

Call to Order: 7:29PM

IN ATTENDANCE

Board Members

David Weinberg (DW) – GCTV
Mary Bigelow (MB) No Branford
Michael Parisi (MP) – NH
Laura Parisi (LP)-Wallingford
Chad Roy (CR) – Branford
John Woods (JW) – Madison
Steve Fuest (SF) – Madison
Margo Hardenbergh (MH) – Branford

Visitors

John Bairos (JB) – Comcast
Riyad Lahnin (RL) - WPAA
Judy Hall (JH) - WPAA
Cassandra Allen (CA)- WPAA
Susan Huizenga (SH) - WPAA

DW Official Welcome to John Bairos, thank you to Riyad, Susan & WPAA for hosting meeting.

Call for Public Comments:

RL Thank you for coming, seeing our facility. You are welcome to come back to use the meeting space

JB COMCAST Customer Issues:

Customer from Madison needed Closed Captioning assistance – Solved

Customer from Branford wanted service with POP – Solved, now was subscription with channel

Continuing efforts to be customer friendly, opened Xfinity store in North Haven where customers can see options and pay bill, new retail POS

SF Purchased new router and was unaware of Xfinity partnership with Best Buy

JB Also have partnership with UPS for shipping equipment and Western Union & 7-11 for bill pay

Later this year, Netflix will be available through Comcast

Comcast Foundation Scholarship – 2 recipients from Wallingford

5th year of Internet Essentials (IE) – low cost internet for students on free/reduced lunch, expanding program to those with housing assistance

Questions:

SF Will Comcast still honor Internet Essentials for Madison residents, as they are not on national free/reduced lunch program?

JB Yes, need letter from school to qualify

CR Will HD boxes be sold?

JB Not at this time

SF Is rental fee waived for router for IE customers?

JB Yes

MB Any updates on YES Network availability?

JB No movement yet

DW Call for Speaker:

Tour of WPAA in lieu of speaker

Acceptance of Minutes:

Moved by MH, Seconded by SF – 1 abstain (JB)

Correspondence:

Changes from Comcast

Transmittal Letter – Wallingford, Madison, East Haven, Guilford

Additional Comments & Complaints held for end of meeting

Appointment Letters – Madison (JB), Guilford, East Haven (Marie Jackowitz)– letter still missing)

Budget Review:

Sent by email by Tom Dacey, Treasurer – SF & LP did not receive

Proposed expenses - \$4,973 including Insurance, Recording Sec'ty, ACM (Refer to submitted Budget)

Expected insurance subsidies - \$286 per town

Anticipate \$2000 from Comcast in 2017

Proposed future deposits - \$3,716
Proposed ending balance - \$13,651.42

Acceptance of Budget:

Moved by LP, Seconded by JW – Unanimous

Finance Report:

Sent by email by Tom Dacey, Treasurer

Total expenses - \$3,946.98 (Per SF comment: Clarified Subsidy was in lieu of Insurance payment)

Checking Balance - \$3,730.49

CD Balance - \$12,912.71

Total Cash Reserve - \$16,643.20

Old Business:

Insurance Payments. 2016 Done. Starting 2017 cycle

MB Make sure they are paid by town

SF Frontier Council Report:

Wolcott speaker to convince others to support senate bill so every government channel in state links to Comcast – 5 towns share 3 channels and can only use it at certain times due to other towns use, SKY TV will not pay, want Frontier Council to support it – as more customers are moving to different services, like Sling, which are reasonably priced but do not include local channels, and dropping cable – expecting 3-8 year exodus - should be legislation so that everyone has to pay a public access fee – tabled until October meeting

DW Important to plan for the future, agree that exodus will happen eventually

SF Have yet to see changes in Madison subscribers numbers. They seem to be holding

DW See wisdom in having own facility like WPAA for when funding inevitably changes

New Business:

SH Two policy issues to comment on: Seven Town ACM Membership, Facility Reservations

Suggested Council send notice to all 7 towns that they are no longer covered per Budget amount of ACM dues

DW Conflicting information from ACM, thank you for observation

SH Are we on the same page. Facility Operating Policy – @2000 East Haven TV Docket – Reporter tried to gain access to Candidates Night in studio for which League of Women Voters (Producers) had restricted access – Reporter submitted complaint to DPUC, Decision favored League of Women Voters – such that reserved space for a private purpose, audience members cannot walk in off the street unless show is publicized for audience participation

DW Was this questions raised? Because of election cycle?

SH No but it is timely. Advisor Dacey recently challenge WPAA's implementation of this policy stating it would not be the same elsewhere. I am just trying to determine if it would be the same elsewhere.

DW Can you send Docket number? – Decision to research if needed only.

SH I would need to research. Does this sound familiar to others? Yes Agreement from JB, MH, SF.

MH Our policy workaround is that reporters can view show on outside monitor, but cannot be inside studio

SH That was possible as the Show was both LIVE on TV and streamed on Internet. So Consensus is policy applies to all Community TV facilities, correct. (nods)

Correspondence

DW Letter sent to John, customer from East Haven wants ala carte services, can you assemble a package?

JB Has been resolved, thank you letter sent

MB New email from tonight, Marie Jackowitz about East Haven Adult Ed Courtesy Internet Services

JB Has been resolved

LP (Off Topic for Council) Motor vehicle registration expired and was not notified, problems with new system and old system communicating – all residents should know that this could be an issue. Maybe community TV can tell story.

SF Many issues with DMV due to system switch, same for tax bills – owner's responsibility to fix

LP Should get information out to community

DW Potential story for news report

Town Reports:

- MP North Haven – Tape NHHS football home games, will have live stream election coverage with Branford TV, new video switches at NHHS
- SF Madison – 32nd Year of broadcasting Hand High School football
- MH Branford – national news exposure, 5 debates with local political candidates, installing new live stream for 2nd annual Tour de Branford
- DW Guilford – have paid intern, started Guilford VIP (video intern program), hoping to have more disabled interns will help of Vista Vocational, invited to cover at UN for 2nd year for Student Peace Day, will have car in Citizen’s Day Parade, trying to set up interview with Nick Fradiani
Looking for more fundraising & grants

Meeting Adjourned:

Moved by MH, Seconded by SF

Respectfully submitted
Cassandra Allen (Meeting Secretary)