

AGENDA
SPECIAL GENERAL ADMINISTRATION & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE
VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES
November 21, 2011

7:00 p.m. – Board Room

Members: Ray Kincaid, Chairman
Gary Stanton, Vice Chairman
Karen Mills, Trustee
Jacquelyn Green, Trustee
Anna Newell, Trustee
Gary Pilafas, Trustee
Mayor William McLeod

I. Roll Call

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request approval of a resolution in support of H.R. 1746, the Community Access Preservation (“CAP”) Act.

II. Adjournment

The Village of Hoffman Estates complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For accessibility assistance, call the ADA Coordinator at 847/882-9100.

COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM

VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES

SUBJECT: Resolution in Support of the Community Access Preservation (CAP) Act, HR 1746

MEETING DATE: November 21, 2011

COMMITTEE: Special General Administration and Personnel

FROM: Bruce Anderson, CATV Coordinator 

PURPOSE: To urge Congress to support HR 1746, the CAP Act.

BACKGROUND: The CAP Act, is co-sponsored by Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Congressman Steven Latourette (R-OH) to address critical and immediate threats to local Public Educational and Government (PEG) Access channels, like HETV Channel 6, across the country. This Act would allow municipalities to require PEG channels to be provided on the Basic channel tier, without charge, as a part of their franchise obligations, to use PEG funding provided by cable companies for both the capitol and staffing needs of the channel, and to insure subscribers can receive PEG channels with the need for additional equipment.

DISCUSSION: In recent years several states, including Illinois, have passed state-wide franchises for cable and video providers. Several of these states have removed requirements for these providers to provide, or retain existing, PEG channels for municipalities. Other states have allowed PEG channels to be moved to unattractive channels, such as the 900s, and some have removed all funding mechanisms for PEG channels. As a result states such as Michigan and Texas have seen PEG channels die out due to lack of funding or carriage requirements.

Recognizing that PEG channels are a valuable communications vehicle for municipalities, the CAP Act seeks to make provision for PEG channels at the federal level that will supersede the state provisions that have nearly wiped out PEG channels in some states.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: It would allow Hoffman Estates, and other municipalities, to use PEG fees for both capital equipment and staffing. This would not be an immediate impact.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends passing a resolution in support of HR 1746, the CAP Act.

VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
H.R. 1746, THE COMMUNITY ACCESS
PRESERVATION ("CAP") ACT

WHEREAS, public, education and government (PEG) access channels are one of the last surviving sources for local television programming across the country and PEG channels play a significant role in the Village of Hoffman Estates; and

WHEREAS, PEG channels are a unique and valuable resource for local information and discourse for the resident of the Village of Hoffman Estates; and

WHEREAS, PEG channels televise local government meetings, including Village Committee and Board meetings, so that citizens are informed about the actions taken by local officials; and

WHEREAS, PEG channels are also utilized to communicate with citizens on municipal events and services and also provide advisories and preparation directions to residents for emergency purposes; and

WHEREAS, PEG CHANNELS provide a window through which residents can view the diversity of cultures, educational information, recreational activities and artistic endeavors in their local community; and

WHEREAS, PEG channels reflect the unique identity of the communities they serve; and

WHEREAS, it is important to preserve PEG channels and funding for PEG channels, and to ensure that the channels continue to be available to the entire community to serve the residents of the Village of Hoffman Estates; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 146, the Community Access Preservation ("CAP") Act addresses critical and immediate threats to PEG; and

WHEREAS, the CAP Act provides important solutions for critical and immediate threats to PEG channels and facilities across the country by removing use restrictions on PEG access fees, restoring PEG revenue streams, and preventing video providers from charging municipalities for the transmission of the PEG channels; and

WHEREAS, the CAP Act would allow PEG fees to once again be used for any legitimate PEG expense, instead of restricting PEG fees to capital expenses only.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Hoffman Estates, Cook and Kane Counties, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1: The Village of Hoffman Estates urges its appropriate federal legislators to take all actions in support of the immediate passage of H.R. 1746, including, but not limited to, endorsing, co-sponsoring and voting for H.R. 1746.

Section 2: A copy of this Resolution will be provided to the Village's appropriate federal legislators.

Section 3: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately from and after its passage and approval.

PASSED THIS _____ day of _____, 2011

VOTE	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Trustee Karen V. Mills	_____	_____	_____	_____
Trustee Raymond M. Kincaid	_____	_____	_____	_____
Trustee Jacquelyn Green	_____	_____	_____	_____
Trustee Anna Newell	_____	_____	_____	_____
Trustee Gary J. Pilafas	_____	_____	_____	_____
Trustee Gary G. Stanton	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mayor William D. McLeod	_____	_____	_____	_____

APPROVED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2011

Village President

ATTEST:

Village Clerk