

WATOA Teleconference 1/16/13

1. Call to order 2:05 PM
 - a. Chris, Linda, Megan, Randy, Jeff, Victoria, Brenda, Mike, Dal, Judy, Dea, Jim
2. Approval of minutes from 12/12/12, Jeff moved, Dal seconded
3. Treasurer's Report and 2013 Renewal Notices – Dea Drake
 - a. \$10,008.64 ending balance for 2012
 - b. 1 outstanding check for last conference call
 - c. 2013 assets \$9,966.49
 - d. Live U still need to pay for conference \$200, re-billed Dec. 11
4. Update on the 2013 Legislative Session – Victoria Lincoln
 - a. Senate is in flux, 2 democrats will team with republicans for a new majority.
 - b. Last week Republican who was lead on EET (Energy Environment Telecommunications) is Senator Doug Erickson out of Bellingham. Lots of big name telecom companies (cable, cellular).
 - i. Companies describe a bill they're working on, and omnibus bill. Would be 100Million for cities to pay back.
 - ii. Cable doesn't think they need to be charged sales tax.
 - c. What's in the omnibus bill:
 - i. Resolve the sales tax problem
 1. Companies determined that if they all don't pay sales tax, it would be too big a hit on local governments. So they decided to repeal sales tax exemption. Bill would relieve \$250 Million in sales tax based on a court ruling in Thurston County Superior Court. This bill says land lines must now pay sales tax, they're no longer exempt. Residential land line users would get a new tax.
 - ii. Everyone pays a 911 tax on every phone bill, cell or land line. But does not apply to prepaid cards. Prepaid services are exploding. Want those businesses to have to pay for 911 as well.
 - iii. This bill addresses the telephone assistance program. \$6 million a biennium, lasts for 5 years.
 - iv. Codification of Voice over internet protocol exemptions. They claim to be exempt from state regulations.
 - v. Requires a 2/3 vote of the legislature. All of Communications companies seem behind it. Details in the bill are still being finalized. There is no copy of the bill available yet.
 1. They call it a leveling of the playing field bill. Cities won't have to pay back \$100M, gets E911 systems better funded, will bring in more sales tax dollars. Would put \$80 million more in the State's general fund.
 2. They have high powered lobbyists working the bill.
 3. California has done this.
 4. WATOA doesn't want this to lead to statewide franchising, don't want to see everything go to IP transmission. Then you wouldn't need local franchises. They told the chair "IP is where the future is at."
 - a. We want to see the bill first before making any recommendations.
 - b. Chris, Jeff & Mike will receive all paperwork from Victoria on this during the session.

- c. In the House, bill will be heard in the Technology, Economic Development & Communications Cmte. Energy went over to Environment Cmte. Jeff Morris is the chair of the cmte where this bill will be heard. Morris perceived as not a big fan of PEG tv. Syrus Habib is Vice Chair.
 5. Timeline—policy bills have to be out of cmte by week of Feb. 18. Since bill affects revenue, it's not under the normal deadlines. The budget gets past last. In limbo until then. Long session, ends April 25 or 28.
5. NATOA Update – Jeff Lueders
 - a. They want reply comments to submit to the FCC, need to get those in.
 - b. Tony Perez & Jonie Miller “think tank” group, lays out what NATOA represents and legislation they want...a lot of talk about PEG and Broadband. 2 conflicting schools of thought between what we know and new technology.
6. WATOA Board Retreat – Chris Jaramillo and Randy Beehler
 - a. Friday, March 15th at Yakima City Hall—Chris needs final yes from everyone on date
 - b. Cover logo
7. Quarterly Newsletter Assignments – Linda Seesz and Dal Neitzel
 - a. Last one Dec. 13 was “Winter 2013”
 - b. Next one comes out March
 - c. Highlight new board member, intro new officers
8. Other business
 - a. Set workshops for the year
 - i. NAB recap (NAB 2nd week of April)
 - ii. Franchise info
9. Adjournment 3:05 PM