

## Communication(s) Committee

- Minutes of the committee meeting of August 9, 2012.
- Chairman W. Pat Hicks called the meeting to order at 11:00am.
- The roll call showed all 8 committee members were in attendance, Pat Hicks, Richard Renfro, John Lewis, Gebe Ritchie, Steve Lowrance, Sonja Culler, Joel Street and Charles Von Cannon.
- The minutes of the last meeting were approved on motion by Mr. "Gebe" Ritchie with a second by Mr. R. Renfro. The voice vote-All Ayes.
- The printed agenda was approved with no additions by motion from Mr. Joel Street and a second by Mr. Steve Lowrance. The voice vote-All Ayes.
- Chairman Hicks informed the committee that the Comcast operating contract for Carter County would expire on Sept 30, 2012. Mr. Hicks also gave the members the telephone number of Mr. Russell Byrd to be used as a last resort in resolving Comcast complaints. Mr. Russell Byrd due to a scheduling conflict could not attend the meeting.
- Several committee members told of their frustration in personally trying to resolve constituent's complaints. Mr. Joel Street spent hours trying to obtain a "real person."
- Chairman Hicks indicated that Comcast can franchise their service through the state-probably the Tennessee Public Service Commission or Utilities Commission.
- Mr. John Lewis is in favor of local control and advises the committee to include some consumer protection language in their contract. Mr. Lewis also discussed that no service is available in much of his district due to the sparse population.
- Chairman Hicks will request Mr. Russell Byrd attend the next meeting.
- Several communication committee meetings may be necessary to meet the September 30 deadline. Mr. Hicks suggested the committee meet and recess session in order to save money. Mr. Lewis pointed out that no new application for cell towers had occurred since the Planning Committee raised the fee to \$10,000.00.
- Mr. Renfro as a member of the Planning Committee will obtain information concerning this situation for the next meeting.
- With no other business to come before the committee an adjournment motion was offered by Mr. Lewis with a second from Mr. Renfro. The voice vote-All Ayes.

Respectfully Submitted by

W. Pat Hicks, Chairman



Charles D. Von Cannon, Secretary

