

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

For the approval of a Cable Television Agreement between Spectrum Northeast, LLC and the Town of Smithville.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of the Town of Smithville will hold a Public Hearing on Monday May 17, 2021 **at 6:50pm** at the Community Center of Smithville Flats, 5285 State Hwy, Smithville Flats NY 13841 regarding granting a cable television franchise agreement by and between the Town of Smithville and Spectrum Northeast LLC, an indirect subsidiary of Charter Communications.

A copy of the agreement is available for Public Inspection during normal business hours at the Town Clerk's Office, 5285 State Hwy 41, Smithville Flats, NY, or on the Town's website www.smithvilleny.com. At such Public Hearing, all persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. Written and oral statements will be taken at that time. Time limitations may be imposed for each oral statement, if necessary.

Dated: Smithville Flats, NY April 29, 2021

By Order of the Smithville Town Board

Alison B. Owens

Smithville Town Clerk

FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

This Franchise Agreement ("Franchise") is between the Town of Smithville, New York, hereinafter referred to as the "Grantor" and Spectrum Northeast, LLC, an indirect subsidiary of CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS, INC., hereinafter referred to as the "Grantee."

WHEREAS, in a full public proceeding affording due process to all parties, Grantor considered and found adequate and feasible Grantee's plans for constructing and operating the cable television system, and Grantor considered and determined that the financial condition, character, legal and technical ability of the Grantee are sufficient to provide services, facilities and equipment necessary to meet the future cable-related needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Grantor finds that the Grantee has substantially complied with the material terms of the current Franchise under applicable laws, that this Franchise complies with New York Public Service Commission's ("NYPSC") franchise standards under Title 16, Chapter VIII, Part 895 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York, and that the grant of a nonexclusive franchise to Grantee is consistent with the public interest; and

WHEREAS, the Grantor and Grantee have complied with all federal and State-mandated procedural and substantive requirements pertinent to this franchise renewal; and

WHEREAS, Grantor desires to enter into this Franchise with the Grantee for the construction and operation of a cable system on the terms set forth herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Grantor and Grantee agree as follows:

SECTION 1 Definition of Terms

1.1 Terms. For the purpose of this franchise the following terms, phrases, words and their derivations shall have the meaning ascribed to them in the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, as amended from time to time (the "Cable Act"), unless otherwise defined herein. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words in the plural number include the singular number, and words in the singular number include the plural number. The word "shall" is mandatory and "may" is permissive. Words not defined shall be given their common and ordinary meaning.

- A. "Cable System," "Cable Service," and "Basic Cable Service" shall be defined as set forth in the Cable Act.
- B. "Board" shall mean the governing body of the Grantor.
- C. "Cable Act" shall mean the Cable Communication Policy Act of 1984, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 521, et. seq.
- D. "Channel" shall mean a portion of the electromagnetic frequency spectrum which is used in a cable system and which is capable of delivering a television channel.

SECTION 2
Grant of Franchise

2.1 Grant. The Grantor hereby grants to the Grantee a nonexclusive Franchise which authorizes the Grantee to erect, construct, extend, operate and maintain in, upon, along, across, above, over and under the Streets, now in existence and as may be created or established during its terms, all Equipment, including the Cable System. Nothing in this Franchise shall be construed to prohibit the Grantee from offering any service over its Cable System that is not prohibited by federal or State law.

2.2 Term. The Franchise and the rights, privileges and authority hereby granted shall be for an initial term *of fifteen (15) years*, commencing on the Effective Date of this Franchise as set forth in Section 15.13.

2.3 Police Powers. The Grantee agrees to comply with the terms of any lawfully adopted generally applicable local ordinance necessary to the safety, health, and welfare of the public, to the extent that the provisions of the ordinance do not have the effect of limiting the benefits or expanding the obligations of the Grantee that are granted by this Franchise. This Franchise is a contract and except as to those changes which are the result of the Grantor's lawful exercise of its general police power, the Grantor may not take any unilateral action which materially changes the mutual promises in this contract.

2.4 Restoration of Municipal Property. Any municipal property damaged or destroyed by Grantee shall be promptly repaired or replaced by the Grantee and restored to serviceable condition.

2.5 Cable System Franchise Required. No Cable System shall be allowed to occupy or use the streets or public rights-of-way of the Franchise Area or be allowed to operate without a Cable System Franchise.

SECTION 3
Franchise Renewal

3.1 Procedures for Renewal. The Grantor and the Grantee agree that any proceedings undertaken by the Grantor that relate to the renewal of the Grantee's Franchise shall be governed by and comply with the provisions of Section 626 of the Cable Act, or any such successor statute.

