

Fairhaven Cable Access Meeting
Tuesday, February 19, 2019
Meeting opened at 7:06 p.m.

Present: Chairperson, Barbara Acksen, Ron Medina, Kenneth Souza, Robert Espindola, John Methia
Mike Merolla.

Absent: MJ Carvalho

Director of Cable Access, Derek Frates was also in attendance.

Ms. Acksen announced she forgot about Monday, February 18th being a holiday and posted the agenda late on Friday, therefore they couldn't vote on anything this evening.

Minutes: November 20, 2018 & January 15, 2019 would have to be held for approval until the March meeting.

Presentation about ORCTV – Robert Chiarito, Executive Director:

Robert Chiarito was present to discuss the model used at ORCTV. He said their studio is at the high school and the community has really embraced the partnership with the school. Between the 3 towns, Rochester, Mattapoisett & Marion they have five channels. Programming channels, Government Access and Public channel. He shared how they post the videos on VIMIO (vs. youtube channel), and then post to Social Media & can see the number of views.

He explained an intern program that they have with the schools to offer a paying wage to students who want to learn the studio, and it's been very successful.

He explained they are a non-profit organization, he reports to a Board of Directors, (BOD)- (made up of members or whomever they nominate to be on the BOD).

John Methia asked if there were any challenges being a non profit.

Mr. Chiarito stated it's been a very streamlined process.

They discussed how one gets on the Board of Directors.

Mr. Chiarito discussed the fees \$1.00 for Seniors/Students, a year. Civic Groups - \$5.00 & the Public pays \$5.00/year.

He stated they couldn't ask for advertisements, but they can get people to sponsor shows & then at the end of the show it would say "this show was sponsored by .." and the organization names are then listed.

Ms. Acksen asked about training at the Elementary level, finding that interesting.

Mr. Chiarito stated they hired an Outreach Coordinator who goes to all the schools and it's included from 4th grade up. They train them with the cameras; "Junior Reporter" programs; they'll train the

teachers as well – for projects. He said it was the first time they provided this service to the elementary schools, and there were over 300 kids involved.

Mr. Espindola asked about their annual budget.

Mr. Chiarito explained it was approximately \$400,000 throughout all 3 communities (Mattapoisett keeps 30% for their own Government Access channel).

Discussion on the split between Comcast & FIOS.

Mr. Espindola asked about their staffing. Mr. Chiarito stated they had four full-time employees including himself. And interns, approximately 5-10 (10-12 hours/week). He then discussed briefly about their Capital Budget.

Mr. Chiarito explained membership trainings and decency standards that public access has to sign to and agree too.

Mr. Chiarito agreed to send a copy of his by-laws over to the committee.

Ken Souza asked how much the education part is not just the High School, because he noticed with our Channel 9 for education it's all about the high school.

The Committee discussed the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) that needs to be roughed out between the Town & the School Department.

Mr. Espindola explained there was a new Social Media position that was just hired through the high school.

Mr. Espindola said his 3 areas of concern were: Summertime Operations, Quality Equipment, and programming into the middle & elementary schools.

Michael Merrola suggested that we get right into the Elementary schools to offer to tape their different Christmas Concerts/Spring Concerts to run on

Mr. Methia suggested if we are paying ½ the salary of the Social Media position then we should have access to the videos she produces for Social Media, for our Education Channel. Everyone agreed.

Cable Director's Report:

Derek Frates explained Channel 95, revamped schedule; new original shows. He said 4-5 people have attended an orientation, gone over rules and policy for making a Public Access Show.

He explained those that have come in to do shows included: David Fauteux with his older shows (vintage Fairhaven); Cooking with Grandkids; The Family Table with Cathy Melanson, Navigating the way with Seniors. He is also able to get UMASS games and post them.

Mr. Methia commented on the video quality being fantastic.

Bob Espindola suggested a graphic perhaps on the website that would show where people are watching from.

Mr. Frates went over the technology piece of the temporary tv/equipment & how it works.

Mr. Methia suggested perhaps talking to Beth David of the Neighborhood News about taking out an advertisement and posting the Channel 95 lineup. Mr. Frates said he'd reach out to Ms. David.

4. Representative Selection for the Municipal Fiber Committee

John Methia volunteered, and the committee agreed. First meeting is Tuesday, February 26, 2019.

Mr. Espindola stated he would reach out to Drew Furtado at the School Department to find out what shows are being produced through them.

More discussion and ideas on educational piece to film students, games, etc. Perhaps an internship program.

In other business, Derek Frates advised he would forward minutes to everyone – November 20th, January 15th and then this one .

Next meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 7:00p.m.

Michael Merolla made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by John Methia. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectively submitted,

Patricia A. Pacella
Recording Secretary