

MEDIACOM CABLE FRANCHISE – INFORMATION SHEET – Ocean View, DE

The Cable Franchise that the Town of Ocean View has with Mediacom relates solely to Cable TV. It does not cover the company's internet service/nor broadband.

Mediacom is the only cable provider in Ocean View but only because no other provider has chosen to offer this service. We can and would negotiate additional franchise agreements if any company showed interest. The only exclusivity is related to the lack of competition and not as a written rule that we can only have one cable franchise. Many Towns and Cities in Delaware have more than one.

The 2020 Cable Franchise renewal affords the Town of Ocean View the added benefit of gaining a Government Access Channel (channel 78 & 818 for Town Residents only). This is something the Town has never requested before. It launched in Spring of 2021 and is another tool for communicating with our residents.

Regarding internet service in our area, it is correct that currently Mediacom is the only option for most in Ocean View and surrounding areas, however, Sea Colony outside of the Town of Bethany has Comcast. Comcast is also bringing internet to the Bethany commercial area and planning to move down Rte. 26 offering commercial internet. Internet is not subject to franchise agreements and again, if any other company wanted to enter our area, they would be able to do so. There is no exclusivity provision/monopoly except for their being the only provider interested in being here at this time.

To that end, over the last two and a half years, myself and the Managers from South Bethany, Millville and Bethany Beach have been meeting with Comcast to encourage their coming to our area to offer residential cable and internet. As you can imagine, their decisions to provide service are economically driven and based on the cost to build and the number of customers to be gained. For that reason, the towns shared detail related to the number of residential units that span out from Rte. 26/Atlantic Ave. where they are adding commercial internet. We have shared information on existing homes as well as projects on the books to be built. The idea was to combine our numbers to hopefully get their attention. Fall of 2019 the effort noted above began to pay off with South Bethany Beach and Bethany signing Cable Franchise agreements with Comcast. While the franchise agreements are only for cable tv, Comcast is also planning to offer internet. We have been told that Ocean View will be next in line but have no dates for when this might happen, and we are continuing our engagement. As of Fall of 2021, Comcast is still in design with Bethany and South Bethany for residential services. Ocean View remains in contact with Comcast, and we are continuing our engagement with Sussex County on the topic. There is also now in Oct of 2021 a push to expand broadband through the American Rescue Plan Act. The Town is now engaged with the State and County regarding these funds in an effort to gain support for expansion in Ocean View.

Late in 2021 the Town was contacted by Comcast who requested certain necessary information and advised they were interested in starting the process to obtain a Franchise agreement. Further engagement will take place after the new year,

Any concerns related to internet or cable tv from Ocean View residents should be brought to my attention. **I have brought many issues to the attention of Mediacom who has very quickly responded to the customers.** I would be happy to engage Mediacom on behalf of any resident who wishes to share their concerns. Please share this information freely to help us address the misinformation being shared!

Carol Houck Ocean View Town Manager - As Updated Dec 2021