

## FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

This Franchise Agreement (hereinafter, the "Agreement" or "Franchise Agreement") is made between the Town of Emmitsburg, Maryland (hereinafter "Town" or "Franchising Authority") and Shenandoah Cable Television, LLC (hereinafter, "Grantee").

The Town of Emmitsburg, having determined that the financial, legal, and technical ability of the Grantee is reasonably sufficient to provide the services, facilities, and equipment necessary to meet the future cable-related needs of the community, desires to enter into this Franchise Agreement with the Grantee for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a Cable System on the terms and conditions set forth herein.

### SECTION 1 - Definition of Terms

For the purpose of this Franchise Agreement, capitalized terms, phrases, words, and abbreviations shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, as amended from time to time, 47 U.S.C. §§ 521 - 631 (the "Cable Act"), unless otherwise defined herein. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future, words used to refer to the masculine include the feminine, and words in the plural number include the singular number. The word "shall" is mandatory and "may" is permissive. Words not defined in the Cable Act or herein shall be given their common and ordinary meaning.

1.1. "Cable Service" or "Service" means the one-way transmission to Subscribers of Video Programming or other Programming service and Subscriber interaction, if any, which is required for the selection or use of such Video Programming or other Programming service.

1.2. "Cable System" means a facility, consisting of a set of closed transmission paths and associated signal generation, receptions and control equipment that is designed to provide Cable Service which includes Video Programming and which is provided to multiple Subscribers within the Franchise Area, and as further defined under Section 602 (7) of the Cable Act.

1.3. "Customer" or "Subscriber" means a Person or user of the Cable System who lawfully receives Cable Service therefrom with the Grantee's express permission.

1.4. "Effective Date" means the date on which all authorized persons necessary to sign this Agreement in order for it to be binding on both parties have executed this Agreement as indicated on the signature page(s), unless a specific date is otherwise provided in the "Term" section herein.

1.5. "FCC" means the Federal Communications Commission, or successor governmental entity thereto.

1.6. "Franchise" means the initial authorization, or renewal thereof, issued by the Franchising Authority, whether such authorization is designated as a franchise, agreement,

permit, license, resolution, contract, certificate, ordinance or otherwise, which authorizes the construction and operation of the Cable System.

1.7. "Franchise Agreement" or "Agreement" shall mean this Agreement and any amendments or modifications hereto.

1.8. "Franchise Area" means the present legal boundaries of the Town of Emmitsburg, Maryland as of the effective date, and shall also include any additions thereto, by annexation or other legal means.

1.9. "Franchising Authority" means the Town of Emmitsburg, Maryland or the lawful successor, transferee, designee, or assignee thereof.

1.10. "Grantee" shall mean Shenandoah Cable Television, LLC or "Shentel."

1.11. "Gross Revenue" means revenue derived by the Grantee from the operation of the Cable System in the Franchise Area to provide Cable Service, calculated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"). Gross Revenue includes monthly basic cable, premium and pay-per-view video fees, installation fees and subscriber equipment rental fees. Gross Revenue shall not include program launch support payments, revenue from advertising and home shopping, refundable deposits, late fees, investment income, nor any taxes, franchise fees, or other fees or assessments imposed or assessed by any governmental authority. Gross Annual Revenues shall not include actual bad debt that is written off, consistent with generally accepted accounting principles, provided however, that all or any part of any such actual bad debt that is written off, but subsequently collected, shall be included in the Gross Annual Revenues in the period so collected.

1.12. "PEG" means Public, Educational, and Governmental access channels made available by Grantee for use by the general public.

1.13. "Person" means any natural person or any association, firm, partnership, joint venture, corporation, or other legally recognized entity, whether for-profit or not-for profit, but shall not mean the Franchising Authority.

1.14 "Public Buildings" shall mean those buildings owned or leased by the Franchising Authority for municipal government administrative purposes, and shall not include buildings owned by Franchising Authority, but leased to third parties or buildings such as storage facilities at which government employees are not regularly stationed.

1.15. "Public Way" shall mean the surface of, and the space above and below, any public street, highway, freeway, bridge, land path, alley, court, boulevard, sidewalk, way, lane, public way, drive, circle or other public right-of-way, including, but not limited to, public utility easements, dedicated utility strips, or easements dedicated for compatible uses and any temporary or permanent fixtures or improvements located thereon now or hereafter held by the Franchising Authority in the Franchise Area, which shall entitle the Grantee to the use thereof for the purpose of installing, operating repairing, and maintaining the Cable System. Public Way

shall also mean any easement now or hereafter held by the Franchising Authority within the Franchise Area for the purpose of public travel, or for utility or public service use dedicated for compatible uses, and shall include other easements or rights-of-way as shall within their proper use and meaning entitle the Grantee to the use thereof for the purposes of installing, operating, and maintaining the Grantee's Cable System over poles wires, cables, conductors, ducts, conduits, vaults, manholes, amplifiers appliances, attachments, and other property as may be ordinarily necessary and pertinent to the Cable System. The Town makes no representations or warranties regarding easements or the scope thereof except as may be set forth in the Land Records of Frederick County, Maryland. It shall be incumbent upon the Grantee to verify the scope and existence of any easements it wishes to employ and the ownership of any improvements on which it intends to locate any of its system components.

