



CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL OF
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT
MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 2009, Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Road, Route 117,
Groton, CT 06340

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Kelley, Jerry Tobias, Bill Hakkinen, Steve Garmon, Roger Roy, Art Barton, Shane Devine, Shawn Greeley

ABSENT: Sharon Codeanne & Jim Loughlin

COMCAST REPRESENTATIVES: Frank Facchini

THAMES VALLEY COMMUNICATION REPRESENTATIVE: Carl Andersen

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT TELEVISION (SECTV): SECTV Board Members - Tom Murphy, Helen Rush, David Bishop, H.L. Chrissos, Vicki Anderson, Lee Moore, Bill Satti & Mark Samos

I. Recognition of members of the public for public comments – none present.

II. Reports

A. Secretary's Report: Greeley moved to accept the minutes of the 9/19/meeting, Garmon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Treasurer's Report:

This statement reflects the activity on Council's checking account during September & October 2009.

Beginning balance (8/26/09) \$35,076.57

CREDITS

Combined interest earned 9/24/09 & 10/26/09: \$5.94

TOTAL \$35,082.51

EXPENSES

Val Koschmieder – steno services September Meeting \$100.00

Jim Kelley Expenses \$17.60

Steve Garmon Expenses \$14.44

Art Barton Expenses \$28.62

Current checking account balance \$34,921.85

C. Comcast Progress Report – Facchini read the Comcast report. The report included marketing items, channel changes, price increase and changes in phone dialing starting November 14th. Facchini passed out a Community Access program list of 16 shows recently produced at the access studio.

D. TVC Progress Report - Carl Andersen reported on TVC's monthly statistics and new channel additions.

III. Old Business

A. Status of the third party public access provider. – SECTV presentation to the Advisory Council: SECTV Board member, Dan Weaver presented SECTV's public access mission and their vision of public access. Weaver also introduced members of the SECTV board along with their work and volunteer experience. SECTV Board member and Treasurer, Tom Murphy presented SECTV's proposed business plan for the first three years of operation along with budget projections. A component of the business plan is fundraising which will primarily be used for new equipment. SECTV is also planning on staying in the current Comcast facility for the short term. They also are expecting Comcast to donate all of the current public access equipment to SECTV.

The council asked if the number of cable subscribers does not increase (as SECTV expects it to) and actually decreases, how will SECTV deal with a drop in cable subscriber contributions to public access. Murphy

grants will offset the loss. Murphy also noted that SECTV will have a commercial side of the operations that can be hired out to make television ads, as well as private and commercial videos. All profits of the commercial side would be turned into the public access side of SECTV.

Councilors questioned where the escrow monies (about \$48,000) that were set aside during the first third party hearings in 2006 were in the business plan. Murphy explained that Comcast has told them the funds do not exist anymore. Councilors asked SECTV to check with the DPUC to see if they are still required to provide the escrow funds. The Advisory Council would also like to see how much money the cable providers would provide to the third party for start-up costs. Any escrow or cable provider contributions could greatly affect the business plan. Weaver asked if the advisory council would donate to the third party. The consensus was to wait and see what the cable providers would provide and the resolution to the escrow account.

Kelly also asked SECTV to provide the council with a copy of the SECTV bylaws. Facchini said he would send the bylaws to Kelly next week.

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. Council representation on Statewide Video Provider Council: Tobias moved to have Kelley represent the advisory council on the Statewide Council. Hakinnen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. Status of Stonington Education / Government Channels.: Kelley reported that Stonington is not as far along as he had hoped due to town staff changes and the elections. He will meet with the new staff members soon. Kelley hopes that by the end of the year there will progress.
- C. Status of Ledyard Government Channel: They are actively looking into live streaming on the Internet with several companies. Cable TV turned out to be too expensive. Hakinnen will check with Mary McGratten to see if Ledyard has looked into PEGPETIA.
- D. The Advisory Council received a DPUC request for written comments regarding the council thoughts on whether the DPUC has jurisdiction to hear Third Party Access proceedings under the new cable and video service provider laws. After some discussion, the council agreed to have Kelly (with some assistance from Greeley) to respond to the DPUC questions.

V. Survey of councilors With the exception of Greeley, council members had nothing to report. Greeley did receive an email correspondence from a new Comcast customer in the Mystic area. The new customer was not happy about how the appointment(s) for installation of service was not adhered to. Greeley forwarded the complaint to Codeanne. Facchini will remind her to let the council know how the complaint was resolved.

VI. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

