

# BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(3)

## AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: January 15, 2002

**TITLE: Authorization to Join Triangle J Council of Government's Cable Television Regulatory Consortium**

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b> Manager's Office	<b>PUBLIC HEARING:</b> NO _X_
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> A. Resolution B. Service Agreement	<b>FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:</b> Robert W. Morgan, 918-7315

### PURPOSE

Triangle J Council of Governments has formalized its relationship with member governments that have sought technical and legal assistance with cable television administration; public, education, and government access television; and telecommunication regulatory matters. The purpose of this item is to request that the Board approve the Town joining the Triangle J Council of Governments Cable Television Regulatory Consortium.

### INFORMATION

Triangle J Council of Governments formed the Cable Television Regulatory Consortium in response to the needs of its smaller member governments to address their cable regulatory obligations. The Consortium will advocate for and protect the public's interest in the regulation and development of cable communication systems in the Triangle J Region; monitor and help resolve cable subscribers' concerns; and participate in the planning and implementation of community use of communication technologies which make use of the public right-of-way.

Robert W. Morgan, Town Manager, served on the Cable Consortium negotiation team which negotiated with Time Warner on behalf of customers in 20 jurisdictions to craft a model franchise. By developing a service agreement, Triangle J is formalizing the consortium.

The Town will pay an annual membership fee of \$5,000 for general administrative services in accordance with the schedule provided in Exhibit A. In the event that there is a cable television transfer of ownership, the agreement calls for an additional payment of \$3,850. There are sufficient funds in the budget to cover this cost. The costs of the services provided (Exhibit B) would be substantially higher if the town purchased them from the consortium as a non-member or from other service providers.

The following municipalities have joined:  
Apex, Fuquay-Varina, Garner, Orange County

Zebulon, Benson, Hillsborough, Wake Forest, Pittsboro  
Knightdale, Morrisville, Smithfield, Holly Springs  
Siler City, Pinehurst, Wilson, Oxford,

Members of the town's Cable Television Committee have reviewed and discussed the agreement at the November 2001 and January 2002 meetings.

**ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration recommends that the Board approve the Town joining the consortium.