

# CHAPTER 20. CABLE TELEVISION

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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<b>CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE</b> .....	<b>2</b>
SEC. 20.01 SHORT TITLE.....	2
SEC. 20.02 DEFINITIONS.....	2
SEC. 20.03 RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF GRANTEE.....	2
SEC. 20.04 AGREEMENT AND INCORPORATION OF APPLICATION BY REFERENCE.....	2
SEC. 20.05 FRANCHISE TERRITORY.....	2
SEC. 20.06 DURATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF FRANCHISE.....	2
SEC. 20.07 FRANCHISE RENEWAL.....	2
SEC. 20.08 POLICE POWERS.....	3
SEC. 20.09 CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE REQUIRED.....	3
SEC. 20.10 USE OF GRANTEE FACILITIES.....	3
SEC. 20.11 INITIAL FRANCHISE COSTS.....	3
SEC. 20.12 NOTICES.....	3
SEC. 20.13 LETTER OF CREDIT/SECURITY DEPOSIT.....	4
SEC. 20.14 PERFORMANCE BOND.....	4
SEC. 20.15 LIABILITY AND INSURANCE.....	5
SEC. 20.16 INDEMNIFICATION.....	5
SEC. 20.17 RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS.....	6
SEC. 20.18 PUBLIC NOTICE.....	6
SEC. 20.19 SERVICE AVAILABILITY AND RECORD REQUEST.....	7
SEC. 20.20 SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION.....	7
SEC. 20.21 CONSTRUCTION AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS.....	8
SEC. 20.22 USE OF STREETS.....	9
SEC. 20.23 OPERATIONAL STANDARDS.....	9
SEC. 20.24 CONTINUITY OF SERVICE MANDATORY.....	11
SEC. 20.25 COMPLAINT PROCEDURE.....	11
SEC. 20.26 GRANTEE RULES AND REGULATIONS.....	11
SEC. 20.27 FRANCHISE FEE.....	12
SEC. 20.28 TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL.....	12
SEC. 20.29 AVAILABILITY OF BOOKS AND RECORDS.....	13
SEC. 20.30 OTHER PETITIONS AND APPLICATIONS.....	13
SEC. 20.31 FISCAL REPORTS.....	13
SEC. 20.32 REMOVAL OF CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM.....	13
SEC. 20.33 REQUIRED SERVICES AND FACILITIES.....	13
SEC. 20.34 RULES AND REGULATIONS.....	14
SEC. 20.35 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SESSIONS.....	14
SEC. 20.36 RATE CHANGE PROCEDURES.....	15
SEC. 20.37 REVOCATION AND TERMINATION.....	15
SEC. 20.38 FORECLOSURE.....	15
SEC. 20.39 RIGHT OF ACQUISITION BY THE CITY.....	16
SEC. 20.40 RECEIVERSHIP.....	16
SEC. 20.41 COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS.....	16
SEC. 20.42 LANDLORD/TENANT.....	16
SEC. 20.43 APPLICANT'S BIDS FOR INITIAL FRANCHISE.....	17
SEC. 20.44 FINANCIAL, CONTRACTUAL, SHAREHOLDER AND SYSTEM DISCLOSURE FOR INITIAL FRANCHISES.....	17
SEC. 20.45 PENALTIES.....	18
SEC. 20.46 PROCEDURES.....	18
<b>LINE EXTENSION POLICY</b> .....	<b>19</b>

# CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE

## SEC. 20.01 SHORT TITLE.

This Chapter shall be known and may be cited as the “City of Oak Creek Cable Television Franchise Ordinance,” hereinafter “franchise,” “Ordinance,” or “Chapter.”

## SEC. 20.02 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this Chapter the following terms, phrases, words and their derivations shall have the meaning given herein:

- (a) **Basic Service.** Any subscriber tier provided by the Grantee which includes the delivery of local broadcast stations, and public, educational and governmental access channels. The Basic Service does not include optional program and satellite service tiers, a la carte services, per channel, per program, or auxiliary services for which a separate charge is made. However, Grantee may include other satellite signals on the Basic tier.
- (b) **Cable System or Cable Television System.** A system of antennas, cables, wires, lines, towers, wave guides, or other conductors, converters, equipment or facilities, designed and constructed for the purpose of producing, receiving, transmitting, amplifying and distributing audio, video, and other forms of electronic, electrical or optical signals, which includes cable television service and which is located in the City. The definition shall not include any such facility that serves or will serve only subscribers in one (1) or more multiple unit dwellings under common ownership, control or management, and which does not use City rights-of-way.
- (c) **City.** The City of Oak Creek, Wisconsin.
- (d) **Class IV Channel.** A signal path provided by a cable communications system to transmit signals of any type from a subscriber terminal to another point in the cable communications system.
- (e) **Control and/or Controlling Interest.** Actual working control or ownership of a System in whatever manner exercised. A rebuttable presumption of the existence of control or a controlling interest shall arise from the beneficial ownership, directly or indirectly, by any Person or Entity (except underwriters during the period in which they are offering securities to the public) of ten percent (10%) or more of a Cable System or the franchise under which the System is operated. A change in the control or controlling interest of an Entity which has control or a controlling interest in a Grantee shall constitute a change in the control or controlling interest of the System under the same criteria. Control or Controlling Interest as used herein may be

held simultaneously by more than one (1) Person or Entity.

- (f) **Converter.** An electronic device which converts signals to a frequency not susceptible to interference within the television receiver of a subscriber, and by an appropriate channel selector also permits a subscriber to view more than twelve (12) channels delivered by the system at designated converter dial locations.
- (g) **FCC.** The Federal Communications Commission and any legally appointed, designated or elected agent or successor.
- (h) **Grantee.** A person or entity to whom or which a franchise under this Chapter is granted by the City, along with the lawful successors or assigns of such person or entity.
- (i) **Gross Revenues.** All revenue collected directly or indirectly by the Grantee, from the provision of cable service within the City including but not limited to, basic subscriber service monthly fees, pay cable fees, installation and reconnection fees, franchise fees, leased channel fees, converter rentals, program guides, studio rental, production equipment, personnel fees, late fees, downgrade fees, revenue from the sale, exchange, use or cable cast of any programming developed on the system for community or institutional use, advertising, and any value (at retail price levels) of any non-monetary remuneration received by Grantee in consideration of the performance of advertising or any other service of the system; provided, however, that this shall not include any taxes on services furnished by the Grantee herein imposed directly upon any subscriber or user by the state, local or other governmental unit and collected by the Grantee on behalf of the governmental unit. Subject to applicable federal law, the term Gross Revenues includes revenues attributed to franchise fees and revenues collected directly or indirectly from other ancillary telecommunications services (such as but not limited to, point-to-point telecommunications, point-to-point telecommunications, data transmissions, etc.) but only to the extent that all other providers of such telecommunications services in the City are subject to the same compensation requirements of the City.
- (j) **Initial Service Area.** All areas in the City’s jurisdictional boundaries having at least twenty (20) dwelling units per street mile.
- (k) **Installation.** The connection of the system from feeder cable to subscriber’s terminals.
- (l) **May** is permissive.
- (m) **Monitoring.** Observing a communications signal, or the absence of a signal, where the observer is neither the subscriber nor the programmer, whether the signal is observed by visual or electronic means, for any purpose whatsoever; provided

monitoring shall not include system-wide, non-individually addressed sweeps of the system for purposes of verifying system integrity, controlling return paths transmissions, or billing for pay services.

- (n) **Normal Business Hours (as applied to the Grantee).** Those hours during which similar businesses in the City are open to serve customers. In all cases, Normal Business Hours shall include some evening hours at least one (1) night per week, and/or some weekend hours.
- (o) **Normal Operating Conditions.** Those service conditions which are within the control of the Grantee. Those conditions which are not within the control of the Grantee include, but are not limited to, natural disasters, civil disturbances, power outages, telephone network outages, and severe or unusual weather conditions. Those conditions which are ordinarily within the control of the Grantee include, but are not limited to, special promotions, pay-per-view events, rate increases, regular peak or seasonal demand periods, and maintenance or upgrade of the Cable System.
- (p) **Shall** is mandatory.
- (q) **Service Interruption and/or Outages.** The loss of either picture or sound or both for a single or multiple subscriber(s).
- (r) **Street.** The surface of and all rights-of-way and the space above and below any public street, road, highway, freeway, lane, path, public way or place, sidewalk, alley, court, boulevard, parkway, drive or easement now or hereafter held by the City for the purpose of public travel and shall include other easements or rights-of-way as shall be now held or hereafter held by the City which shall, within their proper use and meaning entitle the Grantee to the use thereof for the purposes of installing poles, wires, cable, conductors, ducts, conduits, vaults, manholes, amplifiers, appliances, attachments, and other property as may be ordinarily necessary and pertinent to a telecommunications system.
- (s) **Subscriber.** Any person, firm, Grantee, corporation, or association lawfully receiving Basic and/or any additional service from Grantee.
- (t) **User.** A party utilizing a cable television system channel for purposes of production or transmission of material to subscribers, as contrasted with receipt thereof in a subscriber capacity.