1.16. "Standard Installation" shall mean the standard one hundred twenty-five foot (125') aerial Drop connection to the existing distribution system.

1.17. "Video Programming" or "Programming" shall mean the programming provided by, or generally considered comparable to programming provided by, a television broadcast station.

## **SECTION 2 - Grant of Authority**

2.1. Franchise Grant. The Franchising Authority hereby grants to the Grantee a non-exclusive Franchise authorizing the Grantee to construct and operate a Cable System in the Public Ways within the Franchise Area, and for that purpose to erect, install, construct, repair, replace, reconstruct, maintain, or retain in any Public Way such poles, wires, cables, conductors, ducts, conduits, vaults, manholes, pedestals, amplifiers, appliances, attachments, and other related property or equipment as may be necessary or appurtenant to the Cable System, and to provide such services over the Cable System as may be lawfully allowed.

2.2. Term of Franchise. The term of the Franchise granted hereunder shall be fifteen (15) years, commencing upon the Effective Date of the Franchise, unless the Franchise is renewed or is lawfully terminated in accordance with the terms of this Franchise Agreement and the Cable Act. This Franchise shall be automatically extended for three (3) additional terms of five (5) years each unless either party notifies the other in writing of its desire to enter renewal negotiations Under the Cable Act at least one (1) year before the expiration date of the then-current Franchise Agreement, whether it be the initial term or a subsequent extended term.

2.3 Renewal. Any renewal of this Franchise shall be governed by and comply with the provisions of Section 626 of the Cable Act [47 U.S.C. §546], as amended.

## **SECTION 3 - Construction and Maintenance of the Cable System**

3.1. Permits and General Obligations. The Grantee shall be responsible for obtaining all generally applicable permits, licenses, or other forms of approval or authorization prior to the commencement of any activity that disturbs the surface of any street, curb, sidewalk or other public improvement in the Public Way, or impedes vehicular traffic. The Town may require work to be bonded and all applicable ordinances regarding improvements and construction shall

apply to Grantee's work. The issuance of such permits shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed. Construction, installation, and maintenance of the Cable System shall be performed in a safe, thorough and reliable manner using materials of good and durable quality. Notwithstanding the requirements herein, Grantee shall not be required to obtain a permit for individual drop connections to Subscribers, servicing or installing pedestals or other similar facilities, or other instances of routine maintenance or repair to its Cable System. To the extent repairs or maintenance will impair access over the public ways, Grantee shall provide advance notice to the Town. All transmission and distribution structures, poles, other lines, and equipment installed by the Grantee for use in the Cable System in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Franchise Agreement shall be located so as to minimize the interference with the proper use of the Public Ways and the rights and reasonable convenience of property owners who own property that adjoins any such Public Way and shall be subject to approval by the Town.

### 3.2. Conditions of Street Occupancy.

3.2.1. New Grades or Lines. If the grades or lines of any Public Way within the Franchise Area are lawfully changed at any time during the term of this Franchise Agreement, then the Grantee shall, upon reasonable advance written notice from the Franchising Authority (which shall not be less than thirty (30) business days) and at its own cost and expense protect or promptly alter or relocate the Cable System, or any part thereof, so as to conform with any such new grades or lines. If public funds are available to any other user of the Public Way for the purpose of defraying the cost of any of the foregoing, the Franchising Authority shall notify Grantee of such funding and make available such funds to the Grantee.

3.2.2. Relocation at Request of Third Party. The Grantee shall, upon reasonable prior written request of any Person holding a permit issued by the Franchising Authority to move any structure, temporarily move its wires to permit the moving of such structure; provided (i.) the Grantee may impose a reasonable charge on any Person for the movement of its wires, and such charge may be required to be paid in advance of the movement of its wires; and (ii.) the Grantee is given not less than thirty (30) business days advance written notice to arrange for such temporary relocation.

3.2.3. Restoration of Public Ways. If in connection with the construction, operation, maintenance, or repair of the Cable System, the Grantee disturbs, alters, or damages any Public Way, the Grantee agrees that it shall at its own cost and expense replace and restore any such Public Way to a condition reasonably comparable to the condition of the Public Way existing immediately prior to the disturbance.

3.2.4. Safety Requirements. The Grantee shall undertake all necessary and appropriate efforts to maintain its work sites in a safe manner in order to prevent failures and accidents that may cause damage, injuries or nuisances. All work undertaken on the Cable System shall be performed in substantial accordance with applicable FCC or other federal and state regulations. The Cable System shall not unreasonably endanger or interfere with the safety of Persons or property in the Franchise Area.

3.2.5. Trimming of Trees and Shrubbery. The Grantee shall have the authority to trim trees or other natural vegetative growth within the Town's easement areas encroaching or overhanging any of its Cable System in the Franchise Area so as to prevent contact with the Grantee's wires, cables, or other equipment. All such trimming shall be done at the Grantee's sole cost and expense. The Grantee shall be responsible for any collateral, real property damage caused by such trimming.

