

## MILLBURY CABLE TELEVISION COMMISSION MINUTES

Public Access Studio – Millbury High School – 12 Martin Street

Thursday February 19, 2015 – 7:15 p.m.

**Present:** Mary Krumsiek; Frank Irr; Paul DiCicco; Richard Carew; Jeffrey Dore; Robert Sullivan; Public Access Director Kevin Krassopoulos

**Absent:** Roger Desrosiers

Chairman Krumsiek opened the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

### CABLE AT THE TRANSFER STATION

Kevin contacted Verizon and asked for a quote to run the line and upgrade everything. Verizon did a few site visits then called Kevin to say they have scheduled the install; Kevin said he did not have a quote; he was told that historically they have not charged for installs and it would be done for no charge.

Kevin stated we got cable boxes for all 3 schools for free, we got the Housing Authority's main gathering rooms service back for free, and the Transfer Station for free. Charter did the schools and the Housing Authority, and Verizon did the Transfer Station.

Jeff asked if the Asa Waters Mansion was ever completed with the new updates. Kevin said they have a cable feed that they are using for internet. Jeff said there are televisions but they are not operable and that they are paying for internet. Kevin said everyone pays for internet, even the studio here pays for internet.

Jeff stated there is a Verizon portal there; if we do Charter we need a converter box. Kevin said he included the mansion when he stated all the municipal buildings are getting a box but he did not hear back from Catherine (Elliott, Director of the Mansion). Jeff said there is a video set-up in the closet and it would be nice to set it up to cable; Kevin will check into it.

Paul said we should send a thank you letter to Verizon and make sure it is published in the Chronicle. Jeff said it is their responsibility to do it. Mary will mention it at the next Board of Selectmen meeting. Paul wants to let the public know that Verizon came through for us. Bob agreed and said it is imperative that after one person's column, we went from a \$4300.00 charge to free. Discussion ensued. Mary said she will mention it at the Board of Selectmen meeting like she did for the cable in the senior housing.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Website Update** – Kevin met last week with Stephanie Audette who is doing our website and he has seen the mock-up and finalized a few additional items. It will be millburypublicaccess.com. He still need photos, a mission statement, and frequently asked questions. The main driver behind this is the more visible we are, the more people will come here to the studio. Recently the Cub Scouts and their parents were here for a tour and none of the parents knew that they personally could create content, they knew that we were here, but did not know about creating content. We will be able to overcome that hurdle with the website, and become more visible. Jeff asked if the website will be interactive – can people download things for all 3 channels. Kevin said yes, we will have video-on-demand to watch whenever you want and live streaming. Rich asked how popular video-on-demand is with other towns. Frank said very.

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Kevin said with public access you don't really know how many people watch the shows. We will have a website ticker to see how many people visit the site. Rich asked if the ticker can be on the videos. Kevin will find out.

Kevin said we have to update our playback system. The school will be able to edit on the MAC and it will go right to the playback system. On the education channel they have free reign; he does not control the content or tell them what to play – the principals do. Nothing airs without principal approval.

**Portable Equipment for Government Meetings Update** – Recently the sales representative did a demonstration of the new anycast. Now it is all HD and the upgrade is all touch screen, there are no buttons to press. It will be part of a “fly pack” so we can cover meetings that happen outside of the normal meeting rooms (the library, the Senior Center, etc.) Paul asked if this would be live; Kevin said we will go in and film the meeting for playback. He wants to get 2-3 remote controlled portable cameras on tripods; we run the cable and control the cameras from outside the room, similar to the cameras in the Selectmen's room. The quote should come in next week and then we can discuss if we want to add or cut items. Jeff asked if the old one (anycast) can be upgraded. Kevin said no, and the Sony representative had told him that even he cannot find replacement pieces online.

The Globecaster and the 3 studio cameras we are using now are 10 years old; they may not have a lot of miles on them but as far as technology goes they are dinosaurs. We have warranties that we continue to buy so if something goes wrong we are covered. We discuss this and purchase every 3 years. Kevin said in the near future, in 2-4 years, we will need to revamp the entire system, but if it still works, he has a hard time replacing stuff. The problem he is having is that mini DV tapes are not being made anymore. It is a dying format. It is going to P2 or SD cards and it is all digital now. Bob asked if they eliminate these tapes then do we have 3 cameras that are unusable. Kevin said, yes, when we run out of tapes.

#### **COMCAST/CHARTER MERGER**

Paul asked about the Comcast/Charter merger. Kevin has spoken to people at Charter, and there is nothing yet. His recent correspondence listed the number of subscribers: 2800 for Verizon and Charter for 1800.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**The Future** - Frank asked where is cable going to be in 10 years. We can put it all online, but if you can get everything online you don't need cable. People are using Netflix and Hulu. TVs are coming with Google built in to it. Where will our funding be coming from in 10 or 20 years? Rich said it is the unofficial law of the internet – everyone wants everything for free. Kevin said we have about 5 years left with both companies – the contracts expire at the same time.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Cable in the Classroom Update** - Kevin placed a phone call to his Charter contact but has not heard back from him. He has asked Heidi Vandenbrouck (Charter Communications Public Relations and Communications Manager) for the contact's email address to create a paper trail. The (school) IT Director said the rack space is all set; he is hoping Charter can come the first week of March. All three schools are ready.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES**

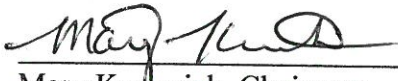
**Motion** made by Frank Irr, seconded by Robert Sullivan to approve the meeting minutes of January 15, 2015. **Motion** carried unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** made by Richard Carew, seconded by Frank Irr to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m. **Motion** carried unanimously.

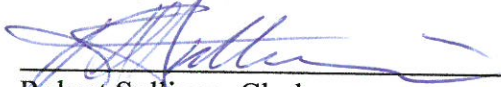
Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Sampson



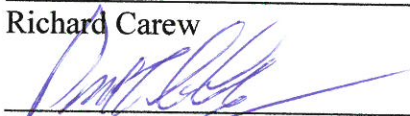
Mary Krumsiek, Chairman

Frank Irr, Vice Chairman

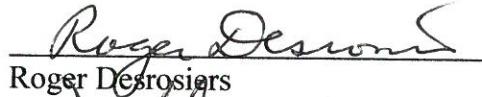


Robert Sullivan, Clerk

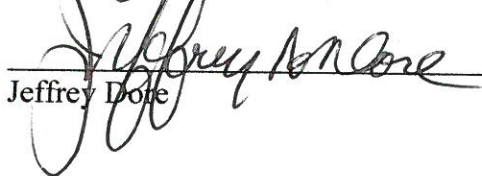
Richard Carew



Paul DiCicco



Roger Desrosiers



Jeffrey Dore