

ACCEPTANCE OF GENERAL LAW CHAPTER 44,
SECTION 53F ³/₄ – TO CREATE PEG ACCESS FUND

ARTICLE 37. Mr. Whelan moves: that the Town take affirmative action on Article 37 as printed in the handout.

P.E.G. ACCESS = Public, Educational, & Government
Local Cable Television

- 2004 New Comcast Cable License requires 4.5% of revenue be paid to Town or Designated PEG Access Provider.
- 2004 Comcast Discontinues Local PEG Access Service
- 2005 Town Issued RFP for Local PEG access Providers and Executes PEG Access contract with CCTV
- 2005 to 2014
PEG Access Revenue grows from \$125,000/year to \$370,000/year

Chapter 352 of the Acts of 2014

An Act Relative to Cable PEG Access Enterprise Fund

Section 53F-3/4. Notwithstanding section 53 or any other general or special law to the contrary, a municipality that accepts this section may establish in the treasury a separate revenue account to be known as the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund, into which may be deposited funds received in connection with a franchise agreement between a cable operator and the municipality. Monies in the fund shall only be appropriated for cable-related purposes consistent with the franchise agreement, including, but not limited to: (i) support of public, educational or governmental access cable television services; (ii) monitor compliance of the cable operator with the franchise agreement; or (iii) prepare for renewal of the franchise license.

- CCTV operates in both Concord and Carlisle.
- Revenue from Carlisle for CCTV is about \$125,000/year for combined annual revenue of almost \$500,000.
- CCTV has in excess of \$1,000,000 of PEG Access funds on hand, paid by Concord and Carlisle cable television subscribers.

- CCTV expects to spend significant sums moving into the new television studio at the new High School as well as other projects.
- 2014 Comcast renewal license increases PEG Access payments to 4.8% of Comcast revenue.
- The new PEG Access Fund would give the Town greater involvement in the use of Access funds. Money deposited in the Fund from Comcast may ONLY be used for PEG Access-related purposes.
- The Town and CCTV have a very positive relationship.

- Town's contract with CCTV expired in 2014.
- CCTV was the sole respondent to the Town's recent RFP for PEG Access Television Services.
- CCTV and the Town will meet in May to negotiate a successor contract agreement.
- Favorable action on Article 37 will maintain a friendly and cooperative relationship with CCTV while allowing Concord more say in how local access funds are used.
- Town Meeting action will be requested each year.

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