

CATV ADVISORY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Teresa Mulvey Town Hall
Conference Room A, Westbrook, CT

Attendance: Elizabeth Siegel, Robert Mathis, Rick Stebbins (7:22), Kingman Snow. **Excused:** Mike Terry, Wayne Church, Rolf Peterson, Hank Robinson, Robert Zavod, Chuck Lewis. **Guests:** Comcast: John Bairos and Dan Matteson from Public Access.

Meeting called at 7:10PM – No Quorum, Holding a Committee Meeting of the Whole, Notes to be Ratified. Chairman Mathis suggested opening the agenda to allow Elizabeth Siegel to deliver the Treasurer's Report. There were no objections.

Treasurer's Report – Ms. Siegel reported no changes since February 2010 meeting.

Treasurers Report – 18 month CD came due on the 2/5 received \$2768.73 %1.0 rate

12 month CD 1.25% \$2821.30

Liberty 3yr \$2834.18 2.50% yield

Total \$8424.21

Checking \$9557.46

\$ 18081.67 Total plus \$2000.00 for the year.

She will continue to research interest rates for 6, 12 month and longer CDs as discussed in February as a result of a suggestion to reduce the checking account to a balance not more than five-thousand dollars. McCabe MOVED to approve the report. Stebbins SECONDED, carried.

Public Comments

Ms. Siegel complained that in November 2009 she was not advised that the meeting had been cancelled the night before. She came to the Westbrook Town Hall and waited for 35 minutes. She requested proper notification by phone since

she does not have internet. Mathis sincerely apologized and will make sure she is appropriately contacted in the future.

Mathis reported that Ms. McCabe said although she had not been present at any CATV Council meetings for the past 2 years due to a conflict with another committee, she had not received minutes for 2 years. Mathis updated the Clerk with the 'active' status of McCabe as a member of the Council.

Mathis commented on the importance of participation on this Council. Often times there aren't enough members to achieve a quorum and that puts a burden on the effectiveness of the Council. Each of the nine towns in the Region is entitled to one appointed rep by the Board of Education and an appointed rep by the **Board of Selectmen**. The largest town, Clinton, is entitled to a rep appointed by the Henry Carter Hull Library. Residents can find out who their rep is by referring the Town's Annual Report or contacting the First Selectman's office.

CATV Advisory Council Bylaws – Mathis was asked to find the Bylaws.

Correspondence

Mathis reported having received a Comcast payment from a Killingworth resident postmarked March that was addressed to the Council rather than the billing department of Comcast. Payment was given to Bairos to apply to her account. Any late fees will be waived.

Notice from the Conn Department of Public Utilities Docket #10-01-09 with a list of the (annual) Community Access Fees statewide. They range from \$5.05 to \$9.12. Our region pays \$6.59 currently. Bairos explained that the difference in fees is based on the annual funding per operator for franchise costs and the Consumer Price Index.

Mathis advised that AT&T U-Verse is asking their customers to connect to public access network so they can assess a fee and pass on those fees to the company handling the public access service. He receives fliers from AT&T regularly, recently advising service is not available in this area but that Dish or Satellite service is available.

Public Access Report

Dan reported the following highlights:

- Usage remains about the same as last reported. Currently working with Tri-Town Youth & Family on a Public Service Announcement involving 6 teens and 3 counselors.
- Seeking a high profile event (town parade maybe?) to showcase local access users production skills and access itself. This could be a great public outreach opportunity.

Mathis expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Dan for his continued dedication to the Public Access service. He congratulated Dan for communicating with our State Representatives whom we can ask for support.

Comcast Report

Bairos distributed copies of the Comcast Price Information as of April 24th, 2010. Coming increases will be less than the Consumer Price Index (2.8%). He also advised that Comcast has added 2 channels to the Hi Def Basic and moved one channel to Digital Preferred.

Mathis asked Bairos if any channels were going to be restored. No. The CSPAN and NECN are available on Basic service but you need digital box. Comcast is the only provider still offering a Basic Analog service.

Mathis again expressed concern that Comcast is not taking enough measures to compete with AT&T U-Verse – a mid-range package is strongly advised. Bairos is aware of the matter and announcements will be forthcoming.

Bairos said the Access Studio is committed to DPUC to adhere to the 3rd party process with Advisory input. Mathis expressed concern over potential of a private non-profit operator taking over the studio. He wants to insure that each town is guaranteed representation as is currently mandated. Bairos said all towns will be represented, that the Advisory Council still has regulatory authority and oversight of the Community Access Program, and further that Comcast is mandated by the DPUS to provide meaningful Community Access. That the burden of providing public access falls on the cable operator. Bairos said the concerns expressed will be taken into consideration.

Minutes of Previous Meetings (9/29/09 and 2/23/10)

Stebbins advised that the September 2009 minutes were approved in February. He MOVED to include this in these minutes, SECOND by Kingman.

Stebbins MOVED to approve the Minutes of the February 23rd Meeting as amended, Snow SECONDED. Discussion: Mathis advised a copy of the current Membership was attached to the Agenda. No modifications. Bairos requested that on page 2 of the 2-23-10 minutes the second sentence be changed to read: "Comcast *says* they would not consider a *studio* outside of the franchise area." Motion Carried.

Old Business

Annual Meeting Schedule for 2010: 2/23, 4/20, 6/15, 8/24 and 10/26/10. Plancon will send DPUC and Town Clerks a copy of this list.

New Business - None

Adjournment - Meeting Adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gale Plancon, Clerk