



**CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL OF
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT
MEETING MINUTES**

January 14, 2010, Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Road, Route 117,
Groton, CT 06340

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Kelley, Jerry Tobias, Steve Garmon, Roger Roy, Art Barton, Shawn Greeley, Jim Loughlin
COMCAST REPRESENTATIVES: Sharon Codeanne, Frank Facchini
THAMES VALLEY COMMUNICATION REPRESENTATIVE: Carl Andersen
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT TELEVISION: Phil Butta
PUBLIC: Groton Superintendent of Schools, Paul Kadri,

I. Recognition of members of the public for public comments – SECTV Board Member, Phil Butta (282 Noank Ledyard Rd. Mystic), thanked the Council for their support of SECTV’s application to become a third party provider of public access. He reported that SECTV is in the process of setting up individual meetings with Comcast and TVC to go over their business plan. He also reported that there has not been any further action by the DPUC regarding the SECTV application. Facchini handed out copies of SECTV’s bylaws

II. Reports

A. Secretary's Report: - Garmon moved to accept the minutes from the 11/12/09 meeting, Barton seconded the motion. The motioned passed unanimously.

B. Treasurer's Report: Council's checking account activity for November & December 2010.

<i>Beginning balance 10/26/09</i>	\$34,921.85
CREDITS	
Combined interest earned 11/25/09 & 12/23/09:	\$5.53
TOTAL	\$34,927.38

EXPENSES

Val Koschmieder – steno services November Meeting	\$100.00
Jim Kelley Expenses	\$82.23
Art Barton Expenses	\$28.04

Current checking account balance \$34,717.11

C. Comcast Progress Report – Codeanne handed out a list of Community Relations items including Troop Greetings, and a Stand Up 2 Cancer On Demand. She also reported on channel tier changes, price changes and Comcast’s new Fancast XFINITY TV and On Demand Online services. Kelly asked if the offer of a free cable box is still available to digital service subscribers. Codeanne was not sure of the answer but will look into it and report back to Kelly.

Facchini reported that Comcast’s Public Access studio held an Open House December 15, 2009. He also distributed a list of 16 programs produced at the public access studio last month. Kelley asked Codeanne if Comcast could reallocate an additional portable camera from another Comcast facility to the Groton public access studio in order to augment the one and only camera the Groton facility has available for public use. Codeanne said she would check into this request.

D. TVC Progress Report - Carl Andersen reported TVC’s monthly statistics and new cable rates that take affect in January. He also reported that a language translator was recently added to TVC’s website and Internet coverage of the Olympics through NBCU that will be available to subscribers in February.

Garmon asked for clarification on the rate increase. Andersen explained it was due to programming costs. Loughlin asked if ala carte choices can be made for channels. Kelley explained that at this time, FCC regulations do not allow for ala carte service.

III. Old Business

- A. Status of the third party public access provider – covered earlier in the meeting.
- B. Review of Council goals:
 - 1) Advocate cost containment
 - 2) Work closely with TVC in the development of new franchise and the third party PEG cable access provider
 - 3) Continue to advocate for the needs of franchise members
 - 4) To continually review the cable channel lineup and advocate for customer requests
 - 5) Raise the public awareness of the advisory council, inform the community of the advisory council's role and solicit public opinions and needs.

IV. New Business

- A. Status of Stonington Education and Government Channels - Kelley reported that a new Stonington education representative has been identified. Kelley will meet with Stonington officials in hopes of reenergizing the project.
- B. The State Video Advisory Council is scheduled to meet on January 21. Kelley will update the Council on the State Council's activities at the next meeting.

Survey of councilors – no additional items reported by council members.

Groton Superintendent Kadri informed the council that Groton Public School Videographer Mark Russell has added new programming on Groton's Education Access Channel 19. The Groton School District recently completed a survey of parents regarding ideas for future programming on Channel 19. Kadri also discussed ideas for online learning opportunities. He would like to explore low cost alternatives to providing access to classroom instruction to students through the Internet. TVC and Comcast expressed interest in meeting with Kadri to discuss his ideas.

- V. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

