
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: DECEMBER 5, 2018
TO: THE HONORABLE, MEMBERS OF THE STEERING AND RULES COMMITTEE
FROM: JAMES R. OWCZARSKI, CITY CLERK
RE: CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS RELATING TO ATTEMPTS TO HAVE CITY CHANNEL PROGRAMMING BROADCAST ON TV58

The below chronology is not exhaustive. In reading it, it bears mention that there were two key documents: the first, called “fiber contract” below, was to connect the City Channel, via Spectrum Cable, to TV58. The second, called “service agreement” below, was to set the terms of the relationship between the City of Milwaukee and TV58.

July 26, 2017: After a conversation with Alderman Khalif Rainey, I sent a letter to all broadcasters serving the Milwaukee area inquiring as to whether they would be interested in providing broadcast space to the City Channel.

August 3, 2017: Mr. Mark Strachota, VP/General Manager of TV58 contacted me via phone to express interest in providing broadcast spectrum space. In subsequent meetings, he said the ownership of his station was interested in providing frequency space to the City Channel for low or no cost. The next several weeks were taken up determining the technical requirements for getting the City Channel signal to TV58. This included a site visit by Mr. Strachota to the City Channel studio.

October 9, 2017: An estimate was received from Spectrum Cable for the provision of fiber to connect the City Channel to TV58. By October 17 it was confirmed that the connection estimated would be sufficient to air City Channel programming.

Late October/Early November 2017 (no later than the second of November): Requisition sent to Purchasing Division for Spectrum Cable purchase.

November 2, 2017: Spectrum contacted me to ask after status of fiber contract. Ms. Terry MacDonald reached out to Purchasing Division.

November 7, 2017: DRAFT service agreement with TV58 received from Mr. Strachota. The service agreement was transmitted the same day to the office of the City Attorney.

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

November 13, 2017: I asked Ms. MacDonald to again contact the Purchasing Division regarding the fiber contract. I was informed that the fiber contract was not complete, but it might be of assistance if the service agreement could be shared. This was done the same day.

November 17, 2017: E-mail received from the office of the City Attorney indicating the service agreement could be complete with redlines by the week of November 27.

November 22, 2017: Purchasing Division forwarded red-lined version of fiber contract to Spectrum.

December 1, 2017: Mr. Strachota e-mailed for a status update. I asked Ms. MacDonald to contact the office of the City Attorney. We were informed that the review of the service agreement was not complete and was asked whether the plan still was to try and introduce the contract for December review.

December 4, 2017: Spectrum e-mailed expressing concern about Purchasing Division red-lines on the fiber contract and asking that this contract be brought under a standard form of agreement like that used for other City fiber services.

February 7, 2018: Mr. Strachota again e-mailed for a status update. I contacted a Deputy City Attorney asking for assistance in expediting this matter.

February 19, 2018: A conference call was held with Spectrum by the office of the City Attorney. It involved two attorneys from that office who were trying to get a response from Spectrum on a total of three agreements involving the City including the fiber contract. The call was an attempt to get some movement from them and avoid duplication of effort. As of December 5, 2018, the City has still not received a response from Spectrum with respect to the other contracts. *(This information provided by the office of the City Attorney.)*

March 20, 2018: Mr. Strachota advised me via e-mail that TV58 was considering another possible use of its bandwidth. He wrote that they remained committed to working with the City if matters could progress. I sent an e-mail to the office of the City Attorney and others emphasizing the precarious nature of the situation. I received a response that more work would be done the next day.

On or about March 29, 2018: I contacted Deputy City Attorney Miriam Horwitz by phone to inform her of the severity of the situation. She responded on March 29 that extra help would be brought in to finalize the fiber contract as a precursor to finishing the service agreement.

April 3, 2018: I was informed that the service agreement was still being completed.

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

April 19, 2018: I contacted the office of the City Attorney for an update on the fiber contract. I was told it was not completed, but would be done no later than the following Monday (April 23).

April 24, 2018: I contacted the office of the City attorney for an update on the fiber contract.

April 25, 2018: I was informed that the fiber contract was not prepared. I contacted Mr. Langley and the supervising deputy asking that this matter be re-assigned. I was told that if it was not done by the end of the day it would be reassigned.

April 30, 2018: The fiber contract was transmitted to Spectrum.

May 1, 2018: The redline version of the service agreement with TV58 was forwarded to Mr. Strachota.

May 8, 2018: Mr. Strachota contacted me and said TV58 would no longer go forward with the proposal to broadcast City Channel programming on TV58.