#### **SEC. 20.03 RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF GRANTEE.**

Any franchise granted by the City pursuant to Sec. 66.082, Wis. Stats., shall grant to the Grantee the right and privilege to erect, construct, operate and maintain in, upon, and along, across, above, over and under the streets, now in existence and as may be created or estab-

lished during its terms; any poles, wires, cable, underground conduits, manholes, and other television conductors and fixtures necessary for the maintenance and operation of a Cable System.

#### **SEC. 20.04 AGREEMENT AND INCORPORATION OF APPLICATION BY REFERENCE.**

Any Grantee agrees to provide all services specifically set forth in its application if any and to provide cable television service within the confines of the City and by its acceptance of the franchise, the Grantee specifically grants and agrees that its application is thereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the franchise.

#### **SEC. 20.05 FRANCHISE TERRITORY.**

Any franchise is for the present territorial limits of the City and for any area henceforth added thereto during the term of the franchise. The franchise territory shall be established in the franchise agreement.

#### **SEC. 20.06 DURATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF FRANCHISE.**

The franchise and the rights, privileges and authority granted shall take effect and be in force as set forth in the Franchise Agreement and shall continue in force and effect for a term as set forth in the Franchise Agreement, provided that within fifteen (15) days after the date of final passage of the franchise the Grantee shall file with the City its unconditional acceptance of the franchise and promise to comply with and abide by all its provisions, terms and conditions. Such acceptance and promise shall be in writing duly executed and sworn to, by, or on behalf of the Grantee before a notary public or other officer authorized by law to administer oaths. Such franchise shall be non-exclusive and revocable.

#### **SEC. 20.07 FRANCHISE RENEWAL.**

- (a) **Current Federal Statutory Process.** The City will follow the renewal procedures set forth under federal law.
- (b) **Franchise Renewal in the Event of Change in Federal Law.**
  - (1) A franchise may be renewed by the City upon application of the Grantee pursuant to the procedure established in this Subsection, and in accordance with the then applicable law.
  - (2) At least twenty-four (24) months prior to the expiration of the franchise, the Grantee shall inform the City in writing of its intent to seek renewal of the franchise.
  - (3) The Grantee shall submit a proposal for renewal which demonstrates:
    - a. That it has been and continues to be in substantial compliance with the terms,

- conditions, and limitations of this Chapter and its franchise;
- b. That its system has been installed, constructed, maintained and operated in accordance with the accepted standards of the industry, and this Chapter and its franchise;
  - c. That it has the legal, technical, financial, and other qualifications to continue to maintain and operate its system, and to extend the same as the state of the art progresses so as to assure its Subscribers high quality service; and
  - d. That it has made a good faith effort to provide services and facilities which accommodate the demonstrated needs of the community as may be reasonably ascertained by the City.
- (4) After giving public notice, the City shall proceed to determine whether the Grantee has satisfactorily performed its obligations under the franchise. To determine satisfactory performance, the City shall consider technical developments and performance of the system, programming other services offered, cost of services, and any other particular requirements set in this Chapter; also, the City shall consider the Grantee's reports made to the City and the Federal Communication Commission; may require the Grantee to make available specified records, documents, and information for this purpose, and may inquire specifically whether the Grantee will supply services sufficient to meet community needs and interests; industry performance on a national basis shall also be considered. Provision shall be made for public comment.
  - (5) The City shall then prepare any amendments to this Chapter that it believes necessary.
  - (6) If the City finds the Grantee's performance satisfactory, and finds the Grantee's technical, legal, and financial abilities acceptable, and finds the Grantee's renewal proposal meets the future cable-related needs of the City, a new franchise shall be granted pursuant to this Chapter as amended for a period to be determined.
  - (7) If the Grantee is determined by the City to have performed unsatisfactorily, new applicants may be sought and evaluated and a franchise award shall be made by the City according to franchising procedures adopted by the City.

**SEC. 20.08 POLICE POWERS.**

- (a) In accepting this franchise, the Grantee shall acknowledge that its rights hereunder are subject to the police power of the City to adopt and enforce general ordinances necessary to the safety and welfare of the public; and shall agree to comply with all applicable general laws and ordinances enacted by the City pursuant to such power.
- (b) Any conflict between the provisions of this Chapter and any other present or future lawful exercise of the City's police powers shall be resolved in favor of the latter, except that any such exercise that is not of general application in the jurisdiction, or applies exclusively to the Grantee or cable television systems which contains provisions inconsistent with this franchise, shall prevail only if upon such exercise the City finds an emergency exists constituting a danger to health, safety, property or general welfare or such exercise is mandated by law.

**SEC. 20.09 CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE REQUIRED.**

No cable television system shall be allowed to occupy or use the streets, i.e. rights-of-way, for system installation and maintenance purposes, of the City or be allowed to operate without a franchise.

**SEC. 20.10 USE OF GRANTEE FACILITIES.**

The City shall have the right, during the life of this franchise, to install and maintain free of charge upon the poles of the Grantee any wire or pole fixtures that do not unreasonably interfere with the cable television system operations of the Grantee. The City shall indemnify and hold harmless the Grantee from any claim that might arise due to or as a result of the City's use.

**SEC. 20.11 INITIAL FRANCHISE COSTS.**

Costs to be borne by the Grantee shall include any requirements or charges incidental to the awarding enforcing of the initial franchise, but shall not be limited to, all costs of publications of notices prior to any public meeting provided for pursuant to this franchise, and any costs not covered by application fees, incurred by the City in its study, preparation of proposal documents, evaluation of all applications, and examinations of the applicants' qualifications.

**SEC. 20.12 NOTICES.**

All notices from the Grantee to the City pursuant to this Chapter shall be to the City Administrator's Office. The Grantee shall maintain with the City, throughout the term of this franchise, an address for service of notices by mail. The Grantee shall maintain a central office to address any issues relating to operating under this cable television ordinance.

**SEC. 20.13 LETTER OF CREDIT/SECURITY DEPOSIT.**

- (a) Within fifteen (15) days after the award of the initial franchise the Grantee shall deposit with the City either an irrevocable letter of credit from a financial institution or a security deposit in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) with the form to be established by the City. The form and content of such letter of credit or security deposit shall be approved by the City Attorney. These instruments shall be used to insure the faithful performance of the Grantee of all provisions of this franchise and compliance with all orders, permits and directions of any agency, commission, board, department, division, or office of the City having jurisdiction over its acts or defaults under this franchise, and the payment by the Grantee of any claims, liens, and taxes due the City which arise by reason of the construction, operation or maintenance of the system.
- (b) The letter of credit or security deposit shall be maintained at the amount established by the City for the entire term of this franchise, even if amounts have to be withdrawn pursuant to Subsections (a) or (b) of this Section.
- (c) If the Grantee fails to pay to the City any compensation within the time fixed herein; or fails after fifteen (15) days notice to pay to the City any taxes due and unpaid; or fails to repay the City within fifteen (15) days, any damages, costs or expenses which the City is compelled to pay by reason of any act or default of the Grantee in connection with this franchise, or fails, after three (3) days notice of such failure by the City to comply with any provision of this franchise which the City reasonably determines can be remedied by demand on the letter of credit or security deposit, the City may immediately request payment of the amount thereof, with interest and any penalties, from the letter of credit or security deposit. Upon such request for payment, the City shall notify the Grantee of the amount and date thereof.
- (d) The rights reserved to the City with respect to the letter of credit are in addition to all other rights of the City, whether reserved by this franchise or authorized by law, and no action, proceeding or exercise of a right with respect to such letter of credit shall affect any other right the City may have.
- (e) The letter of credit shall contain the following endorsement: "It is hereby understood and agreed that this letter of credit or security deposit may not be canceled by the surety nor the intention not to renew be stated by the surety until thirty (30) days after receipt by the City, by registered mail, of a

written notice of such intention to cancel or not to renew."

- (f) Upon receipt of the thirty (30) day notice, this shall be construed as a default granting the City the right to call on the bank for either the security deposit or letter of credit.
- (g) The City at any time during the term of this Chapter, may waive Grantee's requirement to maintain a letter of credit or security deposit. The invitation to waive the requirement can be initiated by the City or Grantee.

**SEC. 20.14 PERFORMANCE BOND.**

- (a) Within thirty (30) days after the award of this franchise, the initial Grantee shall file with the City a performance bond in the amount of not less than fifty percent (50%) of costs to install the system contained in the new application in favor of the City. This bond shall be maintained throughout the construction period and until such time as determined by the City, unless otherwise specified in a franchise agreement.
- (b) If the Grantee fails to comply with any law, ordinance or resolution governing the franchise, or fails to well and truly observe, fulfill and perform each term and condition of the franchise, as it relates to the conditions relative to the construction of the system, including the Franchise Agreement which is incorporated herein by reference, there shall be recoverable jointly and severally, from the principal and surety of the bond, any damages or loss suffered by the City as a result, including the full amount of any compensation, indemnification, or cost of removal or abandonment of any property of the Grantee, plus a reasonable allowance for attorney's fees, including the City's legal staff, and costs, up to the full amount of the bond. This Section shall be an additional remedy for any and all violations outlined in Section 20.13.
- (c) The City may, upon completion of construction of the service area, waive or reduce the requirement of the Grantee to maintain the bond. However, the City may require a performance bond to be posted by the Grantee for any construction subsequent to the completion of the initial service areas, in a reasonable amount and upon such terms as determined by the City.
- (d) The bond shall contain the following endorsement: "It is hereby understood and agreed that this bond may not be canceled by the surety nor the intention not to renew be stated by the surety until thirty (30) days after receipt by the City, by registered mail, a written notice of such intent to cancel and not to renew." Upon receipt of a thirty (30) day notice, this shall be construed as default granting the City the right to call in the bond.