3.2.6. Aerial and Underground Construction. At the time of Cable System construction, if all of the transmission and distribution facilities of all of the respective public or municipal utilities in any area of the Franchise Area are underground, the Grantee shall place its Cable System transmission and distribution facilities underground, provided that such underground locations are actually capable of accommodating the Grantee's cable and other equipment without technical degradation of the Cable System's signal quality. In any region(s) of the Franchise Area where the transmission or distribution facilities of the respective public or municipal utilities are both aerial and underground, the Grantee shall have the discretion to construct, operate, and maintain all of its transmission and distribution facilities, or any part thereof, aerially or underground. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to require the Grantee to construct, operate, or maintain underground any ground-mounted appurtenances such as customer taps, line extenders, system passive devices, amplifiers, power supplies, pedestals, or other related equipment.

3.2.7. Undergrounding and Beautification projects. In the event all users of the Public Way relocate aerial facilities underground as part of an undergrounding or neighborhood beautification project, Grantee shall participate in the planning for relocation of its aerial facilities contemporaneously with other utilities. Grantee's relocation costs shall be included in any computation of necessary project funding by the municipality or private parties. Grantee shall be entitled to reimbursement of its relocation costs from public or private funds raised for the project and made available to other users of the Public Way. In the event that public and/or private funds are not available, Grantee reserves the right to pass its costs through to its subscribers in accordance with applicable law.

## **SECTION 4 - Service Obligations**

4.1. General Service Obligation. Grantee shall build out its Cable System to make Cable Service generally available to those businesses and residential units located within the Town. While Grantee shall use commercially reasonable efforts to build out its network to serve as much of the Town as is feasible taking into account build-out costs, geographical and geological conditions, and business conditions, Grantee reserves the right in its sole discretion as to where Grantee builds out its network in the Town. Any dwelling unit within one hundred twenty-five (125) feet aerial distance from the main distribution line shall be entitled to a standard installation rate. For any dwelling unit in excess of one hundred twenty-five (125) feet or that requires an underground installation, Grantee shall extend the Cable Service if the Subscriber pays Grantee the actual cost of installation from its main distribution system with such cost being only the incremental portion beyond one hundred twenty-five (125) feet for aerial installations.

4.2. Cable System Design. Grantee shall activate its Cable System for bidirectional transmissions.

4.3. Programming. The Grantee shall offer to all Customers a diversity of Video Programming services in accordance with federal law.

4.4. No Unfair Discrimination. Neither the Grantee nor any of its employees, agents, representatives, contractors, subcontractors, or consultants, nor any other Person, shall discriminate or permit discrimination between or among any Persons in the availability of Cable Services provided in connection with the Cable System in the Franchise Area; provided, however, Grantee reserves the right to deny service for good cause, including but not limited to non-payment or theft of service, vandalism of equipment, or documented or founded harassment or abuse of Grantee's employees or agents. It shall be the right of all Persons to receive all available services provided on the Cable System so long as such Person's financial or other obligations to the Grantee are satisfied. Nothing contained herein shall prohibit the Grantee from offering bulk discounts, promotional discounts, package discounts, or other such pricing strategies as part of its business practice.

4.5. New Developments. The Franchising Authority shall provide the Grantee with written notice of the issuance of building or development permits for planned developments within the Franchise Area requiring undergrounding of cable facilities. The Franchising Authority agrees to require the developer, as a condition of issuing the permit, to give the Grantee access to open trenches for deployment of cable facilities and at least ten (10) business days written notice of the date of availability of open trenches.

4.6. Prohibition Against Reselling Service. No Person shall resell, without the express prior written consent of the Grantee, any Cable Service, program or signal transmitted over the Cable System by the Grantee.

#### 4.7 Stop Work.

4.7.1 Upon notice from the Franchising Authority that any work is being performed contrary to the provisions of this Franchise, or in an unsafe or dangerous manner as determined by the Franchising Authority, or in violation of the terms of any applicable permit, laws, regulations, ordinances, or standards, Grantee must stop work immediately.

4.7.2 Any stop work order/notice from the Franchising Authority shall:

- (i). Be in writing;
- (ii). Be given to the Person doing the work, or posted on the work site.
- (iii). Be sent to Grantee by overnight delivery;
- (iv). Indicate the nature of the alleged violation or unsafe condition; and

(v). Establish conditions under which work may be resumed.

## **SECTION 5 - Fees and Charges to Customers**

5.1. All rates, fees, charges, deposits and associated terms and conditions to be imposed by the Grantee or any affiliated Person for any Cable Service as of the Effective Date shall be in accordance with applicable FCC rate regulations. Before any new or modified rate, fee, or charge is imposed, the Grantee shall follow the applicable FCC notice requirements and rules and notify affected Customers, which notice may be by any means permitted under applicable law.

## **SECTION 6 - Customer Service Standards; Customer Bills; and Privacy Protection**

6.1. Customer Service Standards. The Franchising Authority hereby adopts the customer service standards set forth in Part 76, §76.309 of the FCC's rules and regulations, as amended. The Grantee shall comply in all respects with the customer service requirements established by the FCC.

6.2. Customer Bills. Customer bills shall be designed in such a way as to present the information contained therein clearly and comprehensibly to Customers, and in a way that (A) is not misleading and (B) does not omit material information. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Section 6.1, above, the Grantee may, in its sole discretion, consolidate costs on Customer bills as may otherwise be permitted by Section 622 (c) of the Cable Act [47 U.S.C. §542 (c)].

6.3. Privacy Protection. The Grantee shall comply with all applicable federal and state privacy laws, including Section 631 of the Cable Act and regulations adopted pursuant thereto.

