

**COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/  
INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

**June 4, 1996**

**5:30 PM**

Chairman Pariseau called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

**PRESENT:** Ald. Pariseau, Elise, Sysyn, Shea, Hirschmann

**MESSRS:** Assistant City Solicitor Arnold, Grace Sullivan and  
Thomas O'Rourke

Chairman Pariseau addressed item three of the agenda.

A motion is in order to enter into non-public session  
(RSA-91:A-3 Paragraph 2(c)) to discuss applications for  
license to operate taxicabs.

On motion of Ald. Shea, duly seconded by Ald. Hirschmann, it was  
voted to enter into non-public session (RSA-91:A-3 Paragraph  
2(c)). All members were recorded in favor on a roll call vote.

On motion of Ald. Shea, duly seconded by Ald. Elise, it was voted  
to re-enter into public session.

On motion of Ald. Hirschmann, duly seconded by Ald. Elise, it was  
voted to restore Raymond Bergeron and Dolores Watson's taxicab  
license subject to passing of drug tests.

Chairman Pariseau addressed item five of the agenda.

Communication from Thomas O'Rourke, Continental Cablevision,  
forwarding Continental's franchise fee payment for the first  
quarter of 1996.

On motion of Ald. Hirschmann, duly seconded by Ald. Elise, it was  
voted to receive and file item five of the agenda.

Chairman Pariseau addressed item six of the agenda.

Communication from Thomas O'Rourke, Continental Cablevision,  
relative to the transfer application of control of  
Continental's cable television franchise to US WEST, Inc.,  
inquiring as to the City's intended process and schedule for  
acting on approval prior to transfer.

Chairman Pariseau asked the Assistant City Solicitor for his  
opinion.

Assistant City Solicitor Arnold stated that Continental Cable would have to petition the City whenever there was a merger or acquisition and wasn't sure that it was done; that it was optional as to whether it was to go to a public hearing; and that with the timing of the acquisition they would need to respond within 90 days.

Mr. O'Rourke stated that the information was mailed out on May 1. Some of the Aldermen noted they may have had the information, but weren't sure.

On motion of Ald. Hirschmann, duly seconded by Ald. Elise it was voted to table item six so that the City Solicitor's office could have the opportunity to review the material.

Chairman Pariseau mentioned that there was a letter.

Mr. O'Rourke replied that was correct; that if it was the Board's pleasure he would make a brief presentation of highlights along with a video tape about US West that talked about what type of company they were, where they were coming and about their future; and that he was available to do that.

Clerk Bernier asked Mr. O'Rourke to call him in the morning; that he would set it up with the Committee, towards the end of June; that he should make a couple of copies so he could forward one to the City Solicitor's office for their review and send to the Aldermen.

Ald. Sysyn asked if it would go to the full Board.

Clerk Bernier stated as Ald. Hirschmann has made the motion that they could table this item pending their receipt of the package for all Aldermen; that they would meet forty-five minutes prior to a special Board meeting with the approval of the Chairman; and that they had 90 days to respond.

Mr. O'Rourke stated they could be flexible on the ninety days; that they could receive an extension.

Clerk Bernier stated that the Board now meets once a month.

Ald. Pariseau stated that he personally didn't have the time to read all about the merger in which Ald. Elise agreed.

Ald. Pariseau stated that the City Solicitor could review it.

Clerk Bernier stated they could have a presentation whereas it does need full Board approval.

Ald. Shea asked if there was a difference between Continental Cable and US West as far as the City's relationship.

Mr. O'Rourke replied absolutely not; that it was one point he wanted to make; that the control of the license or franchise agreement was being transferred to US West, basically in name only; that all Continental Cablevision subsidiaries remained in place as do all the employees; that US West has agreed to enforce and adhere to each and every element of all community franchise agreements.

Ald. Pariseau stated that the current cable rates wouldn't be based on what happens in California as people in New Hampshire wouldn't be able to afford California rates.