SECTION 4
Indemnification and Insurance

4.1 Indemnification. The Grantee shall, by acceptance of the Franchise granted herein, defend the Grantor, its officers, boards, commissions, agents, and employees for all claims for injury to any Person or property caused by the negligence of Grantee in the construction or operation of the Cable System and in the event of a determination of liability shall indemnify and hold Grantor, its officers, boards, commissions, agents, and employees harmless from any and all liabilities, claims, demands, or judgments growing out of any injury to any Person or property as a result of the negligence of Grantee arising out of the construction, repair, extension,

6.1 Service Area. Subject to applicable law, the Grantee shall continue to provide Cable Service to all residences within the Franchise Area where Grantee currently provides Cable Service (the "Service Area") in accordance with the provisions of Section 895.5 of the regulations of the NYSPSC. Grantee shall have the right, but not the obligation, to extend the Cable System into any other portion of the Franchise Area, including annexed areas. Cable Service offered to Subscribers pursuant to this Franchise shall be conditioned upon Grantee having legal access on reasonable terms and conditions to any such Subscriber's dwelling unit or other units wherein such Cable Service is provided.

6.2 Abandonment of Service. Grantee shall not abandon any Cable Service or portion thereof without the Grantor's written consent.

6.3 New Development Underground. In cases of new construction or property development where utilities are to be placed underground, the Grantor agrees to require as a condition of issuing a permit for open trenching to any developer or property owner that such developer or property owner give Grantee at least thirty (30) days prior written notice of such construction or development, and of the particular dates on which open trenching will be available for Grantee's installation of conduit, pedestals and/or vaults, and laterals to be provided at Grantee's expense. 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 Grantee fails to install its conduit, pedestals and/or vaults, and laterals within fifteen (15) working days of the date the trenches are available, as designated in the written notice given by the developer or property owner, then should the trenches be closed after the fifteen day period, the cost of new trenching is to be borne by Grantee.

6.4 Annexation. The Grantor shall promptly provide written notice to the Grantee of its annexation of any territory which is being provided Cable Service by the Grantee or its affiliates. Such annexed area will be subject to the provisions of this Franchise upon sixty (60) days written notice from the Grantor, subject to the conditions set forth below and Section 6.1 above. The Grantor shall also notify Grantee in writing of all new street address assignments or changes within the Franchise Area. Grantee shall within ninety (90) days after receipt of the annexation notice, pay the Grantor franchise fees on revenue received from the operation of the Cable System to provide Cable Services in any area annexed by the Grantor if the Grantor has provided a written annexation notice that includes the addresses that will be moved into the Franchise Area in an Excel format or in a format that will allow Grantee to change its billing system. If the annexation notice does not include the addresses that will be moved into the Franchise Area, Grantee shall pay franchise fees within ninety (90) days after it receives the annexed addresses as set forth above. All notices due under this section shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested to the addresses set forth in Section 15.7 with a copy to the Director of Government Affairs. In any audit of franchise fees due under this Franchise, Grantee shall not be liable for franchise fees on annexed areas unless and until Grantee has received notification and information that meets the standards set forth in this section.

SECTION 7 **Construction and Technical Standards**

8.4 System Construction. All transmission lines, equipment and structures shall be so installed and located as to cause minimum interference with the rights and reasonable convenience of property owners and at all times shall be kept and maintained in a safe, adequate and substantial condition, and in good order and repair. The Grantee shall, at all times, employ ordinary care and use commonly accepted methods and devices for preventing failures and accidents which are likely to cause damage, injuries, or nuisances to the public. Suitable barricades, flags, lights, flares or other devices shall be used at such times and places as are reasonably required for the safety of all members of the public. Any poles or other fixtures placed in any public way by the Grantee shall be placed in such a manner as not to interfere with the usual travel on such public way.

8.5 Restoration of Public Ways. Grantee shall, at its own expense, restore any damage or disturbance caused to the public way as a result of its operation, construction, or maintenance of the Cable System to a condition reasonably comparable to the condition of the Streets immediately prior to such damage or disturbance.

8.6 Tree Trimming. Grantee or its designee shall have the authority to trim trees on public property at its own expense as may be necessary to protect its wires and facilities.

8.7 Relocation for the Grantor. The Grantee shall, upon receipt of reasonable advance written notice, to be not less than ten (10) business days, protect, support, temporarily disconnect, relocate, or remove any property of Grantee when lawfully required by the Grantor pursuant to its police powers. Grantee shall be responsible for any costs associated with these obligations to the same extent all other users of the Grantor rights-of-way are responsible for the costs related to the relocation of their facilities.

