



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

March 11, 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, Art Barton, Shawn Greeley, Jim Loughlin
Paul Kadri, Kevin Bornstein, Bill Hakkinen

COMCAST REPRESENTATIVES: Dan Glanville, Frank Facchini

THAMES VALLEY COMMUNICATION REPRESENTATIVE: Carl Andersen

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT TELEVISION: Dan Weaver

I. Recognition of members of the public for public comments – None

II. Reports

A. Secretary's Report: - Hakkinen moved to accept the minutes from the 1/14/10 meeting, Garmon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Treasurer's Report: Council's checking account activity for January & February 2010.

<i>Beginning balance 12/23/09</i>	\$34,717.11
CREDITS	
Combined interest earned 1/27/10 & 2/24/10:	\$6.48
Deposit from Cable Services 1/15/10	\$5,000.00
TOTAL	\$39,723.59
EXPENSES	
Val Koschmieder – steno services January Meeting	\$100.00
Jim Kelley Expenses 1/14/10	\$44.34
Art Barton Expenses 1/14/10	\$36.31
<i>Current checking account balance</i>	<i>\$39,542.94</i>

C. Comcast Progress Report – Glanville reported that on March 29 Fox Reality will be removed, National Geographic Wild and Jewelry TV will be added. Black Cinema on Demand was added in February. Facchini handed out a list of programs produced at the public access studio.

Hakkinen asked if Fox Business Network was being considered for the line-up and if it was being carried by other Comcast systems. Glanville will get back to him.

Loughlin asked if NBC HD was available to Comcast. Glanville will look into the NBC status.

D. TVC Progress Report - Andersen reported TVC's monthly statistics and new cable rates that take effect in January. He also reported that Shaw Broadcasting is terminating their satellite transport of WGBH Channel 2. TVC is working with WGBH engineers to find another transport method to TVC. If they are not successful in working out a solution, CSPAN 3 will be carried instead.

III. Old Business

A. Status of the third party public access provider – Weaver reported that a technical meeting was held at the DPUC. The DPUC suggested that the parties seek mediation. A second meeting was held to discuss the issues. Items that the Cable operators are seeking are – they would like to have a non-profit up and running and established before agreeing to hand over PEG responsibilities. Comcast and TVC will not provide extra funding – Comcast will provide temporary housing for transmitter equipment but not the studio – Comcast and TVC will provide technical support. Also SECTV

and Comcast are looking to see if there are any funds that were put into escrow after the first application.

Weaver asked if the Advisory Council would consider donating funds to SECTV for public access equipment. Kelly responded that the council would consider donating money but would like to see a solid business plan first. It was too premature to discuss an actual funding level.

Hakkinen thinks if SECTV does get approval to be the third party provider, they should find a location first and completely set-up operations before making any switch over to a new site. Anderson stated that TVC would like to see SECTV have one year of operating costs in the bank to ease any worries about SECTV's viability.

B. Status of Stonington Return Line – The return line is at the High School but needs a 100 foot connector gap finished off. Once the gap is complete, TVC could light up the line and share with Comcast. The next step is to find the Town and BOE's desire to run and program the channel.

C. 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. Nomination Committee for Election of Officers at the May 2010 meeting – Kelly appointed Art Barton chairman of the nomination committee. He will ask Barton to poll councilors to see if anyone is interested in becoming an officer of the council.

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

V. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