Mr. O'Rourke replied no; that Continental Cable would continue business as before; that it was all the same people and same terms of the agreement they had in the past; that US West has recognized that Continental was a valuable player; that US West was a regional bell operating company who serves fourteen states which they will bring to us over 100 years of telephone experience; that as they begin expanding their network in entering the communication business they will have the resources and expertise to share with them; that the State PUC was currently drafting rules for entry with new competitors; that in the next year or so they could see Continental competing with NYNEX.

Chairman Pariseau stated they had a motion by Ald. Hirschmann, seconded by Ald. Elise to table item six to ensure that the Aldermen receive the necessary materials and to give the City Solicitor the opportunity to review. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Communication from Continental Cablevision regarding a change in programming in the Manchester area.  
(Tabled 5/21/96)

Ald. Hirschmann asked if item seven stayed on whether it would effect Continental Cable.

Chairman Pariseau stated that it wouldn't; that it was information to tell them one station took over one channel and they needed to move another channel because of it.

On motion of Ald. Hirschmann, duly seconded by Ald. Shea, it was voted to remove item seven from the agenda.

Ald. Shea stated he thought it was tabled as a letter was sent questioning why they had to change the channels; that most people were favorably in having channel 21.

Mr. O'Rourke stated the reason they had to relocate channel 53 to 21 was because of a "must carry", which was a federal requirement in which they had no control over; that they just swapped the two channels in lieu of doing a complete change in the channels.

On motion of Ald. Hirschmann, duly seconded by Ald. Shea, it was voted to received and file item seven of the agenda.

Discussion relative to the establishment of a Board of Directors for Channel 40 as governed by the Continental Cablevision contract.

(Tabled 4/16/96)

Ald. Sysyn asked if this was tabled because of the timeframe of the last meeting.

Ald. Elise stated that Grace was to come back with more information.

Chairman Pariseau stated he thought it was tabled as there was no one present from Continental Cablevision.

Ald. Elise stated it was because of Grace.

Ald. Sysyn stated they were talking about item eight which was Channel 40, which Grace was on.

Chairman Pariseau stated that was correct; that it does make reference to the Continental Cablevision contract; and that he had the impression that Grace was comfortable with Continental Cablevision.

Ald. Elise replied no.

Ms. Sullivan stated she was very comfortable; that she hopes with the transfer it won't be a mess with the short timeframe with US West coming in and working with the organization. It will be something they need to discuss as she had questions about the transfer and wanted to talk to Tom before hand.

On motion of Ald. Elise, duly seconded by Ald. Sysyn it was voted to remove item eight from the table.

Ms. Sullivan further stated that she spoke with Jeff Netzel from Newport Access Television, in Newport; that there are two real prototypes dealing with public education with government access; that one deals with setting up a separate non-profit organization and the other deals with a program similar to the Board of Trustees for the City Library as a Board of Directors has a stake and the cable contract to have an advisory committee; that the bylaws of the Newport Community Television Corporation was a separate non-profit organization; that the City didn't go that way when it was discussed back in 1990; that the Committee on Administration at that time decided to keep it administered by the Administration Committee; that they never set up an advisory committee to work with the Administration Committee; that the last time they met they discussed specific items in terms of

changes in the telecommunication industry; that there were people in the community who could work to advise Manchester Community Television and to help the Administration Committee set a policy to operate Manchester Community Television, especially now that they're dealing with the internet; that there are many technology changes that were occurring; that the contract US West will assume ownership of will be up for renewal in 2000; and that by the contract they currently have they have to go into negotiations two years prior to renewal.

Chairman Pariseau asked if the City had to.

Ms. Sullivan stated yes; that it was a very long process that she had gone through before; that there were so many changes in technology whereas they need to be constantly looking at with the number of people dealing with public access television was high; that in speaking with Ald. Elise she felt it would be a good idea to come to the Administration Committee and see what type of an advisory board they would like to set up; and that the sense she received was people in the community understood telecommunications.

Chairman Pariseau stated that it looked like she was looking for three members from the education, three from government and three from the public sector.

Ms. Sullivan replied that was correct; that whatever way they wanted it setup was fine.

Chairman Pariseau asked if the Fire Chief would be a good candidate to be on the advisory board.

Ms. Sullivan replied or similar representative of the Fire Department; that they've done a lot of work at the Health Department; that the Health Department does a lot of programming for training; that they ship those tapes out around the world and they have been translated into different languages; that they do make money on it and put it back into the equipment; and that they were very entrepreneurial.

