the performance bond as described in Section 9.3 (Performance Bond) or to maintain insurance as described in Section 9.2 (Insurance);
- (c) For repeated violations, as determined by the Cable Division, of commitments of the license as set forth in M.G.L.c. 166A, § 5(j);
- (d) For repeated failure, as determined by the Cable Division, to maintain signal quality pursuant to the standards provided for by the FCC and/or Cable Division;
- (e) For any transfer or assignment of the Renewal License or control thereof without consent of the Issuing Authority in violation of Section 9.9 herein;
- (f) For repeated failure to comply with the material terms and conditions herein required by M.G.L.c. 166A, §5; and
- (g) For failure to complete construction in accordance with the provisions of the Renewal License.

## **SECTION 9.8 - NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO CURE**

In the event that the Issuing Authority has reason to believe that Licensee has defaulted in the performance of any or several provisions of this Renewal License, except as excused by Force Majeure, the Issuing Authority shall notify Licensee in writing, by certified mail, of the provision or provisions which the Issuing Authority believes may have been in default and the details relating thereto. Licensee shall have thirty (30) days from the receipt of such notice to:

(a) respond to the Issuing Authority in writing, contesting the Issuing Authority's assertion of default and providing such information or documentation as may be necessary to support Licensee's position; or

(b) cure any such default (and provide written evidence of the same), or, in the event that by nature of the default, such default cannot be cured within such thirty (30) day period, to take reasonable steps to cure said default and diligently continue such efforts until said default is cured. Licensee shall report to the Issuing Authority, in writing, by certified mail, at forty-five (45) day intervals as to Licensee's efforts, indicating the steps taken by Licensee to cure said default and reporting Licensee's progress until such default is cured.

(c) In the event that (i) Licensee fails to respond to such notice of default; and/or (ii) Licensee fails to cure the default or to take reasonable steps to cure the default within the required forty-five (45) day period; the Issuing Authority or its designee shall promptly schedule a public hearing no sooner than fourteen (14) days after written notice, by certified mail, to Licensee. Licensee shall be provided reasonable opportunity to offer evidence, question witnesses, if any, and be heard at such public hearing.

(d) Within thirty (30) days after said public hearing, the Issuing Authority shall issue a written determination of its findings. In the event that the Issuing Authority determines that Licensee is in such default, the Issuing Authority may determine to pursue any lawful remedy available to it.

(e) In the event that (i) the Issuing Authority fails to issue a written reply within 30 days accepting or rejecting Licensees' response pursuant to 9.8(a) above; (ii) the Issuing Authority fails to

issue a written acknowledgement after Licensee's notice that it cured said default pursuant to 9.8(b) above; and/or (iii) the Issuing Authority fails to schedule a public hearing no later than thirty (30) days of having sent a written notice consistent with Section 9.8(c) above and/or (iv) the Issuing authority fails to issue a written determination with thirty (30) days after the public hearing pursuant to Section 9.8(d) above , then the issue of said default against Licensee by the Issuing Authority shall be considered null and void.

### **SECTION 9.9 – LIQUIDATED DAMAGES**

(a) For the violation of any of the following provisions of this Renewal License, liquidated damages shall be paid by the Licensee to the Issuing Authority, subject to the notice, opportunity to cure, and hearing requirements of Section 9.8. All such liquidated damages shall be assessed as of the date that the Licensee received written notice, by certified mail, of the provision or provisions which the Issuing Authority believes are in default, provided that the Issuing Authority made a determination of default pursuant to Section 9.8.

- (1) For failure to operate and maintain the Cable System in accordance with Articles 3 and 4 of this Renewal License, one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per day, for each day that such construction, installation and/or activation violation continues;
- (2) For failure to comply with the FCC's Customer Service Obligations as required by Sections 7.1 and 7.2 of this Renewal License, one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per day for every day that such violation continues;
- (3) For failure to provide, install and/or fully activate the Subscriber Network Drops and/or Outlets in accordance with Section 3.5 and Exhibit A, fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day that any of such Drops and/or Outlets are not provided, installed and/or activated as required;

- (4) For failure to provide insurance, indemnity or performance bond as required by Article 9, one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per day for every day that such violation continues;
  
- (5) For failure to provide timely PEG Access support as required by Article 6, and more specifically to provide one access channel (Section 6.1), annual support payments (Section 6.4) or provide, install and fully activate the video return line within the time required (Section 6.5), one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) per day for every day that such violation continues.

