

P.O. Box 323
Groton, CT 06340-0323

Email: CTACSC@northstonington.k12.ct.us
Web site: www.ctacsc.org

Bill Hakkinen, Secretary

CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT – MEETING MINUTES

January 11 2007, Regular Meeting, 5:31 p.m.
Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Road, Route 117, Groton, CT 06340

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Kelley, Jim Griffith, Shawn Greeley, Marie Crompton, Jerry Tobias, Anne Ingraham, Patricia Ostrout, Bill Hakkinen, Allen Palmer.

ABSENT: Art Barton, Clint Kennedy.

COMCAST REPRESENTATIVE: Sharon Codeanne

THAMES VALLEY COMMUNICATION REPRESENTATIVE: Carl Andersen

SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT TELEVISION: Frank Facchini and SECTV Board members State Rep. Diana Urban, Ms. Chris Chrissos, Ms. Vicki Anderson, Mr. Dan Weaver, Mr. Phil Butta, Mr. David Bishop..

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

II. Reports

A. Secretary's Report:

Hakkinen moved, Crompton seconded a motion - the minutes of the May 11, 2006, Regular Meeting were unanimously approved as distributed. Hakkinen moved, Crompton seconded a motion - the minutes of the September 14, 2006, Regular Meeting were unanimously approved as distributed, with Hakkinen abstaining. (There was no Regular Meeting in November 2006.)

B. Treasurer's Report:

This statement reflects the activity on Council's checking account during the months of September through December 2006.

Previous reported balance \$23,391.38

CREDITS

Interest payments for the four months:

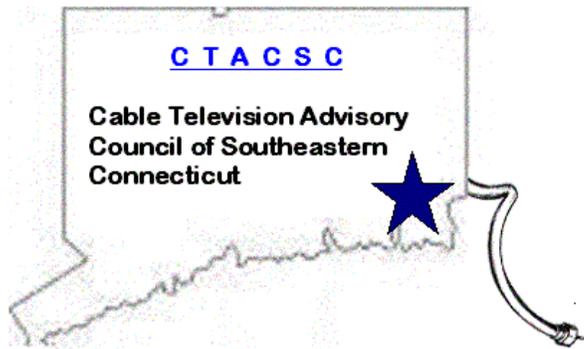
| | |
|-----------|-------------|
| September | \$2.18 |
| October | 1.85 |
| November | 1.91 |
| December | <u>2.03</u> |
| | \$7.97 |

TOTAL \$ 23,399.35

EXPENSES

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Jim Griffith – Refreshments | 87.31 |
| Jim Kelley –Administrative expenses | 18.94 |
| Moreene Nahornick – Steno services, Sep meeting | 75.00 |
| Bill Hakkinen – Mailing minutes of Sep meeting | <u>26.30</u> |
| TOTAL | \$207.55 |

Current Checking Account Balance \$23,191.80



- C. Comcast Report – Sharon Codeanne handed out the following; a list of Community Relations and Marketing items since the September 2006 meeting; copies of emails from Comcast representatives to the CTACSC explaining recent customer complaints; the new price schedule to be effective February 1 2007; and the current channel lineup. Frank Faccini presented the Community Access report.
- D. TVC Report – Carl Andersen reported that TVC had hoped to be complete in the Town of Groton, but ran into some issues with mapping and paperwork with pole owners (SBC and CL&P) – the Town is about 90% complete. TVC is also increasing rates effective February 1 2007 – Total Standard Cable is increase 9.5%, with the rate guaranteed until January 1 2009. Andersen reported they are on target to complete their five-town build-out in the 5 years allotted, including being in Stonington in 2007, and to the outlying towns of Ledyard and Voluntown in 2009. Jerry Tobias asked about the status of the AT&T efforts to be in Connecticut – Codeanne replied that they are making plans to move into southwestern Connecticut during this year. The New England Cable Television Association (NECTA) has a lawsuit pending, but there is no injunction in place, so AT&T is proceeding.
- E. Southeastern CT Television – will report under New Business.

III. Old Business

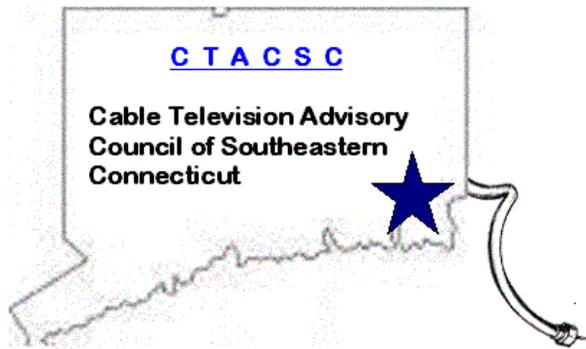
None.

IV. New Business

- A. Frank Faccini introduced the Board members of SECTV. They all spoke on his behalf in support of SECTV's application as the 3rd party PEG provider. Faccini will be seeking a new Docket for his application as a PEG provider for the franchise area. Faccini was encouraged to have his Board carefully review and advise on his business financial plan, since there were some issues the last time on this topic. He replied that there was some difference of opinion on the status of equipment suitability, and that he was not aware of escrow funds which would be available to him. Chairman Kelley encouraged him to provide copies of the business plan to CTACSC members who could provide individual feedback to better ensure a sound presentation; and that he, Chairman Kelley, would try to facilitate a meeting of the minds with Comcast and TVC; and that he would also do this with any other bona fide 3rd party applicant. Faccini then mentioned that there was some discussion that Comcast preferred to not proceed on the 3rd party PEG issue until after their franchise renewal process was complete, which is in 2009. Andersen confirmed that TVC's counsel had heard from the DPUC attorney that Comcast would prefer to wait until after the franchise renewal, and that TVC is supportive of this position. The CTACSC questioned the value of waiting so long – all present agreed that the PEG issue is a key part of a renewal application. The consensus of the CTACSC is that the 3rd party issue should proceed alongside the Comcast franchise renewal. Chairman Kelley asked for an official response from Comcast as to the reasoning – Codeanne replied she would follow-up and get back to the Council.
- B. Codeanne reported that Comcast's Dan Glanville is receptive to discussing alternatives on the issue of narrowcasting; Chairman Kelley asked that he attend the March 8, 2007, CTACSC meeting and present his suggestions.
- C. Chairman Kelley expressed dissatisfaction that both Cable providers are increasing rates – Codeanne replied that Comcast did not have a price increase last year. There was some question as to when Comcast did have the price increase. Andersen supported Codeanne's argument that programming costs are escalating, and suggested the CTACSC try to support a la carte pricing for sports programming, which is where the largest increases are taking place. Palmer reported that in Yonkers, NY Cablevision is able to offer the YES network as a single-channel price option.

V. Other Communications -

None.



VI. Comments from Council Members

Crompton – Does not consider pricing for Cable TV or high-speed Internet out of line, but is discouraged that Comcast corporate is so unwilling to give back to the community in the form of a state-of-the-art PEG facility.

Griffith – None.

Ingraham – Are there any vacancies on the CTACSC? One from Groton, and a search is on – one for Voluntown, and Jeanne Robbins (who filled in for Jim Griffith temporarily) is not interested.

Palmer – None.

Greeley – TVC has connected the Town of Groton’s government access channel to their head-end at the City Municipal Building. Groton government access now has separate fiber connections to Comcast and TVC.

Hakkinen – Handed out typed Bylaws for review and discussion at the next CTACSC meeting.

Tobias – Congratulated Comcast for their local community support. Indicated that the corporation is less attuned to local needs.

Ostrout – None.

VI. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Hakkinen