

The Town of Upper Marlboro

RESOLUTION: 2020-07
SESSION: Regular Town Meeting
DATED: March 10, 2020

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE TOWN OF UPPER MARLBORO TO AUTHORIZE NEGOTIATION OF THE VERIZON CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE RENEWAL, AND TOGETHER WITH PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY AND OTHER MUNICIPALITIES, TO JOINTLY NEGOTIATE THE RENEWAL OF THE VERIZON FRANCHISE

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners for the Town of Upper Marlboro has authority pursuant to §1-708 of Local Government Article, Annotated Code of Maryland; §82-16(2)(y) of the Town Charter; and Ordinance 06-05 (Cable Ordinance) adopted November 28, 2006, to regulate cable television franchises within the Town; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Resolution 2006-2 approved on October 10, 2006, the Town subsequently entered into a nonexclusive franchise agreement with Verizon Maryland, Inc. ("Verizon") as part of a municipal coalition; and

WHEREAS, the term of the franchise agreement ends in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Town has received a letter from Verizon invoking the formal renewal provisions of Section 626 of the 1984 Cable Communications Policy Act, which also indicates a desire to engage in an informal process of negotiation: and

WHEREAS, the Town is required to perform a needs assessment as part of any renegotiation of a franchise agreement; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest that the Town enter into franchise renewal negotiations with Verizon; and

WHEREAS, the Town has been invited to be part of a joint negotiation, together with Prince George's County and other municipalities, to negotiate the renewal of the Verizon franchise; and

WHEREAS, the Town participated in a similar joint negotiation with the County and municipalities when the original Verizon franchise agreement was reached and received the benefit of pooling its financial and other resources to reach an agreement that was acceptable to the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Town Commissioners have determined that it is in the public interest to join with Prince George's County and other municipalities, to allow the Town the benefit of pooling its financial and other resources to perform the needs assessment, and to negotiate the renewal of the Verizon franchise.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners for The Town of Upper Marlboro, sitting in regular session this 10th day of March, 2020, that:

1. The Town Board of Commissioners have determined that it is in the public interest to perform a needs assessment and negotiate the renewal of the Verizon franchise agreement, and to join with Prince George's County and other municipalities in the need's assessment and joint negotiation process.
2. That the Town staff is authorized to take those steps necessary to participate and collaborate in the joint negotiation to obtain a franchise agreement that may be entered into between the parties including the Town upon approval of the Board.

ATTEST:

THE TOWN OF UPPER MARLBORO

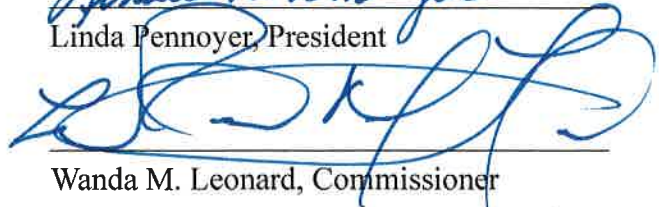


Clerk

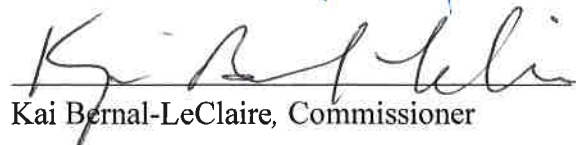
Date: March 10, 2020



Linda Pennoyer, President



Wanda M. Leonard, Commissioner



Kai Bernal-LeClaire, Commissioner



CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am the Town Clerk of the Town of Upper Marlboro and that the Board of Town Commissioners of the Town of Upper Marlboro at a public meeting at which a quorum was present adopted this Resolution, and that said Resolution is in full force and effect and has not been amended or repealed.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of the municipal corporation, this 10th day of March, 2020.



M. David Williams, Town Clerk