6.4. Late Fees. The Grantee's late fees and disconnection policies and practices shall be nondiscriminatory, and any fees imposed on Customers shall apply equally in all parts of the Franchise Area without regard to the neighborhood or income level of the Customer and shall be in compliance with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

6.5. Spare Parts. Grantee shall have immediately available a sufficient supply of spare parts to make repairs in accordance with the requirements of this Franchise.

## **SECTION 7 - Oversight and Regulation by Franchising Authority**

7.1. Franchise Fees. The Grantee shall pay to the Franchising Authority a franchise fee in an amount equal to the maximum amount allowable by FCC regulations, which at the time of the execution of this Agreement is five percent 5% of annual Gross Revenues received from the operation of the Cable System to provide Cable Service in the Franchise Area. The payment of franchise fees shall be made on a quarterly basis and shall be due forty-five (45) days after the close of each first, second and third calendar quarter (i.e, May 15, August 15, November 15) and sixty (60) days after the close of the calendar year (last day of February). Each franchise fee

payment shall be accompanied by a report prepared by a representative of the Grantee showing the basis for the computation of the Franchise Fees paid during that period. In the event that the Franchise Fees or any other amounts herein required are not tendered on or before the due date, the interest on such fees and amounts shall accrue from the date due at the then current bank prime rate of interest as published in *The Wall Street Journal*.

## 7.2. Franchise Fees Subject to Audit.

7.2.1 Upon notice pursuant to Section 13.2 herein, during Normal Business Hours at Grantee's principal business office, the Franchising Authority shall have the right to inspect the Grantee's financial records used to calculate the Franchising Authority's franchise fees; provided, however, that any such inspection shall take place within two (2) years from the date the Franchising Authority receives such payment, after which period any such payment shall be considered final.

7.2.2. Upon the completion of any such audit by the Franchising Authority, the Franchising Authority shall provide to the Grantee a final report setting forth the Franchising Authority's findings in detail, including any and all substantiating documentation. In the event of an alleged underpayment, the Grantee shall have thirty (30) days from the receipt of the report to provide the Franchising Authority with a written response agreeing to or refuting the results of the audit, including any substantiating documentation. Based on these reports and responses, the parties shall agree upon a "Finally Settled Amount." For purposes of this Section, the term "Finally Settled Amount(s)" shall mean the agreed upon underpayment, if any, to the Franchising Authority by the Grantee as a result of any such audit. If the parties cannot agree on a "Final Settlement Amount," the parties shall submit the dispute to a mutually agreed upon mediator within sixty (60) days of reaching an impasse. In the event an agreement is not reached at mediation, either party may bring an action to have the disputed amount determined by a court of law.

7.2.3. Any "Finally Settled Amount(s)" due to the Franchising Authority as a result of such audit shall be paid to the Franchising Authority by the Grantee within thirty (30) days from the date the parties agree upon the "Finally Settled Amount." Once the parties agree upon a Finally Settled Amount and such amount is paid by the Grantee, the Franchising Authority shall have no further rights to audit or challenge the payment for that period. The Franchising Authority shall bear the expense of its audit of the Grantee's books and records.

7.3. Oversight of Franchise. In accordance with applicable law, the Franchising Authority shall have the right to, at its sole cost and expense and upon reasonable prior written notice and in the presence of Grantee's employee, periodically inspect the construction and maintenance of the Cable System in the Franchise Area as necessary to monitor Grantee's compliance with the provisions of this Franchise Agreement.



7.4. Technical Standards. The Grantee shall construct a facility, consisting of a set of closed transmission paths and associated signal generation, reception, and control equipment that is designed to provide Cable Service which includes video programming, and which is provided to multiple Subscribers within the Township and designed in accordance with the International Telecommunication Union - Telecommunication Standardization Sector G.984 Standard for gigabit passive optical networks.

7.5. Maintenance of Books, Records, and Files.

7.5.1. Books and Records. Throughout the term of this Franchise Agreement, the Grantee agrees that the Franchising Authority may review the Grantee's books and records regarding customer service performance levels in the Franchise Area to monitor Grantee's compliance with the provisions of this Franchise Agreement, upon reasonable prior written notice to the Grantee pursuant to the provisions of section 13.2 herein, at the Grantee's business office, during Normal Business Hours, and without unreasonably interfering with Grantee's business operations. All such documents that may be the subject of an inspection by the Franchising Authority shall be retained by the Grantee for a minimum period of twenty-four (24) months.

7.5.2. File for Public inspection. Throughout the term of this Franchise Agreement, the Grantee shall maintain at its business office, in a file available for public inspection during normal business hours, those documents required pursuant to the FCC's rules and regulations.

7.5.3. Proprietary Information. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in this Section, the Grantee shall not be required to disclose information which it reasonably deems to be proprietary or confidential in nature. The Franchising Authority agrees to treat any information disclosed by the Grantee as confidential and only to disclose it to those employees, representatives, and agents of the Franchising Authority that have a need to know in order to enforce this Franchise Agreement and who agree, through the execution of a non-disclosure agreement, to maintain the confidentiality of all such information. The Grantee shall not be required to provide Customer information in violation of Section 631 of the Cable Act or any other applicable federal or state privacy law. For purposes of this Section, the terms "proprietary or confidential" include, but are not limited to, information relating to the Cable System design, customer lists, marketing plans, financial information unrelated to the calculation of franchise fees or rates pursuant to FCC rules, or other information that is reasonably determined by the Grantee to be competitively sensitive. Grantee may make proprietary or confidential information available for inspection, but not copying or removal of information by the Franchising Authority's representative. In the event that the Franchising Authority has in its possession and receives a request under a state "sunshine," public records, or similar law for the disclosure of information the Grantee has designated as confidential, trade secret or proprietary, the Franchising Authority shall notify Grantee of such request and cooperate with Grantee in opposing such request at Grantee's expense.

