



CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL OF
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT
MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2008, Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Road, Route 117,
Groton, CT 06340

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Kelley, Shawn Greeley, Jerry Tobias, Anne Ingraham, Bill Hakkinen, Art Barton, Marie Crompton, Shane Devine

ABSENT: All present (with the exception of Ledyard, all Towns have vacancies on the council)

COMCAST REPRESENTATIVES: Sharon Codeanne & Dan Glanville

THAMES VALLEY COMMUNICATION REPRESENTATIVE: Carl Andersen

I. Recognition of members of the public for public comments – Meeting Guests: Mary McGrattan, Former Mayor of Ledyard & Ed Haberek, First Selectman for Stonington, CT.

II. Reports

A. Secretary's Report:

Hakkinen moved, Ingraham seconded the motion - the minutes of the November 8, 2007, Regular Meeting were unanimously approved as written.

B. Treasurer's Report:

This statement reflects the activity on Council's checking account since September 2007.

<i>Previous reported balance</i>	\$27,326.56
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CREDITS

Combined interest earned for November-December 2007:	\$4.69
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TOTAL	\$27,331.25
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EXPENSES

Jim Kelley – Mailing expenses	\$32.40
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St. John of God Parish – Kelley donation	\$100.00
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Art Barton – Refreshments for Nov. Meeting	\$52.76
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Val Koschmieder – steno services	\$100.00
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TOTAL	\$285.16
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<i>Current checking account balance</i>	\$27,046.09
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C. Comcast Progress Report - Sharon Codeanne handed out a list of Community Relations and Marketing items. Dan Glanville answered questions about the franchise agreement and a suspended docket item.

D. TVC Progress Report - Carl Andersen reported on TVC's monthly stats, rate change notice & their holiday campaign.

III. Old Business

A. Status of the third party public access provider: Glanville reported that no interest was received when trying to recruit a third party public access provider.

B. Review of Council goals: Kelley reviewed the goals.

IV. New Business

- A. Comcast offered to investigate the impact of the digital conversion on the ability to provide town-by-town narrowcasting: The advisory board is very interested in narrowcasting becoming available so that each town could have their own education and government channels (similar to TVC's plan) instead of the current system where all towns share the same channel(s). Glanville reports significant equipment is needed in the head end to narrowcast, there are no technical barriers but there are fiscal issues dealing with bandwidth allocation to get narrowcasting available on the current analog side. Glanville noted that when Comcast does convert its system to digital (in roughly 24 months) there could be more possibilities available to resolve the issue of providing channels to franchise towns (maybe channels could be offered franchise wide instead of narrowcasting).

The Council inquired about placing new education and government channels on Comcast's digital tier once they become available from TVC. The Council pointed out that TVC will be providing connections to all school districts and town halls in the franchise for the purpose of narrowcasting on TVC and will be sharing those connections with Comcast. Since each town will be brought online over a 3 year period (as TVC completes its build) and Comcast will eventually be all digital, a financially feasible plan could be developed to provide all towns and school districts access on Comcast.

Glanville commits to continue to look at this issue and keep the council updated with their progress by attending the September 08 meeting.

- B. Annual stipends: Comcast has sent out their check and TVC's has already been received.

V. Other Communications

- A. Comcast explained the offer of a free digital box to the analog customer with expanded basic services which is open to all inquiring customers.
- B. First Selectman Haberek asked what share of public access channels Stonington should be getting. Crompton & Greeley addressed the access to channels 19 & 2 for him.
- C. Mary McGrattan was looking for budget amount to get Ledyard working with narrowcasting. Crompton & Greeley offered to meet with her to discuss budget items.

VI. Survey of councilors

Tobias would like to see a broader selection on the analog channel line-up.

Kelley received a letter from AT&T saying they would like a representative from the advisory council to join their committee. Ingraham nominated Kelley, Greeley seconded. Kelley accepted and was voted in unanimously.

Hakkinen inquired about current vacancies on our committee. Kelley replied that we have 2 vacancies from Voluntown, 1 from N Stonington, 1 from Stonington & 3 from Groton. He requested an explanation on the NFL Network offerings. Carl Anderson explained the limitations they are under to offer the NFL Network.

Ingraham, Crompton, Greeley, Devine, & Barton had nothing further to report.

VII. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shawn Greeley
Secretary