- (e) The City at any time during the term of this Chapter may, waive Grantee's requirement to maintain a performance bond. The invitation to waive the requirement can be initiated by the City or Grantee.

**SEC. 20.15 LIABILITY AND INSURANCE.**

- (a) The Grantee shall maintain and by its acceptance of the franchise specifically agrees that it will maintain throughout the term of the franchise, liability insurance insuring the City and the Grantee in the minimum amount of:
  - (1) One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for property damage to any one (1) person;
  - (2) One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for property damage in any one (1) accident;
  - (3) One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for personal injury to any one (1) person; and
  - (4) One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for personal injury in any one (1) accident.
  - (5) Automobile liability: One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000).
  - (6) Worker's Compensation: Worker's compensation insurance in compliance with Sec. 102.31, Wis. Stats.
  - (7) Employer's liability: One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for each accident. One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) disease per employee. Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) disease policy limit.
  - (8) Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) Umbrella Liability.
- (b) The certificate of insurance obtained by the Grantee in compliance with this Section is subject to the approval of the City Attorney and such certificate of insurance, along with written evidence of payment of required premiums, shall be filed and maintained with the City during the term of the franchise, and may be changed from time to time to reflect changing liability limits. The Grantee shall immediately advise the City Attorney of any litigation that may develop that would affect this insurance.
- (c) Neither the provisions of this Section nor any damages recovered by the City thereunder, shall be construed to or limit the liability of the Grantee under any franchise issued hereunder or for damages.
- (d) All insurance policies maintained pursuant to this franchise shall contain the following endorsement: "It is hereby understood and agreed that this insurance policy may not be canceled by the surety nor the intention not to renew be stated by the surety until thirty (30) days after receipt by the City, by registered mail, a written notice of such intention to cancel or not to renew."

**SEC. 20.16 INDEMNIFICATION.**

- (a) **Disclaimer of Liability.** The City shall not at any time be liable for injury or damage occurring to any Person or property from any cause whatsoever arising out of the construction, maintenance, repair, use, operation, condition or dismantling of the Grantee's Telecommunication System and due to the act or omission of any Person or entity other than the City or those Persons or entities for which the City is legally liable as a matter of law.
- (b) **Indemnification.** The Grantee shall, at its sole cost and expense, indemnify and hold harmless the City, the Commission, all associated, affiliated, allied and subsidiary entities of the City, now existing or hereinafter created, and their respective officers, boards, commissions, employees, agents, attorneys, and contractors (hereinafter referred to as "Indemnities"), from and against:
  - (1) Any and all liability, obligation, damages, penalties, claims, liens, costs, charges, losses and expenses (including, without limitation, reasonable fees and expenses of attorneys, expert witnesses and consultants), which may be imposed upon, incurred by or be asserted against the Indemnities by reason of any act or omission of the Grantee, its personnel, employees, agents, contractors or subcontractors, resulting in personal injury, bodily injury, sickness, disease or death to any Person or damage to, loss of or destruction of tangible or intangible property, libel, slander, invasion of privacy and unauthorized use of any trademark, tradename, copyright, patent, service mark or any other right of any Person, firm or corporation, which may arise out of or be in any way connected with the construction, installation, operation, maintenance or condition of the Telecommunications System caused by Grantee, its subcontractors or agents or the Grantee's failure to comply with any Federal, State or local statute, ordinance or regulation.
  - (2) Any and all liabilities, obligations, damages, penalties, claims, liens, costs, charges, losses and expenses (including, without limitation, reasonable fees and expenses of attorneys, expert witnesses and other consultants), which is imposed upon, incurred by or asserted against the indemnities by reason of any claim or lien arising out of work, labor, materials or supplies provided or supplied to the Grantee, its contractors or subcontractors, for the installation, construction, operation or maintenance of the Telecommunications System caused by Grantee, its subcontractors or agents and, upon the written request of the

Commission shall cause such claim or lien to be discharged or bonded within fifteen (15) days following such request.

- (3) Any and all liability, obligation, damages, penalties, claims, liens, costs, charges, losses and expenses (including, without limitation, reasonable fees and expenses of attorneys, expert witnesses and consultants), which may be imposed upon, incurred by or be asserted against the Indemnities by reason of any financing or securities offering by Grantee or its Affiliates for violations of the common law or any laws, statutes, or regulations of the State of Wisconsin or United States, including those of the Federal Securities and Exchange Commission, whether by the Grantee or otherwise; excluding therefrom, however, claims which are solely based upon and shall arise solely out of information supplied by the City to the Grantee in writing and included in the offering materials with the express written approval of the City prior to the offering.
- (c) **Assumption of Risk.** The Grantee undertakes and assumes for its officers, agents, contractors and subcontractors and employees, all risk of dangerous conditions, if any, on or about any City owned or controlled property, including Public Rights-of-Way, and the Grantee hereby agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Indemnities against and from any claim asserted or liability imposed upon the Indemnities for personal injury or property damage to any Person arising out of the installation, operation, maintenance or condition of the Telecommunications System or the Grantee's failure to comply with any federal, state or local statute, ordinance or regulation.
- (d) **Defense of Indemnities.** In the event any action or proceeding shall be brought against the Indemnities by reason of any matter for which the indemnities are indemnified hereunder, the Grantee shall, upon notice from any of the Indemnities, at the Grantee's sole cost and expense, resist and defend the same with legal counsel mutually acceptable to the City Attorney of the City of Oak Creek and Grantee provided further, however, that the Grantee shall not admit liability in any such matter on behalf of the Indemnities without the written consent of the City Attorney of the City of Oak Creek or City Attorney's designee.
- (e) **Notice Cooperation and Expenses.** The City shall give the Grantee prompt notice of the making of any claim or the commencement of any action, suit or other proceeding covered by the provisions of this Section. Nothing herein shall be deemed to prevent the City from cooperating with Grantee

and participating in the defense of any litigation by the City's own counsel. The Grantee shall pay all reasonable expenses incurred by the City in defending itself with regard to any such actions, suits or proceedings. These expenses shall include all out-of-pocket expenses such as attorney fees and shall also include the reasonable value of any services rendered by or on behalf of the City Attorney if such service is determined necessary and appropriate by the City Attorney and the actual expenses of the City's agents, employees or expert witnesses, and disbursements and liabilities assumed by the City in connection with such suits, actions or proceedings. No recovery by the City of any sum under the Letter of Credit shall be any limitation upon the liability of the Grantee to the City under the terms of this Section, except that any sum so received by the City shall be deducted from any recovery which the City might have against the Grantee under the terms of this Section.

- (f) **Nonwaiver of Statutory Limits.** Nothing in this agreement is intended to express or imply a waiver of the statutory provisions, of any kind or nature, as set forth in Sec. 893.80 et. seq., Wis. Stats., including the limits of liability of the City as exists presently or may be increased from time to time by the legislature.

#### **SEC. 20.17 RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS.**

- (a) The Grantee shall not deny service, deny access, or otherwise discriminate against subscribers, channel users, or general citizens on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, income or sex. The Grantee shall comply at all times with all other applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations and all executive and administrative orders relating to nondiscrimination which are hereby incorporated and made part of this Chapter by reference.
- (b) The Grantee shall strictly adhere to the equal employment opportunity requirements of the Federal Communications Commission, state and local regulations, and as amended from time to time.
- (c) The Grantee shall, at all times, comply with the privacy requirements of State and federal law.
- (d) Grantee is required to make all services available to all residential dwellings throughout the service area.

#### **SEC. 20.18 PUBLIC NOTICE.**

Minimum public notice of any public meeting relating to this franchise shall be in compliance with Wisconsin's Open Meeting Law by posting at City Hall.

**SEC. 20.19 SERVICE AVAILABILITY AND RECORD REQUEST.**

The Grantee shall provide cable communications service throughout the entire franchise area pursuant to the provisions of this franchise and shall keep a record for at least three (3) years of all requests for service received by the Grantee. This record shall be available for public inspection at the local office of the Grantee during regular office hours.

**SEC. 20.20 SYSTEM CONSTRUCTION.**

**(a) New Construction Timetable.**

- (1) Within two (2) years from the date of the award of the initial franchise, the Grantee must make cable television service available to every dwelling unit within the initial service area.
  - a. The Grantee must make cable television service available to at least twenty percent (20%) of the dwelling units within the initial service area within six (6) months from the date of the award of the franchise.
  - b. The Grantee must make cable television service available to at least fifty percent (50%) of the dwelling units within the initial service area within one (1) year from the date of the award of the franchise.
- (2) The Grantee, in its application, may propose a timetable of construction which will make cable television service available in the initial service area sooner than the above minimum requirements, in which case the said schedule will be made part of the franchise agreement, and will be binding upon the Grantee.
- (3) Any delay beyond the terms of this timetable, unless specifically approved by the City, will be considered a violation of this Chapter for which the provisions of either Sections 20.37 or 20.45 shall apply, as determined by the City.
- (4) In special circumstances the City can waive one hundred percent (100%) completion within the two (2) year time frame provided substantial completion is accomplished within the allotted time frame, substantial completion construed to be not less than ninety-five percent (95%) and justification for less than one hundred percent (100%) must be submitted subject to the satisfaction of the City.