7.6. Underpayments. If a Franchise Fee underpayment or any other underpayment is discovered as a result of an audit, Grantee shall pay, in addition to the amount due, interest at the

then current bank prime rate of interest as published in *The Wall Street Journal*, calculated from the date the underpayment was originally due until the date the Franchising Authority receives the payment.

## **SECTION 8 - Transfer of Cable System or Franchise of Grantee**

8.1. Neither the Grantee nor any other Person may transfer the Cable System or the Franchise without prior written notice to the Franchising Authority. No prior notice shall be required, however, for: (i.) a transfer in trust, by mortgage, hypothecation, or by assignment of any rights, title, or interest of the Grantee in the Franchise or in the Cable System in order to secure indebtedness, (ii.) a transfer to an entity directly or indirectly owned or controlled by Shenandoah Cable Television, LLC, or (iii) the sale, conveyance, transfer, exchange or release of fifty percent (50%) or less of its equitable ownership. Within thirty (30) days of receiving a notice of transfer, the Franchising Authority may, in accordance with FCC rules and regulations, notify the Grantee in writing of the additional information, if any, it requires regarding the legal, financial, and technical qualifications of the transferee or new controlling party.

## **SECTION 9 – Insurance, and Indemnity**

9.1. Insurance. Throughout the term of this Franchise Agreement, the Grantee shall, at its own cost and expense, maintain Comprehensive General Liability Insurance and provide the Franchising Authority certificates of insurance designating the Franchising Authority and its officers, boards, commissions, councils, elected officials, agents and employees as additional insureds and demonstrating that the Grantee has obtained the insurance required in this Section. Such policy or policies shall be in the minimum amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for bodily injury or death to any one person, and One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for bodily injury or death of any two or more persons resulting from one occurrence, and One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for property damage resulting from any one accident. Such policy or policies shall be non-cancelable except upon thirty (30) days prior written notice to the Franchising Authority. The Grantee shall provide workers' compensation coverage in accordance with applicable law. The Grantee shall indemnify and hold harmless the Franchising Authority from any workers compensation claims to which the Grantee may become subject during the term of this Franchise Agreement.

9.2. Indemnification. The Grantee shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Franchising Authority, its officers, employees, and agents acting in their official capacities from and against any liability or claims resulting from property damage or bodily injury (including accidental death) that arise out of the Grantee's construction, operation, maintenance, or removal of the Cable System, including, but not limited to, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, provided that the Franchising Authority shall give the Grantee written notice of its obligation to indemnify and defend the Franchising Authority within ten (10) business days of receipt of a claim or action pursuant to this Section. The Franchising Authority agrees that it will take all necessary action to avoid a default judgment and not prejudice the Grantee's ability to defend the claim or action. If the Franchising Authority determines that it is necessary for it to employ separate counsel, the costs for such separate counsel shall be the responsibility of the Franchising Authority.

9.2.1 Grantee shall not be required to indemnify the Franchising Authority for negligence or misconduct on the part of the Franchising Authority or its officials, boards, commissions, agents, or employees, including any loss or claims related to PEG access Channels in which the Franchising Authority or its designee participates, subject to Applicable Law.

## **SECTION 10 - System Description and Service**

10.1. System Capacity. During the term of this Agreement, the Grantee's Cable System shall be capable of providing Video Programming with reception available to its customers in the Franchise Area in accordance with the Cable Act.

10.2. Cable Service to School Buildings. Upon request, the Grantee shall provide, at no cost to the Franchising Authority, Basic Cable Service and Standard installation at one (1) outlet to each public or private grade school (K-12) building; not including "home schools," located in the Franchise Area within one hundred twenty-five (125) feet of the Grantee's distribution cable. Grantee may provide complimentary Basic Cable Service on the same terms to private schools as well. No charge shall be made for installation or service, except that Grantee may charge for installation beyond one hundred twenty-five (125) feet aerial distance of the cable plant and service for more than one (1) drop in each building. For the purposes of this section, the term "school" means an educational institution that receives funding pursuant to Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, 20 U.S.C. § 6301 et seq., as amended, and does not include "home schools."

10.3. Cable Service to Governmental and Institutional Facilities. Upon request, the Grantee shall provide, at no cost to the Franchising Authority, Basic Cable Service and Standard Installation at one outlet to each Public Building located in the Franchise Area within one hundred twenty-five (125) feet of the Grantee's distribution cable. No charge shall be made for installation or service, except that Grantee may charge for installation beyond one hundred twenty-five (125) feet aerial distance of the cable plant and service for more than one (1) drop in each building. Public Buildings are those buildings owned or leased by the Franchising Authority for municipal government administrative purposes, and shall not include buildings owned by, Franchising Authority but leased to third parties or buildings such as storage facilities at which government employees are not regularly stationed.

