

Minutes

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Cable Advisory Committee

Date: August 18, 2009

Time: 6:20PM

Present: Frank Irr, Jeff Dore, Rich Carew, Bob Sullivan, and Mary Krumsiek (7:10)

Absent: Paul DiCicco - *ROGER DESRUINER*

Meeting was opened by Frank Irr, in absence of Chairman
Minutes of last meeting were not available

Old Business: Kevin Krassopolis gave a tour of the renovations made to studio. He also passed out a copy of his needs list and explained each item.

New Business:

1. Bob Sullivan made a motion to purchase equipment for studio renovations. They were desk and chair, editing desks and audio equipment needed to broadcast the School Committee meetings. Additionally to seek price for video broadcast equipment. Seconded by Rich Carew. So voted.
2. After discussion on donation of Leitronics playback equipment received from Verizon, a motion was made by Jeff Dore to purchase a 500GB hard drive at a cost of \$575.00. Seconded by Rich Carew. So voted.
3. Kevin talked about the need to provide the High School program with new portable/handheld digital video cameras. These will be used to tape events at school events. He recommended purchasing three (3) simple units for this task. Motion was made by Jeff Dore to expend no more than \$2500.00 to purchase 3 camera, 3 extra batteries, and three (3) tripods for High School use. Seconded by Bob Sullivan. So voted.
4. Rich Carew made a motion to purchase necessary internal signage for studio. Seconded by Jeff Dore. So voted.
5. Kevin will borrow a "scan converter" from the High School to try to resolve the problem with the High School bulletin board. Kevin will see Rob Belleview to borrow it.
6. A logo contest is being planned of the Community Access Program. Bob Sullivan has an idea, and will come back to the Committee at a later date.
7. Jeff Dore made a motion to purchase six (6) chairs for the editing room. Seconded by Bob Sullivan. So voted.
8. Kevin talked about a program that a company has been promoting, that will stream the PEG channels into the web. The prices were very high, and several options were available. Kevin will look into this info for a future meeting.
9. Kevin explained a needs list for the Committee to consider in the future.
10. Mary Krumsiek made a motion to purchase a Rosco Gel kit for the studio lighting at a cost of \$49.95. Seconded by Jeff Dore. So voted.
11. A motion was made by Mary Krumsiek to purchase the Globecaster three (3) warranty at a cost of \$4068.00. Seconded by Bob Sullivan. So voted.
12. Kevin gave a report on the monies received from Verizon so far this year.

A motion was made to adjourn at 7:22Pm by Bob Sullivan and seconded by Mary Krumsiek

Jeffrey A Dore
Mary Krumsiek 11/12/09
Roger Desruiner
[Signature]

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Debbi Dymek

From: "NFB-NEWSLINE Online" <nfbnewsline@nfb.org>
To: "Deborah Dymek" <debbi.dymek@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 7:48 AM
Subject: Article from Worcester Telegram and Gazette News Section 2016 03 01

Cable service blasted at meeting in Northbridge. NORTHBRIDGE Concerns about the quality of cable television service in town was the main topic at an hourlong public hearing Monday night with officials from Charter Communications. Thomas P. Cohan, director of governmental affairs at Charter Communications in Worcester, will return to Town Hall in about 60 days to meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss whether the issues have been resolved or what steps are being taken to remedy the problems. Among the issues are the freezing of the screen on channels, cutting out of audio on some channels, and problems with the quality of picture on high-definition channels. Several people said they found it very annoying to be watching a channel only to have a message pop up on the television stating they weren't authorized to get it. Edward Hall of Willow Street said the problems are getting worse. "I've never had signal problems like I have now," he said. "CNN is often just a gray screen. "You wouldn't believe the amount of people who have complained to me about the problems," said Cable Advisory Committee Chairman Harry Berkowitz, who noted he has been stopped by disgruntled people, on the street, in the grocery store and elsewhere in town, complaining about their cable television. Mr. Cohan said Charter officials want to know about the problems. "We have to know about the problems," he said. The stated reason for Monday night's hearing was too discuss the decision by Charter Communications to close its customer service center at 296 Providence Road (Route 122) in South Grafton. The Cable Advisory Committee thought Charter was breaking its contract with the town by not having a service center in the community. Mr. Berkowitz, however, said he reviewed the contract and determined Charter wasn't violating its pact with the town. The South Grafton office closed last week, which means Northbridge residents have to go the new customer service center at 867 Grafton St. (Route 122) in Worcester or 131 East Main St. in Webster. The new Charter Spectrum store in Worcester is close to 13 miles from Northbridge Town Hall in the center of Whitinsville, more than double the 5.2-mile distance to the South Grafton store. The store in Webster is about 15 miles away. Mr. Cohan said the new store is in a shopping center that has plenty of parking spaces and that it will be more convenient and safer for customers to use. "We believe we moved the office for the right reasons," Mr. Cohan said. Several residents said it was inconvenient to have to go to Worcester or Webster. "Do I have to wait for my kids to drive me there," said Brenda Sulfare of 71 Louisa Drive. "That takes away my independence. Town residents can still pay their cable television bill at Shaw's at 1177 Providence Road, or Vera's Mini-Mart at Plummers Corner. Mr. Berkowitz said, however, people have to pay \$4 more to pay their cable bill at Shaw's. "That's real money to some people," Selectman James Marzec said. The move also comes a little more than a year after Charter changed its channel lineup for local access channels, in all the towns where it provides cable television services, to 191, 192 and 194, from Channels 11, 12, and 13. Selectman Charles Ampagoomian Jr. said people are upset about the change in the lineup and he believes the switch in the channels violated Charter's contract with the town. Mr. Cohan said the channel switch was well advertised and he has received only one complaint.
