

Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission

March 17, 2009

7:30PM Conference 10
Government Center
12000 Government Center
Pkwy. Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Chairman Fee, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Adams, Belkowitz,
Boyd, Fee, Hargraves, Hine,
Mrowka, Roark, Rosier

Absent:

Commissioners: Bahhur,
Douskalis, Kirk, Nguyen

Staff:

Michael S. Liberman,
Director Cable
Communication and
Consumer Protection
Ellen F. Posner, Assistant County Attorney
Steve Sinclair, Chief
Public Utilities Branch
Susan C. Jones, Chief
Consumer Affairs Branch
Susan Hafeli, Utility Analyst

The meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by Chairman Fee.

Minutes

The minutes of the February 17, 2008, meeting were approved.

Report of the Chairman

Chairman Fee attended the court hearing for the Towing Ordinance held on March 13, 2009, and stated that motion to reconsider by the towing companies was denied.

Report of the Director

Director Liberman distributed copies of DCCCP Internet web trends that identified the most popular web pages on the site, the number of visits, and the average length of time the page was viewed per each visit. Commissioner Hargraves asked how DCCCP Internet web trends compare to other agencies. Staff will research the request.

Director Liberman reminded the commissioners that Board of Supervisor's public hearings will begin on March 30, 2009.

Commission Matters

Commissioner Boyd had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Hine had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Rosier had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Belkowitz had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Mrowka had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Roark had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Adams had no matters to bring before the commission.

Commissioner Hargraves had no matters to bring before the commission.

Old Business

Commissioner Fee inquired about the taxicab survey. Staff is working on it.

New Business

1. Town of Leesburg Water and Sewer Rates Court Decision

Susan Hafeli, Utility Analyst, presented an overview of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit Court of Virginia decision that found that the surcharges of 100 percent, charged by the Town of Leesburg to its out-of-town water and sewer customers, are unfair and unlawful. If the Town does not appeal, it has until May 2009 to revise its rates in accordance with the decision. According to press reports, the decision affects approximately 2,800 out-of-town customers; its impact to the Town is estimated between \$14 and \$15 million.

2. Fairfax Water Authority Presentation

Steven T. Edgemon, Deputy General Manager, presented background information on a study conducted on the Town of Vienna's water system infrastructure.

A discussion ensued on the current equipment used, the cost to rebuild the infrastructure, impact on citizens if a massive failure occurs, and the increase of citizen's rates.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35PM.