## **SECTION 11 - PEG Access Channel**

11.1. Grantee shall designate capacity on one (1) channel for a local Governmental Access Channel to be used for government video programming provided by the Franchising Authority. A local Government Access Channel may not be used to cablecast programs for profit, political or commercial fundraising in any fashion.

11.2. In the event the Franchising Authority or other PEG access user elects not to fully program its Channel, Grantee may reclaim any unused time on that channel.

11.3. The Franchising Authority and/or its access user designees shall indemnify Grantee for any liability, loss, or damage it may suffer due to violation of the intellectual property rights of third parties or arising out of the content of programming shown on the access channel and from claims arising out of the Franchising Authority's access channel rules or administration.

## **SECTION 12 - Enforcement and Revocation Proceedings**

12.1. Notice of Violation or Default and Opportunity to Cure. In the event the Franchising Authority believes that the Grantee has not complied with the material terms of the Franchise it shall notify the Grantee in writing with specific details regarding the exact nature of the alleged non-compliance or default.

12.1.1. Grantee's Right to Cure or Respond. The Grantee shall have forty-five (45) days from the receipt of the Franchising Authority's written notice: (A.) to respond to the Franchising Authority, contesting the assertion of non-compliance or default; or (B.) to cure such default; or (C,) in the event that, by nature of the default, such default cannot be cured within the forty-five (45) day period, initiate reasonable steps to remedy such default and notify the Franchising Authority of the steps being taken and the projected date that the cure will be completed.

12.1.2. Public Hearings. In the event the Grantee fails to respond to the Franchising Authority's notice or in the event that the alleged default is not remedied within forty-five (45) days or the date projected by the Grantee, the Franchising Authority shall schedule a public hearing to investigate the default. Such public hearing shall be held at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Franchising Authority that is scheduled at a time that is no less than ten (10) business days therefrom. The Franchising Authority shall notify the Grantee in writing of the time and place of such meeting and provide the Grantee with a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

12.1.3. Enforcement. Subject to applicable federal and state law, in the event the Franchising Authority, after such public hearing, determines that the Grantee is in default of any material provision of the Franchise, the Franchising Authority may:

(i). seek specific performance of any provision that reasonably lends itself to such remedy as an alternative to damages, or seek other equitable relief; or

(ii). in the case of a substantial default of a material provision of the Franchise, initiate revocation proceedings in accordance with the following:

(a) The Franchising Authority shall give written notice to the Grantee of its intent to revoke the Franchise on the basis of a pattern of non-compliance by the Grantee, including two or more instances of substantial non-compliance with a material provision of the Franchise. The notice shall set forth with specificity the exact nature of

the non-compliance. The Grantee shall have ninety (90) days from the receipt of such notice to object in writing and to state its reasons for such objection. In the event the Franchising Authority has not received a response from the Grantee or upon receipt of the response does not agree that the allegations of non-compliance have been or will be resolved, it may then seek revocation of the Franchise at a public hearing. The Franchising Authority shall cause to be served upon the Grantee, at least thirty (30) days prior to such public hearing, a written notice specifying the time and place of such hearing and stating its intent to request revocation of the Franchise

(b) At the designated public hearing, the Franchising Authority shall give the Grantee an opportunity to state its position on the matter, present evidence and question witnesses, in accordance with the standards of a fair hearing applicable to administrative hearings in the State of Maryland, after which it shall determine whether or not the Franchise shall be terminated. The public hearing shall be on the record and a written transcript shall be made available to the Grantee within ten (10) business days. The decision of the Franchising Authority shall be in writing and shall be delivered to the Grantee by certified mail. The Grantee may appeal such determination to an appropriate court, which shall have the power to review the decision of the Franchising Authority "de novo" and to modify or reverse such decision as justice may require.

12.2. Technical Violation. The Franchising Authority agrees that it is not its intention to subject the Grantee to penalties, fines, forfeitures or revocation of the Franchise for so-called "technical" breach(es) or violation(s) of the Franchise, which shall include but not be limited to the following:

12.2.1. in instances or for matters where a violation or a breach of the Franchise by the Grantee was good faith error that resulted in no or minimal negative impact on the Customers within the Franchise Area; or

12.2.2. where there existed circumstances reasonably beyond the control of the Grantee and which precipitated a violation by the Grantee of the Franchise, or which were deemed to have prevented the Grantee from complying with a term or condition of the Franchise.

12.3 No Removal of System. Grantee shall not be required to remove its Cable System or to sell the Cable System, or any portion thereof as a result of revocation, denial of renewal, or any other lawful action to forbid or disallow Grantee from providing Cable Service, if the Cable System is actively being used to facilitate any other services not governed by the Cable Act, or any portion thereof [47 U.S.C. §621 (b)].

#### 12.4 Termination.

12.4.1. If this Franchise expires without renewal and the federal renewal process has not been instituted, or if the Franchise is otherwise lawfully terminated or revoked, the Franchising Authority may, subject to applicable law, require Grantee to maintain and operate its cable System on a month-to-month basis, not to exceed six (6) months, until a new cable operator is selected.

