

CACSCC MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012

NHTV, North Haven CT

Please note: The meeting was taped by East Haven TV and the full details of meeting can be obtained from EH TV. The minutes from this meeting is abridged due to the detailed conversations and detailed attachments of letters received and reports from treasurer.

The Cable Advisory Council of South Central CT (CACSCC) meeting was called to order by Mark Minotti.

Meeting Quorum: 7 members/4 Towns

Present at meeting: Mark Minotti, Chairman, Chad Roy Branford, Bill Biski, East Haven, Joanne Wentworth & Mary Bigelow, North Branford, Tom Dacey & Laura Parisi, Wallingford, John Bairos, Comcast Representative.

Absent from meeting: J.T. Tenczar, No. Branford

Guest and Host: Walter Mann, North Haven, Mary Mushinsky, State Representative 85th district, Curt Huizenga, Wallingford, Abbey White, Madison, Janet Betta, North Haven, Steve Fuest, Madison, Mike Streeto, East Haven

Public comments: There were no public comments at the meeting.

Speaker: State Representative Mary Mushinsky, 85 District, Wallingford, CT

Mark turned the meeting over to Mary M., to discuss the 60-40 split and a letter submitted on behalf of WPAA from Rich Mavorgeanes, WPAA board member, concerning the split and their opinions on the split being unfair to WPAA and Wallingford viewers. The letter states that they feel Wallingford is being short changed by the split and Wallingford is entitled to more money. Mark stated due to his absence he was not aware of what was to be addressed tonight and not prepared.

Mary M. stated that the bill two years ago has gone nowhere and it was voted on by PURA to leave the split the way it was. Rich M. has since filed another request for legislation. Mary M. stated she represents Wallingford and must do what they request and submit another petition on their behalf.

Concerns were addressed over changing the split and how the bill would hurt other towns, especially North Branford, Madison and Guilford. North Branford would not be able to continue operating if they lose the funding.

John B. explained the annual funding is set by Pura and is a franchise agreement. A meeting was held a few years ago and a vote was made not to change the split. Therefore, the agreement exists and the money goes as stated to the access operators.

Mary M. said she would rather see another negotiation among the parties involved, rather than it have to go to legislation to discuss what is fair and not fair.

Mark then commented, that when the issue over the 40-60 split was first brought up 2 years ago, Sue Huizenga was part of the board and PURA voted against the change and now that they all are in Wallingford it's become unfair and it's concerning, seeing No. Branford would be knocked out totally, North Haven would lose approx. \$1,000, Madison \$8,000, Guilford, \$5,000 and Branford, \$3,000.

Mary M. then brought up the \$5 million in grant money that is sitting there and can't seem to be spent and questioned if there is a way to use some of that money. She also brought up again another negotiation to make grant money useful.

Mark/John stated that the money in grant funds can only be used for Capital improvement and supplies not day to day operation. Mary M questioned if it can be moved internally.

Walter discussed the possibility of changing the language in the use of grant money to "Regular Paid Groups" and not for producers to use.

Mary M. stated her concerns that with state deficit and slow improving economy, the state legislature will look for "fat fund" to raid and do a one- time sweep and take the money.

Suggestions were made to hold a grant writing workshop to educate people on how to apply for grants.

Curt Huizenga said there was a problem with DPUC reviewing grants and they "drag their feet" and grants are not being looked at in a timely fashion. He said Wallingford High School grant was submitted in June and has not been looked at. Curt Huizenga was told there is not enough man power.

Walter Mann stated that North Haven had applied for a grant and did receive it.

Mary Mushinsky suggests an administrative grant that can be used for hiring more people to review the grants.

Please note: *Many conversations and comments were made in regards to the split and the unused grant money and can be viewed in its entirety on ETV.*

In conclusion of multiple discussions over the 60-40 split and the unused grant money the following decisions were made:

-Mary M. will send a copy of the report via email to Tom D to forward to the board for review

-Mark M. stated he feels at this time, it is not a platform for this discussion tonight

-John B. made a motion to table the discussion, take action or let it be based on the PURA decision

-A vote was taken, Mark M. did not vote and it was unanimous to have no vote and take no action at this meeting and would be tabled for future discussion after more is reviewed for a future meeting

-Mark recognized the concerns on the issues, thanked Mary M. for coming and moved on to the Comcast report

(Curt H. and Mary M. left the meeting with Curt H. saying he was not going to let it go)

Comcast Reports: John Bairos gave the Comcast Report.

