



Town of Fairhaven

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Meeting Notice

Cable Advisory Committee 2018 JAN 26 12:38
FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Place of Meeting Town Hall Banquet Rm.

Date & Time Tues Jan 30 7PM

Meeting of _____ Cancelled / Postponed to _____


SIGNATURE

CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE AGENDA

JANUARY 30 2018

1. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING
2. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF DIRECTOR BRUSO'S HEALTH SITUATION AND
INTERIM COVERAGE AND PLANNING
3. CURRENT PEG FUNCTIONING
4. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH COMCAST FOR LICENSE
5. STATUS OF CHANNEL 95 FOR TURN ON
6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST HANDOUT
7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS NOT ANTICIPATED PRIOR TO AGENDA



Town of Fairhaven

Town Hall 40 Centre Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

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2018 JUL 25 A 11: 58

Minutes of Meeting

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Cable Advisory Committee

PLACE OF MEETING: **Banquet Room**
DATE AND TIME: **January 30th, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.**
MEETING OF: **Cable Advisory Committee**


(Signature)

4-26-2018

(Date Signed)

Present: Barbara Acksen, Ex-officio: Selectman Bob Espindola, Ronnie Medina, John Methia
Absent: Michael Merolla

Guest: Drew Furtado

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 P.M

Meeting notes from the prior meeting, November 17th were reviewed.

The Committee discussed the status of Bobby Brusco, who is on medical leave. Interim coverage is being provided by Drew Furtado per agreement between Mr. Rees and the School Department. Mr. Furtado is doing his regular job at the school, managing Education Access and handling the Government Access work on the side. He is being paid a stipend to cover his time on the Government Access side.

Drew said he was really just trying to "keep the ship afloat". He said when he started (one week prior) the only meetings showing were from November and now everything is up to date.

John Methia asked about the shared clerical position in Town Hall that was supposed to be supporting Government Access.

Bob Espindola said that position is held by Pattie Pacella, who is splitting her time between

the Building Department and Government Access.

Bob Espindola asked if it made sense to try to train Ms. Pacella to perform some of the editing and video posting functions and Mr. Furtado indicated that all that was being covered at the moment so there was not a need.

Barbara Acksen asked Mr. Furtado if we should turn to him, to report problems with PEG functioning.

Bob Espindola noted that Mr. Rees had requested that all such reporting should go through him and in his absence, should go through Anne O'Brien. This will help limit the scope of services to what was agreed to between the School Department and Mr. Rees and it also will help keep him closer in touch with the operations while Bobby is out.

Mr. Rees suggested that it would be helpful to him if the CAC were to keep close eye on things as well during this time when Bobby is out also, to report any concerns. Barbara Acksen pointed out that Ronnie Medina is always on top of things like that.

Ronnie Medina voiced concerns about Video on Demand content. He suggested the committee might want to consider a proposal for a new Video on Demand server that he had been talking to a vendor about.

After learning what the capabilities of the server would be, Mr. Furtado suggested the existing Live Stream system already had all that capability and just needed to be fully utilized.

The committee agreed to table this subject until a time and to see if any new concerns developed for Livestream in the coming months.

Bob Espindola noted that the last issue he knew of regarding Public Access had to do with a technical issue with Comcast that Bobby had been trying to coordinate with Comcast and it had to do with the physical connection and wiring at Town Hall.

Bob indicated that he had passed that information on to Attorney Solomon for him to make note of in his discussions with Comcast regarding the contract.

John Methia suggested Steve Rys be brought in to assist with coordinating with Comcast and he volunteered to reach out to him and to ask Steve to get together with Mark Rees on a work scope and cost to provide that sort of support.

Drew Furtado asked if the existing Castus server had the capability to handle Public Access programming.

Ronnie Medina explained that the Castus server had three channels and only one was currently

being utilized (Government Access) so it has the capability to handle a second channel and then still have a backup channel in case there are any issues with one of the first two channels.

Drew Furtado asked what we would post on Public Access if it was live.

