



Town of Fairhaven

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FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Minutes of Meeting

Cable Advisory Committee

PLACE OF MEETING: **Town Hall Banquet Room**

DATE AND TIME: **October 21th, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.**

MEETING OF: Cable Advisory Committee

(Signature)

11-4-2015

(Date Signed)

Present: Barbara Acksen, Ex-officio: Selectman Bob Espindola, Ronnie Medina, John Methia
Absent: None
Guests: Chuck Sherwood, Drew Furtado

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 P.M

Meeting Notes

The September 28th meeting notes from the joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen were reviewed.

John Methia motioned to approve
Ronnie Medina seconded
There was no further discussion
The motion carried unanimously

Feasibility Study - Coordination

There was a general discussion about the Joe Booth proposal and it was determined by the Committee that the detail of all the pricing was not required for the Outreach event on November 18th, just the concepts in schematic form.

It was agreed that further coordination was required between the CAC, Joe Booth, and the EMA. John Methia agreed to reach out to all parties and coordinate, especially so that Joe Booth would have what he needed to keep moving.

Bob Espindola provided contact information for Gary Laviolette and Marc Jodoin to John.

Competitive Service Providers

Attorney William Solomon called in to speak with the Committee about a subject he had been asked about via e-mail prior to the meeting, competitive supply in the new contract term.

Attorney Solomon said that Cox was not a legitimate competitor but that Verizon might be able to compete with Comcast for service in Fairhaven.

Bob Espindola made a motion that the Cable Advisory Committee go on the record stating that they believe the Selectmen should seek competitive supply of cable services in the upcoming contract and to also recommend that the Board of Selectmen authorize Attorney Solomon to represent the Town in seeking competitive options that best suit the town.

John Methia seconded

There was no further discussion

The motion carried unanimously.

Equipment Needs

There was a general discussion about equipment needs in the proposed studio. John Methia agreed to contact Marty Feldman of ISG and Joe Booth to coordinate the equipment and space needs between them.

Chuck Sherwood reminded the committee that he had forwarded an Operating Model for the city of Peabody as a reference to what a typical budget might look like. Peabody is much larger than Fairhaven in population but Mr. Sherwood indicated that the costs are generally scalable and indicative of what to expect on that basis.

It was agreed that the operating budget and expenses could wait until after the outreach event on November 18th (to fall more in line with the anticipated completion of the feasibility study from Joe Booth).

Outreach Event

There was a general discussion about how we would attract people to the Outreach event on November 18th.

Bob Espindola suggested that having a BIO from the guest speakers (Chuck Sherwood, Nancy Richard, Joe Booth and Attorney Solomon) would go a long way and that writing a Letter to

the Editor would also be helpful.

Barbara Acksen said that she thought the letter would have to be from the Committee and not an individual.

Bob Espindola said he thought there might be a problem with publishing a letter to the editor from a committee as opposed to an individual but said he will check with the local newspapers on that.

Barbara Acksen and John Methia both said they had experience with writing press releases and John agreed to draft something about the Outreach event.

Mr. Furtado suggested posting on the electronic "Bulletin Board" and Barbara Acksen suggested asking for some time on WBSM with Phil Paleologis.

John Methia suggested using an "Evite" system to invite people and Bob Espindola suggested looking into FaceBook but also pointed out that the Town has a new Social Media Policy that the Committee needed to be aware of.

Bob Espindola said he would get a copy from Ms. Anne Obrien in the Selectmen's office and get out to the CAC.

Resignation of Meaghen Avila as Government Access Director

The Committee discussed the recent resignation of Meaghen Avila as Government Access director and her letter recommending to the Board of Selectmen to appoint Andrew Ramano to replace her.

The Committee discussed the issue and their role in the decision. The committee feels that they should have some say in who is hired in the long run and suggested that, while Mr. Ramano was a good interim decision, that the position should be considered interim and be evaluated down the road if the responsibilities change significantly (i.e. if the Town Builds out a studio or gets Public Access going in some other way).

Bob Espindola motioned to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the position be considered an interim position and that the Cable Advisory Committee be allowed to write up a job description and help with the interview process and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen if the job description changes significantly.

John Methia seconded

There was no further discussion

The motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting

The committee decided that the next meeting would be held in two (2) weeks on November 18th to be able to continue to work on the Outreach event on November 18th.

Drew Furtado asked about the subscription to Mass Access. The Committee felt that it was worthwhile to renew and

Bob Espindola made a motion to request the Board of Selectmen fund the \$100 fee for Mass Access from the Cable Fund balance.

Ronnie Medina Seconded

There was no further discussion

The motion carried unanimously.

Bob Espindola made a motion to adjourn at 8:57 P.M.

John Methia seconded.

There was no further discussion

The motion carried unanimously.

Submitted by Bob Espindola, acting Secretary