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Bill Hakkinen, Secretary

CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT MEETING MINUTES

January 12, 2006, Regular Meeting, 5:38 p.m.

Groton Public Library, 52 Newtown Road, Route 117, Groton, CT 06340

IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Kelley, Jeanne Robbins, Patricia Ostrout, Marie Crompton, Jerry Tobias, Allen Palmer, Shawn Greeley, Anne Ingraham, Bill Hakkinen; Clint Kennedy (arrived at 6:00 p.m.)

ABSENT: Art Barton, Frank Facchini (Southeastern Connecticut Television Rep.)

COMCAST REPRESENTATIVES: John Bairos

THAMES VALLEY COMMUNICATION: Carl Andersen

Stenographer: Moreene Nahornick.

I. Recognition of members of the public - Jim Loughlin, 35 West Mystic Avenue, Mystic

II. Reports

A. The minutes of the November 10, 2005 meeting were approved unanimously.

B. Treasurer's Report

Expenses -Mailing - \$55.92 for November to Jim Kelley

Refreshments - \$93.08 for September to Jim Kelley, \$94.26 for November to Jeanne Robbins

Steno Services - \$150.00 for June & November to Moreene Nahornick

Mileage - \$122.38 for December to Jim Kelley for meetings in New Britain and Berlin with DPUC concerning PEG with Comcast, Thames Valley, Frank Facchini.

Income Interest for November \$1.63 and December \$1.50 a total of \$3.18

Current Balance – Communications Account - \$333.70

Current Balance – Council Meeting Account - \$218.16

Current Balance - Checking Account - \$19,289.50

C. Comcast Report - Local technicians participated in Groton Lights Parade. Corporate sponsorship was to the Tommy Fund.

2006 sees a reduction in service and equipment prices. Basic service has not had a price increase, stays at \$10.25 per month, while most other packages will see a rate increase. Spring initiative agreement has been reached to add CTN to the basic tier. New programming includes PBS children's program Sprout and NFL Network.

Kelley stated that a number of complaints have been received from people with analog systems they are not receiving the TV Guide Channel.

Bairos's response – Comcast looked over which channel to drop so they could provide CTN. A TV Guide can be found through other sources, such as the paper, the magazine, etc.

Tobias said two areas people complain about are the price increases and channel changes. Jerry quoted Leon Festinger and George A. Miller on how realignment of channels has messed things up and how it affects the public. Taking away the TV Guide Channel doesn't offer any help with the confusion caused by realignment.

Crompton asked why does Comcast need to continuously change the channel line up.

Bairos' response – Comcast wants to line up the channels in this area so it lines up with the other Comcast franchises in Connecticut.

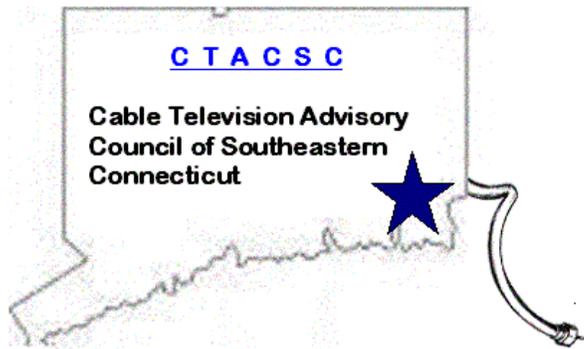
Tobias commented that Comcast is making it very difficult to be an analog subscriber.

Kelley asked why Comcast couldn't put back the TV Guide, because it has withdrawn two other channels?

Bairos stated that at the next CTACSC meeting he will bring Comcast's marketing manager, also he would take back the concerns to Comcast and get back to the Council.

Tobias asked why Comcast does not give any information on what's playing on the preview channel?

Bairos response that he will have to get back to the Council with that information.



D. Thames Valley Communication Report – The Holiday campaign has been completed with over \$5,000.00 raised and donated to The Big Brother, Big Sister organization.

