

CITY OF DELANO

# REQUEST FOR ACTION

**Department Head**

Phil Kern  
City Administrator

**City Council Date**

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

**Agenda Item**

6 A

Motion appointing Phil Kern and Marlene Kittock to represent the City on cable franchise matters for the SWC4 Cable Commission.

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Historically, the City has appointed its City Administrator to represent the City on cable franchise matters for the SWC4. In keeping with practice the motion presented is to appoint Phil Kern to serve as the City's Commissioner and appoint Marlene Kittock to serve as the alternate.

**BACKGROUND**

The city, according to its Joint Powers Agreement with 10 other cities served by Charter Communications, participates in the SWC4 Cable Commission. The purpose of the Commission is to oversee the administration and implementation of the franchise agreements collectively for the cities. All cities presently have franchises with Charter Communications that outline rules and regulations Charter must follow in order to provide cable television services in each community.

The SWC4 provides the City with a number of benefits in terms of cable regulation. Primarily it provides a unified voice of a number of cities that have the ability to regulate services provided by Charter Communications. The cities share resources, effectively reducing the costs of administering their respective franchises, and at the same time hold Charter to a higher standard by requiring equal service provision – whether in Buffalo, Elk River, Delano or Watertown. Further, the Commission pools its revenues to allow for more resource sharing of equipment and purchasing power. The City's recently revamped cable TV broadcast equipment, for example, is a product of the Cable Commission.

The City annually has appointed the City Administrator to serve as the representative to the Commission. I have served as the City's Commission representative for the past nine years. I would recommend the re-appointment of Marlene Kittock as an alternate representative in my absence.

**FUNDING**

The Commission is funded entirely by franchise revenues (5% of Charter's Gross Revenues in each City) and the PEG Fee of \$0.85 per month per account in each City. The PEG Fee is specially assigned for equipment purchase / replaced for the local cable broadcasts.

**ATTACHMENTS**

NA