8.8 Relocation for a Third Party. The Grantee shall, on the request of any Person holding a lawful permit issued by the Grantor, protect, support, raise, lower, temporarily disconnect, relocate in or remove from the Street as necessary any property of the Grantee, provided that the expense of such is paid by any such Person benefiting from the relocation and the Grantee is given reasonable advance written notice to prepare for such changes. The Grantee may require such payment in advance. For purposes of this subsection, "reasonable advance written notice" shall be no less than ten (10) business days in the event of a temporary relocation and no less than one hundred twenty (120) days for a permanent relocation.

8.9 Reimbursement of Costs. If funds are available to any Person using the Streets for the purpose of defraying the cost of any of the foregoing, the Grantor shall reimburse the Grantee in the same manner in which other Persons affected by the requirement are reimbursed. If the funds are controlled by another governmental entity, the Grantor shall make application for such funds on behalf of the Grantee.

8.10 Emergency Use. Grantee shall comply with 47 U.S.C. 544(g) and all regulations issued pursuant thereto with respect to an Emergency Alert System ("EAS").

SECTION 9 **Service and Rates**

10.5 No auditor engaged by the Grantor shall be compensated on a success based formula (e.g., payment based on a percentage of an underpayment, if any).

SECTION 11
Transfer of Franchise

11.1 **Franchise Transfer.** Grantee shall provide at least sixty days' notice to Grantor prior to completion of a transaction that results in the sale, transfer, or assignment of the Franchise. The Franchise granted hereunder shall not be assigned, other than by operation of law or to an entity controlling, controlled by, or under common control with the Grantee, without the prior consent of the Grantor, such consent not to be unreasonably withheld or delayed. No such consent shall be required, however, for a transfer in trust, by mortgage, by other hypothecation, or by assignment of any rights, title, or interest of the Grantee in the Franchise or Cable System to secure indebtedness. Within thirty (30) days of receiving a request for review covered by this Section, the Grantor shall notify the Grantee in writing of any additional information it reasonably requires to determine the legal, financial and technical qualifications of the transferee. If the Grantor has not taken action on the Grantee's request for transfer within one hundred twenty (120) days after receiving such request, consent by the Grantor shall be deemed given.

SECTION 12
Records

12.1 **Inspection of Records.** Grantee shall permit any duly authorized representative of the Grantor, upon receipt of advance written notice, to examine during normal business hours and on a non-disruptive basis any and all of Grantee's records pertaining to Grantee's provision of Cable Service in the Franchise Area maintained by Grantee as is reasonably necessary to ensure Grantee's compliance with the material terms of the Franchise. Such notice shall specifically reference the subsection of the Franchise that is under review so that the Grantee may organize the necessary books and records for easy access by the Grantor. The Grantee shall not be required to maintain any books and records for Franchise compliance purposes longer than three (3) years. The Grantee shall not be required to provide Subscriber information in violation of Section 631 of the Cable Act. The Grantor agrees to treat as confidential any books, records or maps that constitute proprietary or confidential information to the extent Grantee makes the Grantor aware of such confidentiality. If the Grantor believes it must release any such confidential books or records in the course of enforcing this Franchise, or for any other reason, it shall advise Grantee in advance so that Grantee may take appropriate steps to protect its interests. Until otherwise ordered by a court or agency of competent jurisdiction, the Grantor agrees that, to the extent permitted by State and federal law, it shall deny access to any of Grantee's books and records marked confidential, as set forth above, to any Person.

SECTION 13
Public Education and Government (PEG) Access

13.1 **PEG Access.** Grantee shall make available channel capacity for non-commercial, video programming for public, educational and governmental ("PEG") access use in accordance with Section 895.4 of the NYPSC regulations and will comply with the minimum standards set forth therein. Such PEG channel capacity may be shared with other localities served by Grantee's

14.5 Revocation.

- A. Prior to revocation or termination of the Franchise, the Grantor shall give written notice to the Grantee of its intent to revoke the Franchise on the basis of a pattern of noncompliance by the Grantee, including one or more instances of substantial noncompliance with a material provision of the Franchise. The notice shall set forth the exact nature of the noncompliance. The Grantee shall have sixty (60) days from such notice to either object in writing and to state its reasons for such objection and provide any explanation or to cure the alleged noncompliance. If the Grantor has not received a satisfactory response from Grantee, it may then seek to revoke the Franchise at a public hearing. The Grantee shall be given at least thirty (30) days prior written notice of such public hearing, specifying the time and place of such hearing and stating its intent to revoke the Franchise. The public hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of Section 14.3 above.
- B. Notwithstanding the above provisions, the Grantee reserves all of its rights under federal law or regulation.
- C. Upon revocation of the Franchise, Grantee may remove the Cable System from the Streets of the Grantor, or abandon the Cable System in place.

