

Fairhaven Cable Advisory Committee
March 19, 2019 – 7:00p.m.

Present: Chairperson, Barbara Acksen, John Methia, Ron Medina, Kenneth Souza, MJ Carvalho and Robert Espindola

Absent: Michael Merolla

Cable Access Director, Derek Frates was also present.

Meeting opened at 7:04p.m.

Minutes:

November 20, 2018 – Kenneth Souza amended the minutes to state he was present, with those amendments he made a motion to approve and was seconded by Ron Medina. The motion passed unanimously.

January 15, 2019 – MJ Carvalho made a motion to approve the January 15, 2019 minutes and was seconded by Kenneth Souza. The motion passed unanimously, with John Methia abstaining.

February 20, 2019 – Ken Souza amended the minutes for a spelling correction, with that amendment he made the motion to approve and was seconded by John Methia. The motion passed unanimously with MJ Carvalho abstaining.

Cable Director's Report:

Mr. Frates opened stating there was a successful Candidate's Night at Fairhaven High School. He said everyone who had a contested seat were present. It was shown on LiveStream. He then went over FairhavenTV.com website, and advised the program scheduling for Channel 18 and Channel 95 were now up on the website.

Mr. Frates stated he did a PSA with the new Veterans Agent, Brad Fish. And a workshop with the Board of Health on Hoarding. He said that next would be working on a LiveStream test for the Town Meeting coming up. He is also working on an OPIOD piece, that will be done regionally with the Fairhaven Police Department. Ms. Carvalho offered to assist in any manner with the Opiod piece as far as prescription pills because of the death of her mother.

Mr. Frates went over the public access shows that were currently airing: Cooking with grandchildren, Umass Programming, Yoga and exercise videos in the morning hours; The Family Table with Cathy Melanson. He also said there would be a Staff Bio Page up soon.

John Methia suggested Mr. Frates get in touch with Beth David, from Fairhaven Neighborhood News to put in a ½ page advertisement with the weekly schedule and continue with it, rotating the schedule; putting an emphasis on FairhavenTV.com. Mr. Frates said he would reach out to Ms. David.

Mr. Frates went on to say he does do monthly updates with the ACO.

Mr. Methia mentioned a great community event that used to take place (10+ years ago) with the Fairhaven Rotary Club – there annual Community Auction. Pattie Pacella, the administrative

assistant/recording secretary was present and advised she is the current President of the Rotary Club and they were thinking of resurrecting this community event.

Update on the Municipal Fiber Committee:

Mr. Methia advised he has attended one meeting and seems there's a great team on the Committee. They seem very knowledgeable and have talked about reaching out to towns/cities about their different options. He said the Committee had decided to change their name to "Broadband Study Committee" because it wasn't just looking at fiber options, maybe wireless.

Mr. Espindola mentioned that there was a SRPEDD meeting coming about that would look at resources to perhaps do something regionally to get information to all the different Town/Cities in the SRPEDD area.

As it has not been done previously, Mr. Espindola made a motion to appoint John Methia to the Broadband Study Committee and was seconded by Ron Medina. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion – Different Models & Considerations for Fairhaven PEG:

Director of LakeCam (Lakeville Public Access), Jose Invencio was present to present his model for LakeCam. He said he works under a 501C-3 and has since 2012, with a Board of Directors that he answers to. He said they have 50% population using Comcast and the other 50% using Verizon. He said that Freetown gets their education channel from them.

Mr. Invencio stated that a 501C-3 works well. It takes the conflict of interest out of the hands of the Selectboard. He said the Selectboard is the issuing authority for the funds.

Mr. Espindola asked how the budget breaks down among the entities.

Mr. Invencio said it was a conscious effort to do 1/3, 1/3, and 1/3 but it doesn't always work out that way, but the money is all lumped together.

Discussion ensued on programming.

Mr. Espindola asked about the fundamental programming, the emphasis on community scheduling vs. programming in the school.

Discussion on shows in the schools and releases that would probably need to be had.

Mr. Invencio stated they didn't have dedicated studio space and felt it has certainly been a handicap. Mr. Frates described our studio setup on the auditorium stage, and at times he does have to take it down.

Update on MOU:

Mr. Espindola started a discussion regarding the MOU with the School Department. He said something new the Selectboard was requesting this year was budgets from both sides (cable access & school department) so that it is very transparent to the community and asking them to prepare a plan for the future.

Mr. Espindola explained that the Department of Revenue recently advised there is a requirement that effective July 1, 2019 the Peg Cable funds for communities need to be in either an Enterprise Fund or a Revolving Fund. Mr. Espindola stated that he had a discussion with Mr. Rees and he still felt that the MOU was necessary.

One of the questions that came out of the discussion was in fact if a teacher's salary can be paid out of PEG Access Account, to which Ms. Acksen said she believed it could NOT. Mr. Espindola stated he would reach out to the DOR for clarification.

Mr. Espindola stated he would recommend that the Committee be very specific of the recommendations that are making for the School Administration to adhere to with the PEG monies. What would they like to see?

Some of the recommendations were:
Unique Programming for Channel 9 – the Education Channel
TV Media Specific (positions, non union; non teacher)
Programming Year Round
More Production at lower grade levels

Mr. Espindola suggested they ask the school administration and Mr. Frates to explain their budgets, so the committee could be clear what they were using the funds for.

In further discussions, the committee felt they wanted one enterprise or revolving fund. Mr. Frates stated that at the meeting with the school and accountant, the accountant was not sure they could have two separate enterprise funds.

Mr. Methia suggested producing a video of what the Town actually does with the monies that subscribers are paying when they pay their Comcast bill – for transparency.

The committee stated they would like to see only ONE Enterprise fund.

John Methia made a motion, based on current information that the Cable Advisory Committee would recommend having one Enterprise Fund or Revolving Fund to house all the monies and it was seconded by Ron Medina. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion ensued on budgets and the MOU.

The Committee decided on April 11, at 6:30pm to ask the School Administration who wrote up their budget to come in and present their budget for discussion before them. Ms. Acksen stated she would reach out to Ms. Potter, Business Manager.

Ron Medina made a motion to adjourn at 9:49pm and was seconded by John Methia. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectively submitted,

Patricia A. Pacella
Recording Secretary