(b) Such liquidated damages shall be in addition to and not be a limitation upon, any other remedy provided in this Renewal License or applicable law, including revocation, or any other statutorily or judicially imposed penalties or remedies; provided, however, that in the event that the Issuing Authority collects liquidated damages for a specific breach for a specific period of time, pursuant to Section 9.8 above, the collection of such liquidated damages shall be deemed to be the exclusive remedy for said specific breach for such specific period of time only.

(c) Each of the above-mentioned cases of non-compliance shall result in damage to the Town, its residents, businesses and institutions, compensation for which will be difficult to ascertain. The Licensee agrees that the liquidated damages in the amounts set forth above are fair and reasonable compensation for such damage. The Licensee agrees that said foregoing amounts are liquidated damages, not a penalty or forfeiture, and are within one or more exclusions to the term "franchise fee" provided by Section 622(g)(2)(A)-(D) of the Cable Act.

#### **SECTION 9.10 - TRANSFER OR ASSIGNMENT**

This Renewal License or control hereof shall not be transferred or assigned without the prior written consent of the Issuing Authority, which consent shall not be arbitrarily or unreasonably withheld. The consent of the Issuing Authority shall be given only after a hearing upon written application therefor on forms prescribed by the Cable Division. Pursuant to 207 CMR 4.01(2), a transfer or assignment of a license or control thereof between commonly controlled entities, between affiliated companies, or between parent and subsidiary corporations, shall not constitute a transfer or assignment of a license or control thereof under M.G.L.c.166A Section 7. Under 207 CMR 4.00, an "affiliated company" is any person or entity that directly or indirectly or through one or more intermediaries, controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with another person or entity. The application for consent to an assignment or transfer shall be signed by Licensee and by the proposed assignee or transferee or by their representatives,

evidence of whose authority shall be submitted with the application. Within thirty (30) days of receiving a request for consent, the Issuing Authority shall, in accordance with State and FCC rules and regulations, notify Licensee in writing of the additional information, if any, it requires to determine the legal, financial, technical and managerial qualifications of the transferee or new controlling party. If the Issuing Authority has not taken action on Licensee's request for consent within one hundred twenty (120) days after receiving such request, consent shall be deemed given.

#### **SECTION 9.11 - REMOVAL OF SYSTEM**

Upon termination of this Renewal License or of any renewal hereof by passage of time or otherwise, Licensee shall remove its supporting structures, poles, transmission and distribution systems and other appurtenances from the streets, ways, lanes, alleys, parkways, bridges, highways, and other public and private places in, over, under, or along which they are installed and shall restore the areas to their original condition. If such removal is not completed within six (6) months of such termination, the Issuing Authority or property owner may deem any property not removed as having been abandoned.

#### **SECTION 9.12 - INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE**

(a) All presently and hereafter applicable conditions and requirements of federal, state and local laws, including but not limited to M.G.L.c. 166A, and the rules and regulations of the FCC and the Cable Division, as they may be amended from time to time, are incorporated herein by reference, to the extent not enumerated herein. All such general laws, rules, and regulations, as amended, shall control the interpretation and performance of this Renewal License to the extent that any provision of this Renewal License conflicts with or is inconsistent with such laws, rules or regulations.

(b) Should the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the federal government or the FCC require Licensee to perform or refrain from performing any act the performance or non-

performance of which is inconsistent with any provisions herein, the Issuing Authority and Licensee will thereupon, if they determine that a material provision herein is affected, modify any of the provisions herein to reflect such government action.

**SECTION 9.13 - NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES**

Nothing in this Renewal License is intended to confer third-party beneficiary status on any member of the public to enforce the terms of this Renewal License.

## **ARTICLE 10**

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **SECTION 10.1 - SEVERABILITY**

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or other portion of this Renewal License is, for any reason, declared invalid, in whole or in part, by any court, agency, commission, legislative body, or other authority of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent portion. Such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof, which other portions shall continue in full force and effect.

#### **SECTION 10.2 - FORCE MAJEURE**

If for any reason of force majeure Licensee is unable in whole or in part to carry out its obligations hereunder, said Licensee shall not be deemed in violation or default during the continuance of such inability. Unless further limited elsewhere in this Renewal License, the term "force majeure" as used herein shall have the following meaning: strikes; acts of god; acts of public enemies, orders of any kind of the government of the United States of America or of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or any of their departments, agencies, political subdivisions, or officials, or any civil or military authority; insurrections; riots, epidemics; landslides; lightning; earthquakes; tornados; fires; hurricanes; volcanic activity; storms; floods; washouts; droughts, environmental restrictions, arrests; civil disturbances; explosions; partial or entire failure of utilities; unavailability of materials and/or essential equipment, environmental restrictions or any other cause or event not reasonably within Licensee's control.