12.4.2. The Franchising Authority may order the removal of the above-ground Cable System facilities and such underground facilities from the Franchise Area at Grantee's sole expense within a reasonable period of time as determined by the Franchising Authority. In removing its plant, Grantee shall refill, at its own expense, any excavation that it makes and shall leave all Rights-of-Way, public places and private property in as good a condition as that prevailing prior to Grantee's removal of its equipment without affecting electrical or telephone wires or attachments. The indemnification, insurance provisions and letter of credit shall remain in full force and effect during the period of removal, and Grantee shall not be entitled to, and agrees not to request, compensation of any sort therefore.

12.4.3. If Grantee fails to complete any removal required by Section 12 to the Franchising Authority's satisfaction, after written notice to Grantee, the Franchising Authority may cause the work to be done and Grantee shall reimburse the Franchising Authority for the costs and expenses incurred within thirty (30) days after receipt of an itemized list of the costs and expenses, or the Franchising Authority may recover the costs and expenses through the Grantee's security instruments if Grantee has not paid such amount within the foregoing thirty (30) day time period. Any costs and expenses incurred by the County regarding such removal shall include reasonably attorney's fees and costs and expenses for work conducted by the Franchising Authority's staff or its agents.

12.5 Payment on Termination. If this Franchise is revoked in accordance with the procedures set forth in this Section, and the Franchising Authority has implemented a Franchise Fee under this Franchise, the Grantee shall file with the Franchising Authority within thirty (30) days of the date of the termination, a financial statement, certified by Grantee's Accounting Department, showing the Gross Revenues received by the Grantee since the end of the previous calendar quarter. The Franchising Authority reserves the right to satisfy any remaining financial obligations, up to the date of revocation, of the Grantee to the Franchising Authority by utilizing the funds available in the letter of credit or other security provided by the Grantee.

### **SECTION 13 - Competitive Equity**

13.1. Purposes. The Grantee and the Franchising Authority acknowledge that there is increasing competition in the video marketplace among cable operators, direct broadcast satellite providers, telephone companies, broadband content providers and others; new technologies are emerging that enable the provision of new and advanced services to Town residents; and changes in the scope and application of the traditional regulatory framework governing the provision of video services are being considered in a variety of federal, state, and local venues. The Grantee and the Franchising Authority have agreed to the provisions in this Section to foster an environment where video service providers using the public rights-of-way can compete on a competitively neutral and nondiscriminatory basis; to encourage the provision of new and advanced services to Town residents, to promote local communications infrastructure investments and economic opportunities in the Town; and to provide flexibility in the event of subsequent changes in the law. The provisions of this Section be interpreted and applied with such purposes in mind.

### 13.2. New Video Service Provider.

13.2.1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement or any other provision of law, if any Video Service Provider ("VSP") (i.) enters into any agreement with the Franchising Authority to provide video services to subscribers in the Town, or (ii.) otherwise begins to provide video services to subscribers in the Town (with or without entering into an agreement with the Franchising Authority), the Franchising Authority, upon written request of the Grantee, shall permit the Grantee to construct and operate its Cable System and to provide video services to subscribers in the Town under the same agreement and/or under the same terms and conditions as apply to the new VSP. The Grantee and the Franchising Authority shall enter into an agreement or other appropriate authorization (if necessary) containing the same terms and conditions as are applicable to the VSP within sixty (60) days after the Grantee submits a written request to the Franchising Authority.

13.2.2. If there is no written agreement or other authorization between the new VSP and the Franchising Authority, the Grantee and the Franchising Authority shall use the sixty (60) day period to develop and enter into an agreement or other appropriate authorization (if necessary) that to the maximum extent possible contains provisions that will ensure competitive equity between the Grantee and other VSPs, taking into account the terms and conditions under which other VSPs are allowed to provide video services to subscribers in the Town.

13.3. Subsequent Change in Law. If there is a change in federal, state or local law that provides for a new or alternative form of authorization for a VSP to provide video services to Subscribers in the Franchise Area, or that otherwise changes the nature or extent of the obligations that the Franchising Authority may request from or impose on a VSP providing video services to subscribers in the Franchise Area, the Franchising Authority agrees that, notwithstanding any other provision of law, upon Grantee's written request the Franchising Authority shall: (i) permit the Grantee to provide video services to subscribers in the Franchise Area on the same terms and conditions as are applicable to a VSP under the changed law; (ii) modify this Agreement to comply with the changed law; or (iii) modify this Agreement to ensure competitive equity between the Grantee and other VSPs; taking into account the conditions under which other VSPs are permitted to provide video services to Subscribers in the Franchise Area. The Franchising Authority and the Grantee shall implement the provisions of this Section within sixty (60) days after the Grantee submits a written request to the Franchising Authority. Notwithstanding any provision of law that imposes a time or other limitation on the Grantee's ability to take advantage of the changed law's provisions, the Grantee may exercise its rights under this Section at any time, but not sooner than thirty (30) days after the changed law goes into effect.

13.4. Effect on This Agreement. Any agreement, authorization, right or determination to provide video services to subscribers in the Franchise Area under Sections 12.2 or 12.3 shall supersede this Agreement, and the Grantee, at its option, may terminate this Agreement or portions thereof, upon written notice to the Franchising Authority, without penalty or damages.

13.5. Video Service Provider. The term "Video Service Provider" or "VSP" shall mean any entity using the public rights-of-way to provide multiple Video Programming services to

subscribers, for purchase or at no cost, regardless of the transmission method, facilities, or technology used. A VSP shall include but is not limited to any entity that provides cable services, multichannel multipoint distribution services, broadcast satellite services, satellite delivered services, wireless services, and internet-Protocol based services.