**(b) Line Extensions.**

- (1) Extension Policy. In areas of the franchise territory not included in the initial service ar-

reas, the Grantee shall be required to extend its system pursuant to the following requirements:

- a. No customer shall be refused service arbitrarily. Grantee is hereby authorized to extend the Cable System as necessary within the City. To expedite the process of extending the Cable System into a new subdivision, the City will forward to the Grantee an approved engineering plan of each project. Subject to the density requirements the Grantee shall commence the design and construction process upon receipt of the final engineering plan. Upon notification from the City that the first (1st) home in the project has been approved for building permit, the Grantee shall have a maximum of three (3) months to complete the construction/activation process within the project phase.
  - b. The Grantee must extend and make cable television service available to every dwelling unit in all unserved, developing areas having at least twenty (20) dwelling units planned per street mile, as measured from the existing system, and shall extend its system simultaneously with the installation of utility lines.
  - c. The Grantee must extend and make cable television service available to any isolated resident outside the initial service area requesting connection at the standard connection charge, if the connection to the isolated resident would require no more than a two hundred (200) foot drop line.
- (2) Early Extension. In areas not meeting the requirements for mandatory extension of service, the Grantee shall provide, upon the request of a potential subscriber desiring service, an estimate of the costs required to extend service to the subscriber. The Grantee shall then extend service upon request of the potential subscriber. The Grantee may require advance payment or assurance of payment satisfactory to the Grantee. The amount paid by subscribers for early extensions shall be non-refundable, and in the event the area subsequently reaches the density required for mandatory extension, such payments shall be treated as consideration for early extension.
  - (3) New Development Under Grounding. In cases of new construction or property development where utilities are to be placed underground, the developer or property owner



shall give the Grantee reasonable notice of such construction or development, and of the particular date on which open trenching will be available for the Grantee's installation of conduit, pedestals and/or vaults, and laterals to be provided at the Grantee's expense. The Grantee shall also provide specifications as needed for trenching. Costs of trenching and easements required to bring service to the development shall be borne by the developer or property owner; except that if the Grantee fails to install its conduit, pedestals and/or vaults, and laterals within five (5) working days of the date the trenches are available, as designated in the notice given by the developer or property owner, then should the trenches be closed after the five (5) day period, the cost of new trenching is to be borne by the Grantee. Except for the notice of the particular date on which trenching will be available to the Grantee, any notice provided to the Grantee by the City of a preliminary plat request shall satisfy the requirement of reasonable notice if sent to the local general manager or system engineer of the Grantee prior to approval of the preliminary plat request.

(c) **Special Agreements.** Nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the Grantee from serving areas not covered under this Section upon agreement with developers, property owners, or residents provided that five percent (5%) of those gross revenues are paid to the City as franchise fees under Section 20.27.

- (1) **Line Extension Policy.** All residents who request cable television service in the City not currently serviceable to the existing cable plant, will be forwarded to Grantee's engineering department. The Grantee will prepare a cost estimate based on the remaining actual construction footage and the current year's actual cost of materials and labor using the formula provided in Appendix A of this Chapter.
- (2) **Violations.** The violation of this Section shall be considered a breach of the terms of this Chapter for which the provisions of either Sections 20.37 or 20.45 shall apply, as determined by the City.

## **SEC. 20.21 CONSTRUCTION AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS.**

(a) **Compliance With Construction and Technical Standards.** The Grantee shall construct, install, operate and maintain its system in a manner consistent with all laws, ordinances, construction stan-

dards, governmental requirements, and FCC technical standards. In addition, the Grantee shall provide the City, upon request, with a written report of the results of the Grantee's annual proof of performance tests conducted pursuant to Federal Communications Commission standards and requirements.

(b) **Additional Specifications.**

- (1) Construction, installation and maintenance of the cable television system shall be performed in an orderly and workmanlike manner. All cables and wires shall be installed, where possible, parallel with electric and telephone lines. Multiple cable configurations shall be arranged in parallel and bundled with due respect for engineering considerations.
- (2) The Grantee shall at all times comply with:
  - a. National Electrical Safety Code (National Bureau of Standards);
  - b. National Electrical Code (National Fire Protection Association)
  - c. Bell System Code of Pole Line Construction; and
  - d. Applicable FCC or other federal, state and local regulations.
- (3) In any event, the System shall not endanger or interfere with the safety of persons or property in the franchise area or other areas where the Grantee may have equipment located.
- (4) Any antenna structure used in the system shall comply with construction, marking, and lighting of I antenna structure, required by the United States Department of Transportation. (DOT)
- (5) All working facilities and conditions used during construction, installation and maintenance of the cable television system shall comply with the standards of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
- (6) RF leakage shall be checked at reception locations for emergency radio services to prove no interference signal combinations are possible. Stray radiation shall be measured adjacent to any proposed aeronautical navigation radio sites to prove no interference to airborne navigational reception in the normal flight patterns. FCC rules and regulations shall govern.
- (7) The Grantee shall maintain equipment capable of providing standby power for headend and transport system for a minimum of two (2) hours.

- (8) In all areas of the City where the cables, wires, and other like facilities of public utilities are placed underground, the Grantee shall place its cables, wires, or other like facilities underground. The Grantee shall place its cables, wires, and other like facilities underground. When public utilities relocate their facilities from pole to underground, the cable operator must concurrently do so.

#### **SEC. 20.22 USE OF STREETS.**

- (a) **Interference With Persons and Improvements.** The Grantee's system, poles, wires and appurtenances shall be located, erected and maintained so that none of its facilities shall endanger or interfere with the lives of persons or interfere with the rights or reasonable convenience of property owners who adjoin any of the streets and public ways, or interfere with any improvements the City may deem proper to make, or unnecessarily hinder or obstruct the free use of the streets, alleys, bridges, easements or public property.
- (b) **Restoration to Prior Condition.** In case of any disturbance of pavement, sidewalk, landscaping, driveway or other surfacing, the Grantee shall, at its own cost and expense and in a manner approved by the City, replace and restore all paving, sidewalk, driveway, landscaping, or surface of any street or alley disturbed, in as good condition as before the work was commenced and in accordance with standards for such work set by the City.
- (c) **Erection, Removal and Common Uses of Poles.**
- (1) No poles or other wire-holding structures shall be erected by the Grantee without prior approval of the City with regard to location, height, types, and any other pertinent aspect. However, no location of any pole or wire-holding structure of the Grantee shall be a vested interest and such poles or structures shall be removed or modified by the Grantee at its own expense whenever the City determines that the public convenience would be enhanced thereby.
  - (2) Where poles or other wire-holding structures already existing for use in serving the City are available for use by the Grantee, but it does not make arrangements for such use, the City may require the Grantee to use such poles and structures if it determines that the public convenience would be enhanced thereby and the terms of the use available to the Grantee are just and reasonable.
  - (3) In the absence of any governing federal or state statute, where the City or a public utility serving the City desires to make use of the poles or other wire-holding structures of the

Grantee, but agreement thereof with the Grantee cannot be reached, the City may require the Grantee to permit such use for such consideration and upon such terms as the City shall determine to be just and reasonable, if the City determines that the use would enhance the public convenience and would not unduly interfere with the Grantee's operations.

- (d) **Relocation of the Facilities.** If at any time during the period of this franchise the City shall lawfully elect to alter, or change the grade of any street, alley or other public ways, the Grantee, upon reasonable notice by the City, shall remove or relocate as necessary its poles, wires, cables, underground conduits, manholes and other fixtures at its own expense unless the utilities are compensated, in which case the Grantee shall be similarly compensated.
- (e) **Cooperation With Building Movers.** The Grantee shall, on the request of any person holding a building moving permit issued by the City, temporarily raise or lower its wires to permit the moving of buildings. The expense of such temporary removal, raising or lowering of wires shall be paid by the person requesting the same, and the Grantee shall have the authority to require such payment in advance. The Grantee shall be given not less than forty-eight (48) hours advance notice to arrange for such temporary wire changes.
- (f) **Tree Trimming.** The Grantee shall not remove any tree or trim any portion, either above, at or below ground level, of any tree within any public place without the prior consent of the City, the City shall have the right to do the trimming requested by the Grantee at the cost of the Grantee. Regardless of who performs the work requested by the Grantee, the Grantee shall be responsible, shall defend and hold City harmless for any and all damages to any tree as a result of trimming, or to the land surrounding any tree, whether such tree is trimmed or removed.

#### **SEC. 20.23 OPERATIONAL STANDARDS.**

- (a) The Grantee shall put, keep and maintain all parts of the system in good condition throughout the entire franchise period.
- (b) Upon the reasonable request for service by any person located within the franchise territory, the Grantee shall, within thirty (30) days, furnish the requested service to such person within terms of the line extension policy. A request for service shall be unreasonable for the purpose of this Subsection if no trunk line installation capable of servicing that person's block has as yet been installed.