**SECTION 10.3 - NOTICES**

(a) Every notice to be served upon the Issuing Authority shall be sent by certified mail or other means providing for a receipt as proof of delivery to the following address or such other address as the Issuing Authority may specify in writing to Licensee.

Town of Hardwick  
Attn: Board of Selectmen  
207 Main Street  
P.O. Box 575  
Gilbertville, MA 01031

(b) Every notice served upon Licensee shall be delivered or sent by certified mail (postage prepaid) to the following address or such other address as Licensee may specify in writing to the Issuing Authority.

Comcast Cable Communications, Inc.  
Attn: Government Affairs  
1701 John F. Kennedy Boulevard  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

with copies to:

Comcast Cable Communications, Inc.  
Attn: Vice President, Government Affairs  
676 Island Pond Road  
Manchester, NH 03109

Comcast Cable Communications, Inc.  
Attn: Vice President Government Affairs  
3303 Main Street  
Springfield, MA 01107

(c) Delivery of such notices shall be equivalent to direct personal notice, direction or order, and shall be deemed to have been given at the time of receipt.

**SECTION 10.4 - ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

This instrument contains the entire agreement between the parties, supersedes all prior agreements or proposals except as specifically incorporated herein, and cannot be changed without written amendment.

## **SECTION 10.5 - CAPTIONS**

The captions to sections throughout this Renewal License are intended solely to facilitate reading and reference to the sections and provisions of the Renewal License. Such sections shall not affect the meaning or interpretation of the Renewal License.

## **SECTION 10.6 - WARRANTIES**

Licensee warrants, represents and acknowledges that, as of the Effective Date of this Renewal License:

- (a) Licensee is duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of the State;
- (b) Licensee has the requisite power and authority under applicable law and its by-laws and articles of incorporation and/or other organizational documents, is authorized by resolutions of its Board of Directors or other governing body, and has secured all consents which are required to be obtained as of the date of execution of this Renewal License, to enter into and legally bind Licensee to this Renewal License and to take all actions necessary to perform all of its obligations pursuant to this Renewal License;
- (c) This Renewal License is enforceable against Licensee in accordance with the provisions herein; and
- (d) There is no action or proceedings pending or threatened against Licensee which would interfere with performance of this Renewal License.

## **SECTION 10.7 - APPLICABILITY OF RENEWAL LICENSE**

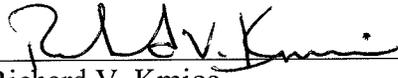
All of the provisions in this Renewal License shall apply to the Town, Licensee, and their respective successors and assigns.

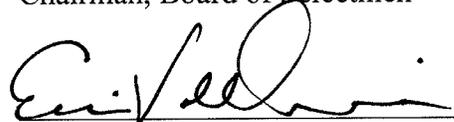
WITNESS OUR HANDS AND OFFICIAL SEAL, THIS 9<sup>th</sup> DAY OF

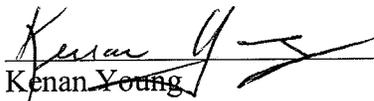
October, 2012.

**TOWN OF HARDWICK**

By its Board of Selectmen:

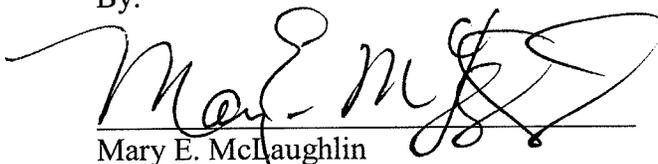
  
Richard V. Kmiec  
Chairman, Board of Selectmen

  
Eric Vollheim  
Board of Selectmen

  
Kenan Young  
Board of Selectmen

**COMCAST OF MASSACHUSETTS/VIRGINIA,  
INC.**

By:

  
Mary E. McLaughlin  
Senior Vice-President  
Western New England Region

**EXHIBIT A**

**PUBLIC BUILDINGS ON THE CABLE SYSTEM**

Hardwick Fire Department	Petersham Road
Hardwick Highway Department	Petersham Road
Town Hall	307 Main Street
Youth Center	179 Main Street
Rescue Squad	482 Lower Road
Hardwick Elementary School	531 Lower Road
Gilbertville Public Library	259 Main Street
Paige Memorial Library	87 Petersham Road

## **EXHIBIT B**

### **PROGRAMMING**

Licensee shall provide the following broad categories of Video Programming:

- News Programming;
- Sports Programming;
- Public Affairs Programming;
- Children's Programming;
- Entertainment Programming; and
- Local Programming.

**EXHIBIT C**

**VIDEO ORIGINATION LOCATION**

\*Hardwick Town Hall

307 Main Street

\*To be constructed in accordance with Section 6.5