

CACSCC MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 23, 2014
East Haven

David Weinberg called the Cable Advisory Council of South Central CT meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

Meeting: 7 Members/ 4 Towns present

Those present were: David Weinberg, Guilford; Mary Bigelow, North Branford; Joanne Wentworth, North Branford; Bill Choti, North Branford; Margot Hardenbergh, Branford; Steve Feust, Madison; Chad Roy, Branford; John Bairos, Comcast.

Those absent were: Terri Cain, Guilford; Terri Fiondella, Guilford; Laura Parisi, Wallingford; John Woods, Madison; Bill Biski, East Haven; Tom Dacey, Wallingford.

SPEAKER

State Representative Vincent Candelora did not attend.

COMCAST REPORT

John Bairos reported the new customer service options now available through Comcast. The options consist of a 24 hour/7days a week call center, internet chat on line, bills can now be paid at Western Union locations, self-install kits, and a partnership with UPS in order to make it more convenient for customers to do returns.

Comcast is in partnership with CSPAN where they have put together an annual, national contest that is called CSPAN Student Camp. Here a theme is chosen and middle school and high school students create a 5 minute documentary based on that theme. A few years ago a student from Hand High School in Madison was the winner and received a \$5,000 prize. Submissions for next contest are due on January 20, 2015. There is a specific website and letter available on line for those interested.

David Weinberg wanted to discuss a letter from Comcast requesting a waiver of the 30 day notification effective September 29, 2014. It included how the Hallmark Movie Channel will be renamed Hallmark Movies and Mysteries. John Bairos explained how it is a programmer change not a company change. Programmers will be able to change the names of their channels whenever they choose. In case of insufficient notice of that change Comcast is to notify PURA. That is the reason for the waiver.

A web page has been created with a dedicated telephone number to notify customers of program changes and to see when certain contracts are going to expire or renew. There have been two channel additions and relocations at no additional cost to customers. Univision Deportes has been added and National Geographic has been relocated to a

lower tier making it more accessible to customers. The Hub Network is being re-branded as Discovery Family Channel and Xfinity 3D is being dropped.

Comcast is still transitioning customers with old packages that are no longer available to current packages. Comcast has told the state that the public is being notified of that transition.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

David Weinberg entertained the members review of the minutes from the August meeting which lacked a quorum.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A motion was made by Steve Fuest, seconded by Margot Hardenbergh to accept the appointment of the new recording secretary, Denise Wentworth. All members approved the appointment.

David Weinberg discussed a phone call received from someone who was unhappy with the East Haven website. The person was informed that all meetings for Public Access are public and recommended they attend the next meeting to discuss their concerns.

Reappointment letters were handed in, David Weinberg requested Guilford's letter. Chad will have to resubmit for Branford. He submitted it back in June, 2014 but council has no record.

PEGPETIA STATUS

John Bairos informally heard funding will be available next year. Supposedly slated and CACSCC will receive funds.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Due to lack of a quorum at the August 21, 2014 meeting, the July 2014 finance report was again submitted, by Treasurer Tom Dacey.

It reads as follows:

Total Expenses: \$168.27

Total Deposits: \$1,170.00

Checking Balance: \$3,732.25

Interest on CD:

6/30: .60

7/31: .62

CD Balance: \$14,659.40

Total Cash Reserve: \$18,391.65

The report for September 2014, submitted by Treasurer Tom Dacey, reads as follows:

Total Expenses: \$203.98
Recording Secretary: \$90.00
Postmaster: \$74.00
Website: (\$39.98) \$19.99 month
Total Deposits: \$2,340.00
Checking Balance: \$5,868.27
Interest on CD:
8/31: .62
9/30: .60
CD Balance: \$14,660.62

The Council approved the Treasurer's reports.
Presentation of the 2014-2015 Budget, submitted by Treasurer Tom Dacey, was reviewed by the members. A motion was made by Chad Roy, seconded by Margot Hardenbergh. It was approved by the council and reads as follows:

05/14/2013 Comcast Funding: \$2,000.00
07/01/2013 Certificate of Deposit: \$14,651.58
Total Income: \$16,651.58

Proposed Expenses for 2013-2014:

Recording Secretary for Year: \$540.00
Insurance Cost for Council: \$3,505.00
Alliance for Community Media Membership: \$575.00
Web Housing for the Year: \$240.00
PO Box: \$75.00
Secretary of the State: \$50.00
Total Expenses: \$4985.00

Proposed Future Deposits for 2013-2014:

(Payments for Insurance)

EHTV: \$586.00
NHTV: \$586.00
BCTV: \$586.00
MADISON TV: \$586.00
TOTOKET TV: \$586.00
GCTV: \$586.00
Comcast Money 2014: \$2,000.00
Total Future Deposits: \$5,516.00

Proposed Ending Balance for 2013-2014: \$17,182.58
(Not including interest on CD)

OLD BUSINESS

Steve Feust reported that the AT&T Council Report meeting got rescheduled for the following week. Reason being is that the following day from the original scheduled meeting was the takeover of AT&T by Frontier. A representative from Frontier will be present at the meeting and Steve will know more at that point. There wasn't much going on for AT&T as reported at the CACSCC August meeting. There was a gentleman at the last AT&T meeting that brought up a point that couldn't be formally discussed because of lack of a quorum. The point he brought up was that somewhere in the state there is an advisory council that is pushing PURA to change the rules about the public access funding requirements. It's only on the basic service for television and now with more people watching on the internet there is a fear that the funding is going to go "down the tubes". He has a proposal with PURA to change it so that any subscriber through any access has to pay the 63 cent monthly fee. Right now public access does not get funded through the internet, only television service. They will discuss more at next meeting. The other big issue to be discussed will be the AT&T /Frontier change. All public access stations should have received a letter from Frontier about the money that is going to start next quarter. The last check from AT&T was received in October. Next check will be from Frontier.

NEW BUSINESS

There has been a proposal and discussion for many months to take some of the excess funds and subsidize the towns' insurance payments. The cost for each town (besides Wallingford) is \$600.00 per year. Initial amount discussed to subsidize each town was \$100.00 still leaving plenty of money in reserve. A motion was made by Steve Fuest, seconded by Margot Hardenbergh to subsidize each town \$300.00 for the year 2015 and that this amount will be revisited each year after that. All members voted aye.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business to discuss.

TOWN REPORTS

Madison: Steve Feust mentioned how the Hand football games are being streamed live on the internet. They bought a new editing system with WPremier that will be getting installed and \$20,000 was approved to go toward purchases to upgrade studio.

Branford: Chad Roy reported nothing much going on other than Board of Ed meetings.

North Branford: Mary Bigelow mentioned that Channel 19 is still running graduation program.

Guilford: David Weinberg discussed how the internship program continues to grow. They had the studio open on Saturdays and weren't getting much traffic so they switched it to Sundays and are doing much better. PEGPETIA had 610 unique programs last year. Both studio production and editing are on increase. Through PEGPETIA grant they were able to completely retire two old Apple editing systems. There are now 7 stations that are in a good deal of use. They have two different series: (1) Know Your Local Government and (2) Vista Vocational is doing a cooking series. The Vista volunteer just did a series on producing public access at GCTV. Guilford shows approximately 5 minutes of programming at most Board meetings just to remind everyone of what they do. Something we can discuss with Walter to get his opinion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments to be made

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, meeting was adjourned with a motion from Chad Roy, seconded by Steve Feust at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Denise Wentworth, Secretary