- (c) The Grantee shall render efficient service, make repairs promptly, and interrupt service only for good cause and for the shortest time possible. Such interruptions, insofar as possible, shall be preceded by notice and shall occur during periods of minimum system use.
- (d) The Grantee shall not allow its cable or other operations to interfere with television reception of subscribers or persons not served by the Grantee, nor shall the system interfere with, obstruct or hinder in any manner the operation of the various utilities serving the residents within the confines of the City nor shall other utilities interfere with the Grantee's system.
- (e) The Grantee shall have knowledgeable, qualified Grantee representatives available to respond to customer telephone inquiries twenty-four (24) hours per day and seven (7) days per week.
- (f) Under normal operation conditions telephone answer time, including wait time and the time required to transfer the call, shall not exceed thirty (30) seconds. This standard shall be met no less than ninety percent (90%) of the time as measured on an annual basis.
- (g) Under normal operating conditions, the customer will receive a busy signal less than three percent (3%) of the total time that the office is open for business.
- (h) Standard installations will be performed within seven (7) business days after an order has been placed. A standard installation is one that is within two hundred (200) feet of the existing system.
- (i) Excluding those situations which are beyond its control, the Grantee will respond to any Service Interruption promptly and in no event later than twenty-four (24) hours from the time of initial notification. All other regular service requests will be responded to within thirty-six (36) hours during the normal work week for that system. The appointment window alternatives for installations, service calls and other installation activities will be: "morning"; or "afternoon;" not to exceed a four (4) hour "window" during normal business hours for the system, or at a time that is mutually acceptable. The Grantee will schedule supplemental hours during which appointments can be scheduled based on the needs of the community. If at any time an installer or technician is running late, an attempt to contact the customer will be made and the appointment rescheduled as necessary at a time that is convenient to the customer.
- (j) Customer service centers locations will be open for walk-in customer transactions a minimum of eight (8) hours a day Monday through Friday, unless there is a need to modify those hours because of the location or customers served. The Grantee and City by mutual consent will establish supplemental hours on weekdays and weekends if it would fit the needs of the community.
- (k) Upon service Interruption and/or Outages of Subscriber's cable service, the following shall apply.
  - (1) For Service Interruptions and/or Outages of over four (4) hours and up to seven (7) days, the Grantee shall provide, at the Subscriber's request, a credit of one-thirtieth (1/30) of one (1) month's fees for affected Services for each twenty-four (24) hour period service is interrupted for four (4) or more hours for any single subscriber, with the exception of subscribers disconnected because of non-payment or excessive signal leakage.
  - (2) For Service Interruptions and/or Outages of seven (7) days or more in one (1) month, the Grantee shall provide, at the subscriber's request, a full month's credit for affected services for all affected subscribers.
- (l) The Grantee will provide written information in each of the following areas at the time of installation and at any future time upon the request of the customer:
  - (1) Product and services offered.
  - (2) Prices and service options.
  - (3) Installation and service policies.
  - (4) How to use the telecommunications services.
- (m) Bills will be clear, concise and understandable, with all cable services itemized.
- (n) Credits will be issued promptly, but no later than the customer's next billing cycle following the resolution of the request and the return of the equipment by the Grantee if service has been terminated.
- (o) Customers will be notified a minimum of thirty (30) days in advance of any rate or channel change provided that the change is within the control of the Grantee.
- (p) The Grantee shall maintain and operate its network in accordance with the rules and regulations as are incorporated herein or may be promulgated by the Federal Communication Commissions, the United States Congress, or the State of Wisconsin.
- (q) The Grantee shall continue, through the term of the franchise, to maintain the technical standards, technological upgrades and quality of service set forth in this Chapter. Should the City find, by resolution, that the Grantee has failed to maintain these technical standards and quality of service, Grantee shall be required to implement a plan for resolution. Failure to make such movements within three (3) months of such resolution will constitute a breach of a condition for which penalties contained in Section 20.45 are applicable.

- (r) The Grantee shall keep a monthly service log which will indicate the nature of each service complaint received in the last twenty-four (24) months, the date and time it was received, the disposition of said complaint, and the time and date thereof this log shall be made available for periodic inspection by the City.

**SEC. 20.24 CONTINUITY OF SERVICE MANDATORY.**

- (a) It shall be the right of all subscribers to continue receiving service insofar as their financial and other obligations to the Grantee are honored. If the Grantee elects to over build, rebuild, modify or sell the system, or the City gives notice of intent to terminate or fails to renew this franchise, the Grantee shall act so as to ensure that all subscribers receive continuous, uninterrupted service regardless of the circumstances.
- (b) If there is a change of franchise, or if a new operator acquires the system, the Grantee shall cooperate with the City, new franchise or operator in maintaining continuity of service to all subscribers. During such period, the Grantee shall be entitled to the revenues for any period during which it operates the system, and shall be entitled to reasonable costs for its services until it no longer operates the system.
- (c) If the Grantee fails to operate the system for seven (7) consecutive days without prior approval of the City or without just cause, the City may, at its option, operate the system or designate an operator until such time as the Grantee restores service under conditions acceptable to the City or a permanent operator is selected. If the City is required to fulfill this obligation for the Grantee, the Grantee shall reimburse the City for all reasonable costs or damages in excess of revenues from the system received by the City that are the result of the Grantee's failure to perform.

**SEC. 20.25 COMPLAINT PROCEDURE.**

- (a) The City Administrator is designated as having primary responsibility for the continuing administration of the franchise and implementation of complaint procedures.
- (b) During the terms of this franchise, and any renewal thereof, the Grantee shall maintain a central office for the purpose of receiving and resolving all complaints regarding the quality of service, equipment functions and similar matters. The office must be reachable by a local, toll-free telephone call to receive complaints regarding quality of service, equipment functions and similar matters. The Grantee will use its good faith efforts to arrange for one (1) or more payment locations in a central lo-

cation where customers can pay bills or conduct other business activities.

- (c) As subscribers are connected or reconnected to the system, the Grantee shall, by appropriate means, such as a card or brochure, furnish information concerning the procedures for making inquiries or complaints, including the name, address and local telephone number of the employee or employees or agent to whom such inquiries or complaints are to be addressed.
- (d) When there have been similar complaints made, or where there exists other evidence, which, in the judgment of the City, casts doubt on the reliability or quality of cable service, the City shall have the right and authority to require the Grantee to test, analyze and report on the performance of the system. The Grantee shall fully cooperate with the City in performing such testing and shall prepare results and a report, if requested, within thirty (30) days after notice. Such report shall include the following information:
  - (1) The nature of the complaint or problem which precipitated the special tests;
  - (2) What system component was tested;
  - (3) The equipment used and procedures employed in testing;
  - (4) The method, if any, in which such complaint or problem was resolved;
  - (5) Any other information pertinent to the tests and analysis which may be required.
- (e) The City may require that tests be supervised, by an independent professional engineer or equivalent of the City's choice. The engineer should sign all records of special tests and forward to the City such records with a report interpreting the results of the tests and recommending actions to be taken. Should such a test prove that the Grantee failed to meet the technical standard, the Grantee shall bear the cost of the test. If the test should prove that the Grantee met the technical standards, the City shall bear the cost of the test.
- (f) The City's right under this Section shall be limited to requiring tests, analysis and reports covering specific subjects and characteristics based on complaints or other evidence when and under such circumstances as the City has reasonable grounds to believe that the complaints or other evidence require that tests be performed to protect the public against substandard cable service.

**SEC. 20.26 GRANTEE RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

The Grantee shall have the authority to promulgate such rules, regulations, terms and conditions governing the conduct of its business as shall be reasonably necessary to enable the Grantee to exercise its rights and perform

its obligations under this franchise, and to assure an uninterrupted service to each and all of its customers; provided, however, that such rules, regulations, terms and conditions shall not be in conflict with the provisions hereof or applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations.

**SEC. 20.27 FRANCHISE FEE.**

- (a) For the reason that the streets of the City to be used by the Grantee in the operation of its system within the boundaries of the City are valuable public properties acquired and maintained by the City at great expense to its taxpayers, and that the grant to the Grantee to the streets is a valuable property right without which the Grantee would be required to invest substantial capital in right-of-way costs and acquisitions, the Grantee shall pay to the City an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the Grantee's Gross Annual revenue from the operations of the Grantee within the confines of the City or contract area. If the statutory five percent (5%) limitation on franchise fees is raised or the federal statute deletes the franchise fee limitation entirely, then the franchise fee may be subject to possible re-negotiation.
- (b) This payment shall be in addition to any other tax or payment owed to the City by the Grantee.
- (c) The franchise fee and any other costs or penalties assessed shall be payable quarterly on a calendar year basis to the City and the Grantee shall file a complete and accurate verified statement of all gross receipts as previously defined within forty-five (45) days after the quarter as established between the City and the Grantee.
- (d) The City shall have the right to inspect the Grantee's income records and the right to audit and to recompute any amounts determined to be payable under this Chapter; provided, however, that such audit shall take place within twenty-four (24) months following the close of each of the Grantee's fiscal years. Any additional amount due to the City as a result of the audit shall be paid within thirty (30) days following written notice to the Grantee by the City which notice shall include a copy of the audit report.
- (e) If any franchise payment or recomputed amount, cost or penalty, is not made on or before the applicable dates heretofore specified, interest shall be charged daily from such date at the legal maximum rate charged by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service for late tax payments and the Grantee shall reimburse the City for any additional expenses and costs incurred by the City by reason of the delinquent payment(s).

