



CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL OF
SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

March 13, 2014, Regular Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Road, Route 117,
Groton, CT 06340

IN ATTENDANCE: Bruce Edwards, Jim Loughlin, Steve Garmon, Jim Kelley, Leo Palmieri, Dean Antipas and Shawn Greeley

ABSENT: Bill Hakkinen

COMCAST REPRESENTATIVES: Sharon Codeanne, Frank Facchini

THAMES VALLEY COMMUNICATION REPRESENTATIVE: Alexa Shelton

Recognition of members of the public for public comments: None

I. Reports

A. Secretary's Report: Minutes from the 9/12/13 and 11/14/13 meetings were entered. Kelley motioned to accept the minutes; Palmieri seconded. Motion approved with 5 ayes and 2 abstentions (Antipas and Greeley).

B. Treasurer's Report:

This statement reflects the activity on Council's checking account during November - December 2013 and January - February 2014.

Beginning balance 10/25/13 \$ 12,440.99

CREDITS

Combined interest earned 11/26 and 12/24/13	.20
Combined interest earned 1/27 and 2/26/14	.25
Deposits (Comcast and TVC checks for \$2,500 each)	5,000.00

EXPENSES

Val Koschmieder, ck #796 (11/14/13)	100.00
Jim Loughlin, ck #795 (11/14/13)	54.38

Current checking account balance \$ 17,287.06

Loughlin requested Treasurer Garmon to note in the Treasurer's Report specifics of deposits so the information can be included in the meeting minutes. Edwards is seeking clarification about earned interest and filing tax returns for same.

Loughlin motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report; Palmieri seconded. Approved.

C. Comcast Progress Report: Sharon Codeanne reported on Community Relations and Marketing items.

- Comcast Annual Cares Day scheduled for April 26 at a location to be determined.
- The Internet Essentials program for low-income families has been extended.
- Donation of \$5,000 made to CT Special Olympics for its Young Athlete Program.
- \$3.7 million grant to The ARC to expand digital technology.
- Beginning 3/14, ten (10) channels will be added to the TV Go app for live streaming.
- Beginning 3/11, customers will be able to download the new XFINITY My Account app.
- Channel name and location changes.

Access Operations: Operations will officially transition to SEC-TV effective March 31, 2014. Frank Facchini presented a grant request to the Council for funding to support the construction of the new Community Access Television studio, which is located in the Groton Shopping Plaza. The request is for a one-time grant in the amount of \$8,131.80 to offset a portion of the expense involved in constructing and installing the lighting grid for the new studio.

There was considerable discussion about PURA regulations for PEG-PETIA, transition of remaining funds to SEC-TV, financial records for 2013, proposed budget to include set up costs and potential funding for 2014, and the new CATV studio project. Questions by the Council were answered by Facchini and Codeanne.

Loughlin motioned to request a copy of the financial report for SEC-TV public access for 2013; Antipas seconded. The motion passed with 4 ayes, 2 nays (Palmieri and Kelley), and 0 abstentions.

- D. TVC Progress Report: Alexa Shelton reported on TVC and its community involvement.
- On Demand system: in addition to current content, it will offer new HD content from Animal Planet beginning 4/1.
 - Military Channel rebranded as American Heroes Channel.
 - Continued growth with the addition of new employees; open positions are listed on TVC's website.
 - Addition of an intern from Ella T. Grasso Technical School to assist with technical projects and marketing.
 - TVC is exclusive Presenting Sponsor for the Groton Parks and Recreation 2014 summer special events. TVC also provides free WiFi at the William Seeley School through the recreation program.

II. Old Business

- A. Grant request review and awards – CTACSC GRANT REQUEST – NORTH STONINGTON
Edwards noted a change from “North Stonington” to “Discussion from Participating Towns”.

Ledyard: Edwards informed Council that Ledyard has purchased its equipment, which is expected to be delivered on 3/23/14.

Stonington: Kelley reported Stonington has its equipment.

Groton: Greeley reported the purchase of two robotic cameras providing 360 coverage, which have been installed at the Groton Senior Center. A control center provides the ability to televise live productions. Greeley invited Council members to tour the facility.

- B. Increase/Review Membership – Update and discuss ideas to propel participation and increase CTACSC councilor appointments
Edwards has mailed letters to various towns seeking active participation from the respective town councils. Participation is needed from Voluntown. Loughlin stated he is focusing on the same area.
- C. Status Update of CTACSC Information Video Production for Public Access
Hakkinen was absent; report deferred to next meeting.

III. New Business

- A. Report on SVAC
Edwards reported on the Statewide Video Advisory Council (SVAC) meeting he attended. Kelley provided background information about the SVAC. Loughlin requested copies of SVAC's meeting minutes; Edwards will provide Loughlin with contact information.

- B. Discussion of CTACSC mission and proactive approach to support our constituency
Edwards stated he would like to have open discussions between the cable providers and this Council to assist in resolving any issues between the cable providers and the consumers. He would like the Council to increase its presence in SE CT to become more known and to exercise its responsibility as a council.
- C. Nomination Committee Discussion – Jim Loughlin
Prior to the next meeting, Loughlin intends to contact each member to see if there is any interest in being nominated for any of the four Council positions. Edwards will research Roberts Rules of Order regarding nominations (i.e., nominations from the floor).

IV. Communications
None reported.

- V. Adjournment** – Kelley motioned; Garmon seconded to adjourn meeting at 6:34 p.m. Approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Leo K...", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.