Chairman Pariseau asked if it would be up to the Mayor or the Administration Committee.

Ms. Sullivan replied she felt it would be up to this Committee; that this was the Committee that governs the cable contract.

Chairman Pariseau stated he didn't want anyone to feel that they were stepping on their toes.

Ms. Sullivan stated that they needed to think about this as beyond television; because when contracts were made what could US West do for the City; that in the contract it talks about cable service, it doesn't say cable television service; that they were looking at internet cable services in terms of percentages in

gross in what kinds of money they City could make in which Tom Clarke did a good job in making that wide open and not specifically television.

Chairman Pariseau asked if they as a Committee requested the full Board to submit names of government, public and educational individuals for their review for the advisory committee and noted in next meeting they could review the names.

Ald. Sysyn stated that maybe Grace had someone she would like to consider.

Ms. Sullivan stated that before they decided on names whether they feel there was a need for this; that just to give a name out of the blue, Cal Frost who was the Public Relations Director for NYNEX; that that was someone who understood the telecommunications field.

Chairman Pariseau stated she would be able to submit names; that didn't she want to be on the board.

Ald. Hirschmann stated in relation to the advisory committee; that the program she now has was so successful wasn't she afraid of giving up control; that this advisory committee would steer her and she may not like what she's asking for; that this advisory committee could steer her programming, format and direction in a way that may not be suitable; that was this what she wanted.

Ms. Sullivan replied no; that it could happen that way, but whatever they wanted she would handle.

Ald. Hirschmann stated that where it was working so good why would she want this.

Chairman Pariseau stated that it was part of the contract.

Ms. Sullivan replied it was part of the contract to try and develop the advisory board; that as far as she was concerned, with her being a city employee and that to be honest with the Committee she would have liked to spent time this year working on setting a three camera design for the Aldermanic Chambers and for the School Committee; that she was employed in the School Department and her immediate supervisors would tell her she would have to do one project then another; that she would like a balance between public education and government access.

Ald. Elise asked Ms. Sullivan if that was the model she wanted.

Ms. Sullivan replied it was just one of the models, the other one was setting up a non-profit organization. She was trying to get different models and felt they don't want to setup the non-profit.

Chairman Pariseau replied no they do not.

Ald. Elise stated not the non-profit, but the advisory committee.

Ms. Sullivan replied yes, the advisory committee; that they needed to keep it as simple as possible like in terms of the access to keep it a success.

On motion of Ald. Elise, duly seconded by Ald. Shea, it was voted to submit a letter to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen asking them for nominees for the advisory committee representing government, education and the public sector.

Ald. Shea stated what they needed to decide was whether they want a seven member or a ten member; that it she wanted to keep it simple they would want to recommend seven.

Ms. Sullivan thanked the members of the Committee for their time.

Ald. Hirschmann asked why it couldn't be like the Joint School Buildings where they had a couple of School Board members and Aldermen.

Ald. Elise stated she felt it needed to be more technical.

Chairman Pariseau stated that it was only recommendations; that if they had a member of the general public or two the public would feel more comfortable with cable television and Channel 40.

Ald. Hirschmann stated there should be a member of the cable company also.

Ms. Sullivan stated that they could have a member of the School Board and a member of the Aldermen.

Mr. O'Rourke stated that if a member representing Continental Cablevision was sitting on that committee it might represent a conflict of interest depending on the scope of the committee's responsibility; that he could see a possible conflict in dealing with negotiations.

Chairman Pariseau stated that they don't need a ten member committee.

Clerk Bernier asked Ms. Sullivan what she wished of the Committee.

Ms. Sullivan stated to ask her to go ahead and setup some guidelines as to what they may want.

Clerk Bernier stated that she was going to come back to this Committee with two or three models; that she would submit a letter to them prior to August 1.

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Ms. Sullivan stated if anyone had any questions, to please call her.

There being no further business to come before the Committee on Administration, on motion of Ald. Shea, duly seconded by Ald. Sysyn it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

*Les R. Bernier*  
Clerk of Committee