**SEC. 20.28 TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL.**

- (a) Except as may be provided in a franchise agreement, this franchise shall not be assigned or transferred, either in whole or in part, or leased, sublet or mortgaged in any manner, nor shall title thereto, either legal or equitable or any right, interest or property therein, pass to or vest in any person without the prior written consent of the City. The Grantee may, however, transfer or assign the franchise to a wholly owned subsidiary of the Grantee and such subsidiary may transfer or assign the franchise back to the Grantee without such consent, providing that such assignment is without any release of liability of the Grantee. The proposed assignee must show financial responsibility as determined by the City and must agree to comply with all provisions of the franchise. The City shall have one hundred twenty (120) days to act upon any request for approval of such a sale or transfer submitted in writing that contains or is accompanied by such information as is required in accordance with FCC regulations and by the City of Oak Creek. The City shall be deemed to have consented to a proposed transfer or assignment if its refusal to consent is not communicated in writing to the Grantee within one hundred twenty (120) days following receipt of written notice and the necessary information as to the effect of the proposed transfer or assignment upon the public unless the requesting party and the City agree to an extension of time. The City shall not unreasonably withhold such consent to the proposed transfer.
- (b) Except as may be provided in a franchise agreement, the Grantee shall promptly notify the City of any actual or proposed change in, or transfer of, or acquisition by any other party of, control of the Grantee. The word "control" as used herein is not limited to major stockholders but includes actual working control in whatever manner exercised. A rebuttable presumption that a transfer of control has occurred shall arise upon the acquisition or accumulation by any person or group of persons of ten percent (10%) of the voting shares of the Grantee. Every change, transfer or acquisition of control of the Grantee shall make the franchise subject to cancellation unless and until the City shall have consented thereto, which consent will not be unreasonably withheld. For the purpose of determining whether it shall consent to such change, transfer or acquisition of control, the City may inquire into the qualification of the prospective controlling party, and the Grantee shall assist the City in such inquiry.
- (c) The consent or approval of the City to any transfer of the Grantee shall not constitute a waiver or re-

lease of the rights of the City in and to the streets, and any transfer shall by its terms, be expressly subordinate to the terms and conditions of this franchise.

- (d) In the absence of extraordinary circumstances, the City will not approve any transfer or assignment of an initial franchise prior to substantial completion of construction of the proposed system.
- (e) In no event shall a transfer of ownership or control be approved without the transferee acknowledging its obligations under this Chapter and the franchise agreement between the City and the transferor, becoming a signatory to such franchise agreement and assuming all rights and obligations thereunder, and assuming all other rights and obligations of the transferor to the City.

**SEC. 20.29 AVAILABILITY OF BOOKS AND RECORDS.**

- (a) The Grantee shall fully cooperate in making available at reasonable times, and the City shall have the right to inspect, where reasonably necessary to the enforcement of the franchise, books, records, maps, plans and other like materials of the Grantee applicable to the cable television system, at any time during normal business hours; provided where volume and convenience necessitate, the Grantee may require inspection to take place on the Grantee premises.
- (b) The following records and/or reports are to be made available to the City upon request, but no more frequently than on an annual basis if so unless mutually agreed upon by the Grantee and the City.
  - (1) A quarterly review and resolution or progress report submitted by the Grantee to the City;
  - (2) Periodic preventive maintenance reports;
  - (3) Any copies of FCC Form 395-A (or successor form) or any supplemental forms related to equal opportunity or fair contracting policies;
  - (4) Subscriber inquiry/complaint resolution data and the right to review documentation concerning these inquiries and/or complaints periodically;
  - (5) Periodic construction update reports including where appropriate the submission of as-built maps and quarterly reports during construction upgrade.

**SEC. 20.30 OTHER PETITIONS AND APPLICATIONS.**

Copies of all petitions, applications, communications and reports either submitted by the Grantee to the Federal Communications Commission, Securities and Exchange

Commission, or any other federal or state regulatory commission or agency having jurisdiction in respect to any matters affecting cable television operations authorized pursuant to the franchise or received from such agencies shall be provided to the City upon request.

**SEC. 20.31 FISCAL REPORTS.**

The Grantee shall file annually with the City no later than one hundred twenty (120) days after the end of the Grantee's fiscal year, a copy of a gross revenues statement certified by an officer of the Grantee.

**SEC. 20.32 REMOVAL OF CABLE TELEVISION SYSTEM.**

At the expiration of the terms for which this franchise is granted and any renewal denied, or upon its termination as provided herein, the Grantee shall forthwith, upon notice by the City, remove at its own expense all designated portions of the cable television system from all streets and public property within the City. If the Grantee fails to do so, the City may perform the work at the Grantee's expense. Upon such notice of removal, a bond shall be furnished by the Grantee in an amount sufficient to cover this expense.

**SEC. 20.33 REQUIRED SERVICES AND FACILITIES.**

- (a) **Channel Capacity.** The cable television system shall have a minimum channel capacity of seventy-seven (77) channels and at least seven hundred fifty (750) MHz of bandwidth available for future use.
- (b) **Two-Way Capability.** Such system shall maintain a plant having the technical capacity for "two-way" communications.
- (c) **Local and Public Access.** The Grantee shall maintain the following:
  - (1) At least one (1) specially-designated, non-commercial public access channel available on a first come, nondiscriminatory basis;
  - (2) At least one (1) specially-designated channel for use by local educational authorities;
  - (3) At least one (1) specially-designated channel for local governmental uses,
  - (4) At least one (1) specially-designated channel for leased access uses.
  - (5) Provided, however, these uses may be combined on one (1) or more channels until such time as additional channels become necessary in the opinion of the City. Financial and technical support, replacement and maintenance of equipment of this facility shall be separately incorporated into a franchise Agreement.
  - (6) An Institutional Network (I-Net) of cable, optical, electrical or electronic equipment,

used for the purpose of transmitting two-way telecommunications signals interconnecting designated entities as set forth in the franchise Agreement and mutually agreed to by the Grantee and the Grantor. Such institutional Network may be provided as needed by utilizing capacity on the subscriber System.

(d) **Emergency Override.** The Grantee shall incorporate into its cable television system the capacity which will permit the City, in times of emergency, to override, by remote control, the audio of all channels simultaneously which the Grantee may lawfully override. The Grantee shall provide emergency broadcast capacity pursuant to FCC rules. The Grantee shall cooperate with the City in the use and operation of the emergency alert override system.

(e) **Interconnection.**

(1) Generally. The Grantee may be required to interconnect its system with other adjacent cable television systems for the purpose of sharing public, educational, and governmental access programming. Such interconnection shall be made within a reasonable time limit to be established by the City.

(2) Interconnection Procedure. Upon receiving the directive of the City to interconnect, the franchise shall immediately initiate negotiations with the other affected system or systems in order that all costs may be shared equally among cable companies for both construction and operation of the interconnection link.

(3) Relief. The franchise may be granted reasonable extensions of time to interconnect or the City may rescind its order to interconnect upon petition by the franchisee to the City. The City shall grant the request if it finds that the franchisee has negotiated in good faith and has failed to obtain an approval from the operator or franchising authority of system to be interconnected, or the cost of the interconnection would cause an unreasonable or unacceptable increase in subscriber rates.

(4) Cooperation Required. The Grantee shall cooperate with any interconnection corporation, regional interconnection authority or City, county, state and federal regulatory agency which may be hereafter established for the purpose of regulating, financing, or otherwise providing for the interconnection of cable systems beyond the boundaries of the City.

(5) Initial Technical Requirements to Assure Future Interconnection Capability.

a. All cable systems receiving franchises to operate within the City shall use the standard frequency allocations for television signals.

b. All cable systems are required to use signal processors at the headend for each television signal.

c. The City also urges franchisees to provide local origination equipment that is compatible throughout the area so that video cassettes or videotapes can be shared by various systems.

d. Grantee shall provide such additional services and facilities as are contained in its application, if any.

#### **SEC. 20.34 RULES AND REGULATIONS.**

(a) In addition to the inherent powers of the City to regulate and control this cable television franchise, and those powers expressly reserved by the City, or agreed to and provided for herein, the right and power is hereby reserved by the City to promulgate such additional regulations as it shall find necessary in the exercise of its lawful powers and furtherance of the terms and conditions of this franchise; provided, however, that such rules, regulations, terms and conditions shall not be in conflict with the provisions hereof or applicable state and federal laws, rules and regulations.

(b) The City may also adopt such regulations at the request of Grantee upon application.

#### **SEC. 20.35 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION SESSIONS.**

(a) The City and the Grantee may hold scheduled performance evaluation sessions within thirty (30) days of the third (3rd), sixth (6th), and twelfth (12th) anniversary dates of the Grantee's award or renewal of the franchise and as may be required by federal and state law. All such evaluation sessions shall be open to the public.

