

CACSCC MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 21st, 2014
Madison

David Weinberg called the Cable Advisory Council of South Central CT meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Meeting: 6 Members/ 4 Towns present

Those present were: Joanne Wentworth, North Branford; Laura Parisi, Wallingford; Bill Choti, North Branford; John Woods, Madison; Steve Fuest, Madison; John Bairos, Comcast; David Weinberg, Guilford; Mary Bigelow, North Branford.

Those absent were: Bill Biski, East Haven; Chad Roy, Branford; Margot Hardenbergh, Branford; Tom Dacey, Wallingford; Terri Cain, Guilford; Terri Fiondella, Guilford.

David Weinberg called to order an informational meeting since there were not enough members present to make a Quorum. He thanked those who were present for coming to the meeting. There were no public comments.

COMCAST REPORT

John Bairos welcomed new CACSCC chairman, David Weinberg. He began by telling the council about a program where Comcast collaborates with the Chamber of Commerce Foundation called Hiring Our Heroes. The program encourages businesses to hire veterans. Since 2012 Comcast has hired over 3000 veterans nationwide. Another program, Comcast Newsmakers, represents a military member during each program and discusses service issues. The programs are taped throughout various locations in New England. The last two sites were at the University of Hartford.

Comcast is beginning their fourth year of the Internet Essentials Program that provides Internet service at reduced costs to students that receive free/reduced school lunches. Any child enrolled by end of September will receive the first six months of Internet service for free. Over 350,000 nationwide are connected to program.

On August 14th the SEC launched a 24-hour sports network, HD and Standard channels. Three HD channels went from digital starter tier to limited basic and more than five HD channels now available on family channel at no additional cost to customer.

Formal announcement was made on August 8th stating that the New Haven office will be closing and a new retail office will be opening on October 8, 2014 on Universal Drive in North Haven. Service centers will be moving out of industrial parks into more retail areas to give customers more of an experience where they can not only pay bills and return equipment but look at new equipment and products and have the opportunity to try them out.

SPEAKER

State Representative Vincent Candelora was unable to attend due to conflicting schedule. Will attend October meeting in East Haven.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Joanne Wentworth wanted to elaborate on June's minutes in regards to the plaque that was presented to Michael Maturo. She felt it should have been elaborated on more and have it stated how the plaque was presented in appreciation for all he had done while he had been Chairman and for his past service in revitalizing the CACSCC. No motion was made due to the lack of a quorum. A motion will be made at October meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman David Weinberg referred to a letter from Homestead asking the CACSCC to advertise on Google. The CACSCC will not do that. There was a complaint from Guilford stating that we should reward loyal customers. There will be a follow-up on that.

New bank forms will be filled out in order for the new Chairman to be one of the signers on the account when needed.

Chairman Weinberg made introduction of new Recording Secretary, Denise Wentworth. There was discussion if there was a need for a formal motion because of Denise's relationship to Council member Joanne Wentworth. There is no conflict or need for formal motion to appoint as long as the entire council is aware of the situation.

Madison's Annual Report has been received and we are up to date with insurance payments from all six towns. Reappointment letters are needed from East Haven, Guilford, North Branford and Branford.

Chairman Weinberg wanted to discuss a personal project he was working on called Peacecast. On September 21, 2014 United Nations is using this date as an International day of peace. For 48 hours an international webcast will run where a volunteer group asks for one day to have news and entertainment be related to peace only. Guilford has put aside a block of time and Chairman Weinberg asked John Bairos of Comcast if there was any way to stream it/convert it from U-string through Comcast for the seven towns. It will be on the Internet Google drive (pre-recorded). Talk about running it by Abigail. Chairman Weinberg will be in touch with Steve Fuest and John Bairos more about it.

PEGPETIA STATUS:

Trying to get funds out of Governor's office. The Bonding Commission will not put it on their agenda unless it comes from an agency. DEEP has to support this and put it on the agenda but it is not a priority for them so all of the legislators that have been backing this are trying to push and get around this. Chairman Weinberg is going to

Speak with Senator Ed Myer, who is on the oversight committee for DEEP, to push the issue. Theoretically, the money has been restored but it is still “stuck” somewhere.

TREASURER ‘S REPORT:

The report, submitted by Treasurer Thomas Dacey, for August 21, 2014 is as follows:

Total Expenses: \$168.27

Checking Account Balance: \$3,732.25

CD Account Balance: \$14,659.40

Total Cash Reserve: \$18,391.65

Interest on CD Account: .60 for 6/30 and .62 for 7/31

Recording Secretary for Year \$540.00, Insurance Cost for Council \$3,505.00, Alliance for Community Media \$575.00, Web Hosting for the Year \$240.00, PO Box \$75.00, Secretary of the State \$50.00.

A vote could not be made on budget due to lack of members present.

OLD BUSINESS

AT&T Council report had “special” meeting and voted on letter we are sending to Cox and Verizon who now have statewide franchises that are to work with statewide council in supporting them financially. Steve will be able to report on it at our next meeting in October.

Frontier sent letters to councils asking for bank account numbers so they could deposit checks just as AT&T does.

NEW BUSINESS

Council has extra money and is considering subsidizing insurance payments for the six towns starting next year. It will be put on agenda for next meeting in October.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business to discuss.

TOWN REPORTS

Madison: Steve Fuest said starting September 12th they would be broadcasting Hand football on Monday nights on live stream through Internet. Alumni Association pays for everything. They are busy with a lot of shows and they are using the studio a lot more.

North Branford: Bill Choti was happy to report North Branford station is still in operation. They now have Walter Mann, as station manager and they are moving forward.

Wallingford: Laura Parisi told us they were having a meeting tonight and the station manager would like to have us meet there sometime. Schedule has already been voted on for the next year.

Guilford: David Weinberg told us they have had six interns from colleges, high school and vista vocational. One of the best interns finished his formal internship but they are now trying to get a grant to keep him there.

They had a workshop for the BESB (Board of Education School for the Blind) where they are shooting television by sound. They are looking for more opportunities to work with them.

They are going to try to do educational workshops for the Democrats and Republicans because each party is claiming that the other is getting more public access.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments to be made.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business, meeting was adjourned with a motion from David Weinberg, seconded by Steve Fuest at 8:10 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,
Denise Wentworth
Secretary