#### **SECTION 14 - Miscellaneous Provisions**

14.1. Force Majeure. The Grantee shall not be held in default under, or in non-compliance with, the provisions of the Franchise, nor suffer any enforcement or penalty relating to noncompliance or default (including termination, cancellation or revocation of the Franchise), where such noncompliance or alleged defaults occurred or were caused by lightning strike, earthquake, flood, tidal wave, unusually severe rain, ice or snow storm, hurricane, tornado, or other catastrophic act of nature, riot, war, labor disputes, environmental restrictions, failure of utility service necessary to operate the Cable System, governmental, administrative or judicial order or regulation or other event that is reasonably beyond the Grantee's ability to anticipate or control. This provision also covers work delays caused by waiting for utility providers to service or monitor their own utility poles on which the Grantee's cable or equipment is attached, as well as unavailability of materials or qualified labor to perform the work necessary.

14.2. Notice. All notices shall be in writing and shall be sufficiently given and served upon the other party by hand delivery, first class mail, registered or certified, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, or by reputable overnight courier service and addressed as follows:

To the Franchising Authority:

Town of Emmitsburg, Maryland  
Attention: Town Manager  
300A South Seton Avenue  
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

To the Grantee:

Shenandoah Cable Television, LLC  
500 Shentel Way  
Edinburg, VA 22824  
Attention: Industry Affairs & Regulatory

with copies to:

Shenandoah Cable Television, LLC  
500 Shentel Way  
Edinburg, VA 22824  
Attention: General Counsel



14.3. Entire Agreement. This Franchise Agreement and any exhibits or addendums hereto constitute the entire agreement between the Franchising Authority and the Grantee and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous agreements, ordinances, representations, or understandings - whether written or oral -- of the parties regarding the subject matter hereof. Any agreements, ordinances, representations, or understandings or parts of such measures that are in conflict with or otherwise impose obligations different from the provisions of this Franchise Agreement are superseded by this Franchise Agreement.

14.4. Severability. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or other portion of this Franchise Agreement is, for any reason, declared invalid, in whole or in part, by any court, agency, commission, legislative body, or other authority of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct and independent portion. Such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof, which other portions shall continue in full force and effect.

14.5. Governing Law. This Franchise Agreement shall be deemed to be executed in the State where the Franchise Area is located, and shall be governed in all respects, including validity, interpretation and effect, and construed in accordance with, the laws of such State, as applicable to contracts entered into and performed entirely within the State.

14.6. Modification. No provision of this Franchise Agreement shall be amended or otherwise modified, in whole or in part, except by an instrument, in writing, duly executed by the Franchising Authority and the Grantee, which amendment shall be authorized on behalf of the Franchising Authority through the adoption of an appropriate resolution or order by the Franchising Authority, as required by applicable law.

14.7. No Third-Party Beneficiaries. Nothing in this Franchise Agreement is or was intended to confer third-party beneficiary status on any member of the public to enforce the terms of this Franchise Agreement.

14.8. Captions. Captions to sections throughout this Franchise Agreement are solely to facilitate the reading and reference to the sections and provisions of this Franchise Agreement. Such captions shall not affect the meaning or interpretation of this Franchise Agreement.

14.9. No Waiver of Rights. Nothing in this Franchise Agreement shall be construed as a waiver of any rights, substantive or procedural, which Grantee may have under federal or state law unless such waiver is expressly stated herein.

#### 14.10 Incorporation by Reference

(a) All presently and hereafter applicable conditions and requirements of federal, State and local laws, including but not limited to the rules and regulations of the FCC and the State where the Franchise Area is located, as they may be amended from time to time, are incorporated herein by reference to the extent not enumerated herein. All such general laws, rules and regulations, as amended, shall control the interpretation and performance of this Franchise to

the extent that any provision of this Franchise conflicts with or is inconsistent with such laws, rules or regulations.

(b) Should the State, the federal government or the FCC require Grantee to perform or refrain from performing any act the performance or nonperformance of which is inconsistent with any provisions herein, the Franchising Authority and Grantee will thereupon, if they determine that a material provision herein is affected, modify any of the provisions herein to reflect such government action.

14.11. Calculation of Time. Where the performance or doing of any act, duty, matter, payment, or operation is required hereunder and the period of time or duration for the performance or during thereof is prescribed and fixed herein; the time shall be computed so as to exclude the first day and include the last day of the prescribed or fixed period or duration of time. When the last day of the period falls on Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday, that day shall be omitted from the computation.

14.12. Authority to Amend. This Franchise may be amended at any time by written agreement between the parties.

14.13. Severability of Unlawful Provisions.

14.13.1. If any Section, subsection, paragraph, or provision of this Franchise is determined to be illegal, invalid, or unconstitutional by any court or agency of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall have no effect on the validity of any other Section, subsection, paragraph, or provision of this Franchise, all of which will remain in full force and effect for the term of the Franchise.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Franchise Agreement has been executed by the duly authorized representatives of the parties as set forth below, as of the last date set forth below:

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Franchising Authority

Town of Emmitsburg, Maryland

By:

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Title:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Grantee

Shenandoah Cable Television, LLC

By:

\_\_\_\_\_

Print Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Title:

\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

\_\_\_\_\_