Bob Espindola suggested that a bulletin board could indicate that the channel would soon be live and that pre-recorded programming that Bobby had filmed, like the Homecoming Fair, Father's Day Road Race, Summer Concert Series, Old Tyme Christmas event could be posted and run on a loop just so people get used to seeing something on that channel.

Bob suggested that, even if we were to wait until Bobby Brusio gets back to post things on Public Access, the work with Comcast should still take place to ensure that is not going to be the thing holding up Public Access once Bobby returns and is ready.

Barbara Acksen provided an update on the ongoing contract negotiations with Comcast. She reminded the committee that one of the reasons there was no December meeting was that the committee was waiting for an update on the contract negotiations but those were delayed due to scheduling issues between Attorney Solomon and Comcast and there was nothing to report.

Barbara Acksen said that she was pleased to announce, however, that Attorney Solomon had provided an update to the negotiating committee (comprised of Barbara Acksen, Bob Espindola and Mark Rees) just earlier in the day that he, acting on behalf of the negotiating committee, had come to a verbal agreement with Comcast. This verbal agreement was based on the framework and parameters laid out by the negotiating Committee (Barbara Acksen, Bob Espindola and Mark Rees).

John Methia asked if the terms of the contract were essentially the same as the last time.

Bob Espindola indicated that, until the contract is officially signed, discussion of the terms should not be made public.

Bob explained, however, that there were roughly six (6) key terms of the contract that were the major focus and that two of those had been dropped, at the advice of Attorney as he stated, based on his experience, that those two were not realistic requests.

He said that the remaining four (4) terms were where the major emphasis on the contract was being placed. He indicated that he felt the negotiations were leading to a point that everyone involved could be happy with the outcome.

Bob Espindola noted that Attorney Solomon thinks that in the next couple weeks will have full written draft document to be signed, depending on Comcast schedule.

Attorney Solomon said the Board of Selectmen meeting for February 26th might be a good date

for the contract to come before the Selectmen.

John Methia commended the work on the contract, including the negotiating team (Barbara Acksen, Bob Espindola and Mark Rees) and the support work that was done by Bobby Russo.

John and reminded everyone that this could be the last contract of this type (given changing technology in the media field).

Barbara Acksen reminded committee members that we need to sign off annually on the conflict of interest law and she passed out copies of the form for everyone to sign.

Bob Espindola discussed bulk pricing. He noted that Attorney Solomon had told him that Bulk Pricing does not belong as a negotiating item in the Base Contract, that it should be negotiated separately.

Bob Sullivan provided a contact for Bob Espindola to review this with and Bob Espindola learned that Bulk Rates are depending on the number of housing units, condominiums, nursing homes, etc, that we have in Town and who would be interested in having bulk pricing.

Comcast indicated that after gathering all the details from the Town, they could provide a bulk rate.

Bob said the Bulk Rate is formula based from the input the Town provides but Comcast indicated that sometimes Bulk Rates may require giving elsewhere (i.e. to get Bulk pricing, you may need to sign on to a lesser channel lineup).

Bob Espindola suggested that the Town would write a letter and send to all potential Bulk Rate customers to see if they are interested in attending a meeting on this subject where Comcast could explain and then offer to provide contact information for those who cannot make it in person.

Bob Espindola agreed to take the lead in coordinating with Comcast, after working with the Assessor's office to try to find contact information.

Ronnie Medina asked if housing authority residents pay a discounted rate at this time and Bob Espindola indicated that they did not, they paid the same as a residential customer.

Ronnie Medina asked about the report that was done on signal quality.

Bob Espindola indicated that those reports had been sent to Attorney Solomon

John Methia reiterated thoughts and prayers for Bobby Brusco and wished him a speedy

recovery.

John Methia made a motion to approve
Ronnie Medina 2nd
There was no further discussion
The motion passed unanimously

The next meeting will be targeted for the week of February 20th but by February 16th we should have an update on the contract and may decide not to post if the contract is not finalized.

Ronnie Medina made a motion to adjourn at 7:58 P.M.
Bob Espindola Seconded the motion.
There was no further discussion
The motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Bob Espindola, acting Secretary