(b) Special evaluation sessions may be held at any time during the term of the franchise at the request of the City or the Grantee.

(c) All evaluation sessions shall be open to the public and announced in a newspaper of general circulation in accordance with legal notice. The Grantee shall notify its subscribers of all evaluation sessions by announcements on at least one (1) channel of its system between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., for five (5) consecutive days preceding each session.

(d) Topics which may be discussed at any scheduled or special evaluation session may include, but not

be limited to, service rate structures; franchise fee, penalties, free or discounted services; application of new technologies; system performance; services provided; programming offered; customer complaints, privacy; amendments to this Chapter; Judicial and FCC rulings; line extension policies; and Grantee or City rules.

- (e) Members of the general public may add topics either by working through the negotiating parties or by presenting a petition. If such a petition bears the valid signatures of fifty (50) or more residents of the City, the proposed topic or topics shall be added to the list of topics to be discussed at the evaluation session.

#### **SEC. 20.36 RATE CHANGE PROCEDURES.**

Pursuant to the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992, the City of Oak Creek is currently certified to regulate the Basic Service rates charged by Grantee. Under these rules, Grantee is required to obtain approval from the City for a rate increase for any change to the rates for Basic Service. Should Federal or State law permit further rate regulation beyond the Basic Service the City of Oak Creek shall assume such rate regulation and adopt appropriate procedures for such regulation.

#### **SEC. 20.37 REVOCATION AND TERMINATION.**

- (a) In addition to all other rights and powers retained by the City under this franchise or otherwise, the City reserves the right to revoke and terminate the franchise and all rights and privileges of the Grantee hereunder in the event of a substantial breach of its terms and conditions. A substantial breach by the Grantee shall include, but shall not be limited to the following:
  - (1) Violation of any material provision of the franchise or any material rule, order, regulation or determination of the City made pursuant to the franchise;
  - (2) Attempt to evade any material provision of the franchise or practice any fraud or deceit upon the City or its subscribers or customers;
  - (3) Failure to begin or complete system construction or system extension as provided under Section 20.20;
  - (4) Failure to provide the services promised in the Grantee's application if any as incorporated in the franchise agreement by Section 20.04;
  - (5) Failure to restore service after ninety-six (96) consecutive hours of interrupted service, except when approval of such interruption is obtained from the City; or
  - (6) Material misrepresentation of fact in the application for or negotiation of the Franchise.

- (b) The foregoing shall not constitute a major breach if the violation occurs but is without fault of the Grantee or occurs as a result of circumstances beyond its control. The Grantee shall not be excused by mere economic hardship nor by misfeasance or malfeasance of its directors, officers or employees.
- (c) The City may make a written demand that the Grantee comply with any such provision, rule, order or determination under or pursuant to this franchise. If the violation by the Grantee continues for a period of thirty (30) days following such written demand without written proof that the corrective action has been taken or is being actively and expeditiously pursued, the City may place the issue of termination of the franchise before the Common Council. The City shall cause to be served upon the Grantee, at least twenty (20) days prior to the date of such meeting, a written notice of intent to request such termination and the time and place of the meeting. Public notice shall be given of the meeting and the issue(s) which the Common Council is to consider.
- (d) The Common Council shall hear and consider the issue(s) and shall hear any person interested therein and shall determine in its discretion whether or not any violation by the Grantee has occurred.
- (e) If the Common Council shall determine the violation by the Grantee was the fault of the Grantee and within its control, the Common Council may, by resolution declare that the franchise of the Grantee shall be revoked and terminated unless there is compliance within such period as the Common Council may fix, such period shall not be less than sixty (60) days, provided no opportunity for compliance need be granted for fraud or misrepresentation.
- (f) The issue of revocation and termination shall automatically be placed upon the Common Council agenda at the expiration of the time set by it for compliance. The Common Council then may terminate the franchise forthwith upon finding that the Grantee has failed to achieve compliance or may further extend the period in its discretion.

#### **SEC. 20.38 FORECLOSURE.**

Upon the foreclosure or other judicial sale of all or a substantial part of the system, or upon the termination of any lease covering all or a substantial part of the system, the Grantee shall notify the City of such fact, and such notification shall be treated as a notification that a change in control of the Grantee has taken place, and the provisions of this franchise governing the consent of the City of Oak Creek to such change in control of the Grantee shall apply.



**SEC. 20.39 RIGHT OF ACQUISITION BY THE CITY.**

- (a) Federal regulations as per U.S.C. 537 shall apply to the right of acquisition by the City. In the event that the relevant federal regulations are repealed, the guidelines specified in Subsection (b) below shall apply.
- (b) Upon the expiration of the term of the franchise and denial of any renewal or upon any other termination thereof as provided here in the City at its election and upon the payment to the Grantee of a price equal to the fair market value shall have the right to purchase and take over the System upon resolution by the Common Council. If the City has denied the Grantee's petition for renewal of its franchise as provided by Section 20.07, the City must exercise its option to purchase the system within sixty (60) days of the denial of renewal and at least six (6) months prior to the end of the franchise. Nothing shall prohibit the Grantee in the event of the election of the City to purchase the system from requesting the court to set a reasonable bond of the City to secure the purchase price. The Grantee shall execute such warranty deeds and other instruments as may be necessary.

**SEC. 20.40 RECEIVERSHIP.**

The City shall have the right to cancel this franchise one hundred twenty (120) days after the appointment of a receiver, or trustee, to take over and conduct the business of the Grantee, whether in receivership, reorganization, bankruptcy or other action or proceeding, unless such receivership or trusteeship shall have been vacated prior to the expiration of one hundred twenty (120) days, or unless:

- (a) Within one hundred twenty (120) days after his/her election or appointment, such receiver or trustee shall have fully complied with all the provisions of this Chapter and remedied all defaults thereunder; and
- (b) Such receiver or trustee, within the one hundred twenty (120) days, shall have executed an agreement, duly approved by the court having jurisdiction in the premises, whereby such receiver or trustee assumes and agrees to be bound by each and every provision of this Chapter and the franchise granted to the Grantee.

**SEC. 20.41 COMPLIANCE WITH STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS.**

- (a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this franchise to the contrary, the Grantee shall at all times comply with all laws and regulations of the state and federal government or any administrative agencies thereof, provided, however, if any such state or federal law or regulation shall require the

Grantee to perform any service, or shall permit the Grantee to perform any service, or shall prohibit the Grantee from performing any service, in conflict with the terms of this franchise or of any law or regulation of the City, then as soon as possible following knowledge thereof, the Grantee shall notify the City of the point of conflict believed to exist between such regulation or law and the laws or regulations of the City or this franchise.

- (b) If the City determines that a material provision of this Chapter is affected by any subsequent action of the state or federal government, the City and the Grantee shall negotiate to modify any of the provisions herein to such reasonable extent as may be necessary to carry out the full intent and purpose of this agreement.

**SEC. 20.42 LANDLORD/TENANT.**

- (a) **Interference With Cable Service Prohibited.** Neither the owner of any multiple unit residential dwelling nor his agent or representative shall interfere with the right of any tenant or lawful resident thereof to receive cable communication service, cable installation or maintenance from a cable communication Grantee regulated by and lawfully operating under a valid and existing franchise issued by the City.
- (b) **Gratuities and Payments to Permit Service Prohibited.** Neither the owner of any multiple unit residential dwelling nor his agent or representative shall ask, demand or receive any payment, service or gratuity in any form as a condition for permitting or cooperating with the installation of a cable communication service to the dwelling unit occupied by a tenant or resident requesting service.
- (c) **Penalties and Charges to Tenants for Service Prohibited.** Neither the owner or any multiple unit residential dwelling nor his agent or representative shall penalize, charge or surcharge a tenant or resident or forfeit or threaten to forfeit any right of such tenant or resident, or discriminate in any way against such tenant or resident who requests or receives cable communication service from a Grantee operating under a valid and existing cable communication franchise issued by the City.
- (d) **Reselling Service Prohibited.** No person shall resell, without the expressed, written consent of both the Grantee and the City, any cable service, program or signal transmitted by a cable communication Grantee under a franchise issued by the City.
- (e) **Protection of Property Permitted.** Nothing in this Chapter shall prohibit a person from requiring that cable communication system facilities conform to laws and regulations and reasonable conditions necessary to protect safety, functioning, appear-

ance and value of premises or the convenience and safety of persons or property.

- (f) **Risks Assumed by Grantee.** Nothing in this Chapter shall prohibit a person from requiring a Grantee from agreeing to indemnify the owner, or its agents or representatives for damages or from liability for damages caused by the installation, operation, maintenance or removal of cable communication facilities.