SECTION 15

Miscellaneous Provisions

15.1 Compliance with Laws. Grantor and Grantee shall conform to all applicable state and federal laws and rules regarding cable television as they become effective. Grantee shall also conform with all generally applicable Grantor ordinances, resolutions, rules and regulations heretofore or hereafter adopted or established during the entire term of the Franchise. In the event of a conflict between Grantor ordinances, resolutions, rules or regulations and the provisions of this Franchise, the provisions of this Franchise shall govern.

15.1.1 Employment Practices. Grantee will not refuse to hire, nor will it bar or discharge from employment, nor discriminate against any person in compensation or in terms, conditions, or privileges of employment because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, or sex.

15.2 Force Majeure. The Grantee shall not be held in default under, or in noncompliance with the provisions of the Franchise, nor suffer any enforcement or penalty relating to noncompliance or default, where such noncompliance or alleged defaults occurred or were caused by circumstances reasonably beyond the ability of the Grantee to anticipate and control. This provision includes, but is not limited to, severe or unusual weather conditions, fire, flood, or other acts of God, strikes, work delays caused by failure of utility providers to service, maintain or monitor their utility poles to which Grantee's Cable System is attached, as well as unavailability of materials and/or qualified labor to perform the work necessary.

Person at the address set forth below, or by U.S. certified mail, return receipt requested, nationally or internationally recognized courier service such as Federal Express or electronic mail communication to the designated electronic mail address provided below. As set forth above, notice served upon the Grantor shall be delivered or sent to:

Grantor: Honorable John Cammarata
Smithville Town Supervisor
5285 NY-41
Smithville Flats, NY 13841
Email: jcammaratatownsuper@gmail.com

Grantee: Lauren Kelly
Director, Government Affairs
100 Town Centre Dr.
Rochester, NY 14623
Email: lauren.kelly@charter.com

Copy to: Charter Communications
Attn: Vice President, Government Affairs
601 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 400W
Washington, DC 20001

15.8 Public Notice. Minimum public notice of any public meeting relating to this Franchise or any such grant of additional franchises, licenses, consents, certificates, authorizations, or exemptions by the Grantor to any other Person(s) to provide Cable Services, video services, or other television services utilizing any system or technology requiring use of the public rights of way shall be by publication at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the area at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting and a posting at the administrative buildings of the Grantor.

15.8.1 Grantor shall provide written notice to Grantee within ten (10) days of Grantor's receipt from any other Person(s) of an application or request for a franchise(s), license(s), consent(s), certificate(s), authorization(s), or exemption(s) to provide Cable Services, video services, or other television services utilizing any system or technology requiring use of the public rights of way. Any public hearings to consider such application or request shall have the same notice requirement as outlined in Paragraph 15.8 above.

15.9 Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this Franchise is, for any reason, held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Franchise.

15.10 Entire Agreement. This Franchise and any Exhibits hereto constitute the entire agreement between Grantee and the Grantor and they supersede all prior or contemporaneous agreements, representations or understandings (whether written or oral) of the parties regarding the subject matter hereof.

**STATE OF NEW YORK
Town of Smithville
County of Chenango**

In the Matter of the Granting of a Cable Television Franchise Held by **Spectrum Northeast, LLC** in the Town of **Smithville, County of Chenango**, New York

RESOLUTION

An application has been duly made to the Board of the **Town of Smithville, County of Chenango**, New York, by **Spectrum Northeast, LLC**, an indirect subsidiary of Charter Communications, Inc. ("Charter"), a limited liability company organized and existing in good standing under the laws of State of Delaware doing business at 2604 Seneca Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305, for the approval of a renewal agreement for Charter's cable television franchise for fifteen (15) years commencing with the date of approval by the Public Service Commission.

The franchise renewal agreement would bring the franchise into conformity with certain provisions of the Federal Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, as amended, and certain court rulings.

A public hearing was held in the Town of Smithville, New York on _____, ____ at _____ P.M. and notice of the hearing was published in the _____ on _____, _____.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of the Town of Smithville finds that:

1. Spectrum Northeast, LLC has substantially complied with the material terms and conditions of its existing franchise and with applicable law; and