- Comcast has new programs that brings internet home programs at a reduced price for schools and non-profits
- Starting Sept. 5th on Channel 599, there will be European Soccer games both in Spanish and English
- Nov. 14th Comcast acquired new areas, including ATT broadband etc. The existing silver or bronze packages will be transferred and then migrated to an equal priced package.
- Joanne W. asked if there were any senior programs available. John B. said they have senior discounts based on Medicaid programs and age.
- John showed a bracelet from the Comcast Sponsored luncheon today for the “Anti-Bullying” campaign. “Stand Up Speak Out”. Miss Teen USA is from CT and is supporting The Anti-Bullying campaign
- Mark M. addressed the complaint letter sent by a Michelle Mohaul of Wallingford. John B. said it is being taken care of and he will find a solution to make her happy. *(a copy of her letter is attached to the minutes)*

Chairmen’s Report: Mark took the opportunity to thank everyone from the bottom of his heart, for all the heartfelt wishes and the basket sent to the house for his wife who went through cancer surgery. Mark said “the cancer is gone.” He read the thank you note from his wife. Mark also addressed his own health issues and was excited to share that his brain tumor was “not cancerous” and is a vascular tumor and he is a candidate for cyber knife surgery to shrink tumor and he is “not going anywhere”!

Mark then state that due to his and his wife’s health issues the burden was left on Mary B. to hold up the council and did so while going through the loss of her husband. He wanted to acknowledge her strength and send condolences and make sure her loss was acknowledged and said Mary has “been a rock”

Insurance Policy:

- Mark M. stated the policy is up for renewal in March 2013
- To date, in speaking to insurance company there is no mention on an increase at this time

PACTAC Survey:

- Mark discussed the survey handed out a few meetings ago and asked for it to be sent out again via email. He asked that everyone take the time to fill it out and send it back via his email address: Minottimusic@aol.com
- Mark M. would like feedback from his question, where the council is going? Speakers, workshops, how to get consumers who are not aware of what is going on or what we do? Mark would like everyone’s feedback by Dec. 2012

Website: Mary B. asked Thomas D. how the website was doing.

- Tom D. gave a brief update and stated that the proposed budget and minutes are posted to the website
- He will also post treasurers report
- Joanne W. asked the website address. The Website address is:
[Http://CableAdvisoryCouncilssc.org](http://CableAdvisoryCouncilssc.org)

New Business:

Pura Representatives are due in March

- Madison is still missing one representative
- Guilford still has no representatives
- Branford needs three
- Sue Hoffman is a new representative from No. Haven
- E. Haven has two
- Wallingford can have 5 and still needs one representative and one library and one school/education appointee
- John B. asked that a new roster be sent to him. Tom D. agreed to send an updated roster of all current members to him and the board

PEGS and Training

- Would like to find ways to get students and others involved in by hosting training sessions
- Abbigal was asked if she can help set up a workshop on how to write grants
- Tom D. will approach Mary M. and Frank F. to see if they are interested in running a workshop

Other Business

By-Laws

- There by-laws need to be reviewed and updated. Joanne W. said they had something but it was lost and will have to search the old files and discuss at next meeting
- Also need to form a new by-laws committee with new members

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed and changes made to correct spelling and deletions and a motion to except the minutes from the last meeting was from Joanne and 2nd from Laura Parisi. All approved.

Treasurer Report: *(attached to minutes)*

- Checking account balance is \$4,249.46
- CD account balance is \$14,639.13
- Total balance is \$18,888.59

Motion was made by Chad and 2nd by Laura All approved. *Attached is a copy of the treasure report.*

Town Reports:

East Haven: Bill B. said they are still not sure if the building they are in is for sale. But, they have no plans to move at this time

Wallingford: Tom D. said WPAA they did live coverage of Celebrate Wallingford. They are also doing Election Coverage. Tom also said long time board member of WPAA Katherine Robinson resigned

Branford: Walt M. said they were happy to say they received a PEG PETA Grant for just of \$49,000 to be used for new equipment: server playback/file, a new Bulletin Board System and studio cameras.

North Haven: Walt mentioned NHTV is busy and doing well, the fundraiser at the North Haven Fair was successful and they are now doing their Annual Fruit Sale fundraiser until Dec.1st. No. Haven also received a \$500 donation from the Rotary Club. Walt M. also said they had 4 PT employees leave for FT Jobs. Tom Dacey mentioned his annual Tommypalooza fundraiser that will take place on Saturday, November 3rd, at Jroo's restaurant in North Haven. All proceeds will benefit NHTV

North Branford: Mary B. said they applied for a Peta Grant and is looking at a middle school to move into but need approval from Board of Education. Hugo is doing an excellent job as the station manager with new programs, sports and meeting the public and has good goals

Madison: Steve F. stated they have U-verse on-line, a server based program and are working out kinks. He also said he was proud to say they/he have been covering Hand Football for the past 28 years!

Public Comments: None

Adjournment: Tom Dacey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, it was 2nd by Joanne W. and all was in favor.

Attachments submitted: *Treasurer Report, purposed budget, survey, and flyers*

Submitted by:

LuAnn Leclerc

Recording Secretary

February 27, 2013