**SEC. 20.43 APPLICANT'S BIDS FOR INITIAL FRANCHISE.**

- (a) All bids received by the City from the applicants for an initial franchise will become the sole property of the City.
- (b) The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids and waive informalities and/or technicalities where the best interest of the City may be served.
- (c) All questions regarding the meaning or intent of this Chapter or application documents shall be submitted to the City in writing. Replies will be issued by addenda mailed or delivered to all parties recorded by the City as having received the application documents. The City reserves the right to make extensions of time for receiving bids as it deems necessary. Questions received less than fourteen (14) days prior to the date for the opening of bids will not be answered. Only replies to questions by written addenda will be binding. All bids must contain an acknowledgment of receipt of all addenda.
- (d) Bids must be sealed, and submitted at the time and place indicated in the application documents for the public opening. Bids may be modified at any time prior to the opening of the bids, provided that any modifications must be duly executed in the manner that the applicant's bid must be executed. No bid shall be opened or inspected before the public opening.
- (e) Before submitting a bid, each applicant must:
  - (1) Examine this Chapter and the application documents thoroughly;
  - (2) Familiarize himself/herself with local conditions that may in any manner affect performance under the franchise;
  - (3) Familiarize himself/herself with federal, state and local laws, ordinances, rules and regulations affecting performance under the franchise; and
  - (4) Carefully correlate the bid with the requirements of this Chapter and the application documents.
- (f) The City may make such investigations as it deems necessary to determine the ability of the applicant to perform under the franchise, and the applicant shall furnish to the City all such information and

data for this purpose as the City may request. The City reserves the right to reject any bid if the evidence submitted by, or investigation of, such applicant fails to satisfy the City that such applicant is properly qualified to carry out the obligations of the franchise and to complete the work contemplated therein. Conditional bids will not be accepted.

- (g) All bids received shall be placed in a secure depository approved by the City and not opened nor inspected prior to the public opening.

**SEC. 20.44 FINANCIAL, CONTRACTUAL, SHAREHOLDER AND SYSTEM DISCLOSURE FOR INITIAL FRANCHISES.**

- (a) No initial franchise will be granted to any applicant unless all requirements and demands of the City regarding financial, contractual, shareholder and system disclosure have been met.
- (b) Applicants, including all shareholders and parties with any interest in the applicant, shall fully disclose all agreements and undertakings, whether written or oral, implied with any person, firm, group, association or corporation with respect to this franchise and the proposed cable television system. The Grantee of this franchise shall disclose all other contracts to the City as the contracts are made. This Section shall include, but not be limited to, any agreements between local applicants and national companies.
- (c) Applicants, including all shareholders and parties with any interest in the applicant, shall submit all requested information as provided by the terms of this Chapter or the application documents, which are incorporated herein by reference. The requested information must be complete and verified as true by the applicant.
- (d) Applicants, including all shareholders and parties with any interest in the applicant, shall disclose the numbers of shares of stock, and the holders thereof, and shall include the amount of consideration for each share of stock and the nature of the consideration.
- (e) Applicants, including all shareholders and parties with any interest in the applicant, shall disclose any information required by the application documents regarding other cable systems in which they hold an interest of any nature, including, but not limited to, the following:
  - (1) Locations of all other franchises and the dates of award for each location;
  - (2) Estimated construction costs and estimated completion dates for each system;
  - (3) Estimated number of miles of construction and number of miles completed in each system as of the date of this application; and

- (4) Date for completion of construction as promised in the application for each system.
- (f) Applicants, including all shareholders and parties with any interest in the applicant, shall disclose any information required by the application documents regarding pending applications for other cable systems, including but-not limited to, the following:
  - (1) Location of other franchise applications and date of application for each system;
  - (2) Estimated dates of franchise awards;
  - (3) Estimated number of miles of construction; and
  - (4) Estimated construction costs.

**SEC. 20.45 PENALTIES.**

For the violation of any of the following provisions of this franchise, penalties shall be chargeable to the letter of credit or performance bond as applicable as follows and the City may determine the amount of the fine for other violations which are not specified in a sum not to exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for each violation, with each day constituting as separate violation.

- (a) Failure to furnish, maintain, or offer all cable services to any potential Subscriber within the City upon order of the City: Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) per day, per violation, for each day that such failure occurs or continues;
- (b) Failure to obtain or file evidence of required insurance, construction bond, performance bond, or other required financial security: Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) per day, per violation, for each day such failure occurs or continues;
- (c) Failure to provide access to data, documents, records, or reports to the City as required by Sections 20.19, 20.29, 20.30, 20.31 and 20.37: Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) per day, per violation, for each day such failure occurs or continues;
- (d) Failure to comply with applicable construction, operation, or maintenance standards: Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) per day, per violation.
- (e) Failure to comply with a rate decision or refund order: Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per day, per violation, for each day such a violation occurs or continues. Grantor may impose any or all of the above enumerated measures against Grantee, which shall be in addition to any and all other legal or equitable remedies it has under the franchise or under any applicable law.
- (f) Any violations for non-compliance with the customer service standards of Sections 20.23 through 20.25 the Grantee shall pay Two Hundred Dollars (\$200.00) per day for each day, or part thereof, that such noncompliance continues.
- (g) Any other violations of this franchise agreement to be determined by the Grantor in a public hearing but not specifically noted in this Section shall not

exceed Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) per day, per violation.

**SEC. 20.46 PROCEDURES.**

- (a) Whenever the City believes that the Grantee has violated one (1) or more terms, conditions or provisions of this franchise, and wishes to impose penalties, a written notice shall be given to the Grantee informing it of such alleged violation or liability. The written notice shall describe in reasonable detail the specific violation so as to afford the Grantee an opportunity to remedy the violation. The Grantee shall have thirty (30) days subsequent to receipt of the notice in which to correct the violation before the City may impose penalties unless the violation is of such a nature so as to require more than thirty (30) days and the Grantee proceeds diligently within the thirty (30) days to correct the violation, or as promptly as possible thereafter to correct the violation. In any case where the violation is not cured within sixty (60) days of notice from the City, or such other time as the Grantee and the City may mutually agree to, the City may proceed to impose penalties allowed under Section 20.45.
- (b) The Grantee may, within ten (10) days of receipt of notice, notify the City that there is a dispute as to whether a violation or failure has, in fact, occurred. Such notice by the Grantee to the City shall specify with particularity the matters disputed by the Grantee and shall stay the running of the thirty (30) day cure period pending Board decision as required below. The Common Council shall hear the Grantee's dispute. Grantee must be given at least five (5) days notice of the hearing. At the hearing, the Grantee shall be entitled to the right to present evidence and the right to be represented by counsel. After the hearing, the City shall provide Grantee a copy of its action, along with supporting documents. In the event the City upholds the finding of a violation, the Grantee shall have thirty (30) days subsequent, or such other time period as the Grantee and the City mutually agree, to such determination to correct the alleged violation before penalties may be imposed.
- (c) The rights reserved to the City under this Section are in addition to all other rights of the City whether reserved by this franchise or authorized by law or equity, and no action, proceeding or exercise of a right with respect to penalties shall affect any other right the City may have.
- (d) The City shall stay or waive the imposition of any penalty set forth above upon a finding that any failure or delay is a result of an acts of nature or due to circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the Grantee.

## LINE EXTENSION POLICY

- (1) The Grantee shall extend service into those areas not meeting the density requirement of Paragraph (B) above (“line extension area”) on a cost-sharing or contribution-in-aid-of-construction (“contribution”) basis with those residents of that area requisitioning service as determined by the following formula:

$$\frac{C}{LE} - \frac{CA}{P} = SC$$

C = Cost of construction of new plant  
 CA= Average cost of construction per mile in Oak Creek area.  
 P = 20 dwelling units  
 LE= Number of dwelling units requesting service in line extension area.  
 SC = Customer contribution-in-aid-of-construction (“contribution”) in the line extension area per requesting resident.

- (2) Upon request for service to a line extension area, the Grantee shall estimate the contribution-in-aid-of-construction for the line extension area. Grantee will notify the City and the requesting parties of the required contribution.
- (3) Residents within the line extension area who wish to become customers will have thirty (30) days after receipt of such notice to pay the amount of the contribution payment to the Grantee.
- (4) If the number of residents who pay the contribution within the thirty (30) day period is less than the number who requested service (and the aggregate payment made by the residents is less than the total contribution required), the Grantee shall, within ten (10) days after the end of the thirty (30) day period, notify in writing such residents and the City of the deficiency. The residents may make additional payments within ten (10) days of receipt of such notice.
- (5) If the total contribution from residents as determined by Paragraph 2 above is paid within the time period specified above, the Grantee shall construct the line extension. If the total contribution is not paid within the time period specified above, the Grantee shall promptly return all monies.
- (6) Upon completion of the line extension construction, activation and service to the ex-

tended area, the Grantee shall submit to the customers and the City a detailed statement setting forth all actual construction expenses including labor. Any excess contribution’s shall be divided among and returned to the subscribers in proportion to the amount contributed by them. In no event shall the money paid to the Grantee exceed the amount deposited.

- (7) Any resident in an extended area who did not participate by initial contribution as set out in the Paragraphs above, and who wishes to subscribe to service within the first (1st) three (3) years after service is commenced, must deposit into an account to be maintained by the Grantee the amount of the actual contribution. All such new contributions shall be held until the end of the third (3rd) year after service is commenced in the extended period, at which time, all funds shall be divided equally and returned to the current subscribers in the extended area.
- (8) At the end of the third (3rd) year following the commencement of service to the extended area, all subsequent subscribers in the extended area shall be charged the same installation charge as other subscribers who are in the areas with required density.