For the fourth quarter construction - 22.39 strand miles, 21.92 coax miles and 8.51 fiber miles have been installed. During December 57 service calls were answered in a timely manner. Installations were complete in less than five days. 89% of calls were answered within 13 seconds and 99.8% were answered within 2 minutes.

Palmer asked when TVC will be in Mystic-- he also asked if TVC would provide any advance notice as to what parts of the area they are the planning to come to and when.

Andersen's response – When TVC comes in an area they do a mailing and their sales force makes calls. They don't want to announce too far in advance where they are going due to competition with Comcast. Anderson mentioned cable installation should be complete in five years.

Hakkinen asked if the five-year plan was possible to complete towns such as Ledyard & Voluntown?

Andersen's response was TVC's goal is to meet that objective.

III. Old Business

A. Status of the third party public access provider – Due to Frank Facchini's absence Kelley addressed that Facchini submitted a better financial plan and there is a DPUC meeting, Thursday, January 19 which Kelley plans on attending and testifying.

Greeley stated that late files have been posted on the DPUC web site. Comcast has withdrawn their support of Facchini on the grounds of insufficient management expertise. TVC says the jury is still out and is hopeful that Facchini can rally SECT's board to change management.

Kelley will call Facchini on behalf of the Cable Advisory Council with an offer of help.

Greeley stated Facchini has switched to an attorney who is more informed on DPUC procedures.

B. Report on Web page progress (www.CTACSC.org) – Robbins addressed this saying that the Web site is up and running and to contact Cindy Vierra (cindy@designbycindy.com) with any items to be posted. Items sent to her must be electronic documents.

Tobias suggested one person be in charge of submissions to Web site and items should be censored to be sure they follow CTACSC guidelines. Kelley suggested that items to be submitted should be brought to Cable Advisory meetings.

IV. New Business

A. Late file exhibit relating to narrowcasting and testimony at January 19, 2006 hearing – Late file exhibit relates to March 2005 minutes discussed with Kristen from Comcast. Narrowcasting support information is in letters of intent Jim Kelley has received, and he will testify. Stonington, North Stonington and Ledyard Superintendents are eager to see narrowcasting in their towns.

Tobias, Hakkinen and Kelley attended a Ledyard Town Council meeting. Kelley presented the idea of narrowcasting, which was received favorably by the Council.

Kelley stated that Comcast should see the need for narrowcasting.

B. Survey of Councilors – Kelley expressed unhappiness with Comcast and price increases, loss of TV Guide service for analog users. Questioned if Comcast intended to continue to reduce service to analog subscribers.

Bairos responded – Comcast has not increased prices to analog subscribers; the DPUC does have a ceiling for limited basic service These are channels 2-22. Expanded basic did increase \$0.75.

Andersen stated that TVC has guaranteed no price increases through December 2006.

Kelley asked that Bairos find out how many basic Comcast customers there are and report back at the next meeting.

Greeley – Wanted to know why there is such a price difference between Comcast cable & TVC.

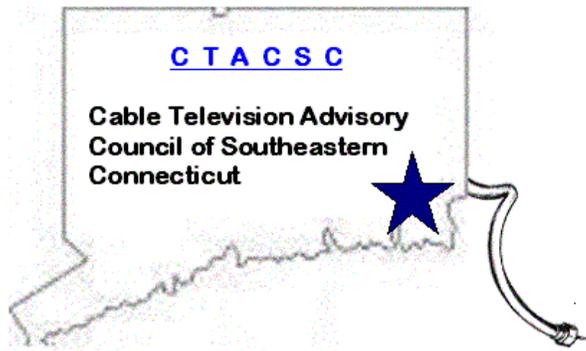
Kennedy – Restated request of narrowcasting on behalf of Stonington.

Tobias – 1. Ledyard High School is interested in narrowcasting. 2. Congratulations to Jim Kelley on his presentation to the Ledyard Town Council.

Crompton – Groton Public Schools have been successful when Comcast didn't believe in them and other towns should have the same opportunity.

Ingraham – Echoed Crompton's view and feels there is conspiracy against analog customers.

VI. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.



Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Hakkinen