

MILLBURY CABLE TELEVISION COMMISSION MINUTES

Public Access Studio – Millbury High School – 12 Martin Street

Thursday January, 15, 2015 – 7:15 p.m.

Present: Mary Krumsiek; Richard Carew; Roger Desrosiers; Robert Sullivan
Public Access Director Kevin Krassopoulos

Absent: Frank Irr; Paul DiCicco; Jeffrey Dore

Chairman Krumsiek opened the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Cable at the Transfer Station

Chairman Krumsiek had sent an email to all members. Mr. Spain ordered us to hook up cable at the Transfer Station; they want TV there and want to accept credit card payments. Charter (Communications) is charging \$4300.00 just to run the wire.

Kevin said they want to accept credit cards at the Transfer Station as they are now accepting building materials for a fee. As part of the “free cable drop at every municipal location” they could then add internet access and accept credit card payments. Due to the location, it is a non-traditional install; it is 3000 feet of cable. He called Verizon to see what they would charge; Verizon has done 2 site visits but has not given a price yet. Kevin is against paying for this but if we are being told to pay it we should get the best price.

Chairman Krumsiek’s issue is that we have grant money for PEG cable access; anything we pay for has to be shown. What is the purpose of us putting cable at the Transfer Station? Are we going against our contract with Charter?

Mr. Desrosier said it is the running of the wire and presented as the need for a TV; but the purpose seems to be for internet. Why can’t they have a wireless router that would allow for internet access to take place? He does not understand the need for a TV but sees the need to be able to run credit cards. We are confusing some of the products and services that Charter and Verizon are giving us and trying to lump all of them when in actuality we only need one. If the answer is because we have to do the wire, why would you present it as if it’s bringing television to the Transfer Station because that is not the purpose.

Mr. Sullivan said we should ask Mr. Spain to put a hold on this. With all the knowledge he has been given on this project he cannot, in any good common sense, endorse spending \$4300.00 so the dump can accept credit cards. When you pay cash or check, you get the entire check. With a credit card, the town is going to be paying from 4.5% to 5.5% interest. He does not see, under the rules that we have, that we should be laying line for the purpose of being able to accept credit cards, and does not see any reason why the dump needs cable access. If there is a security situation, the police can get through by telephone or send a squad car. He said that Bob Spain has the right to do this, but if he had come before all of us and talked it over, maybe he has an idea that we don’t know about. He does not rubber stamp things and said we should put this on hold. The Town Manager, out of respect for this committee, should put this on hold and try to work out another method. If they are committed to giving away 5.5% of every bill and give money away, then let’s get a router.

Mr. Carew said this is clearly an internet issue not a cable issue; it’s a dangerous precedent because then when people need internet they come to us. There are so many other ways with today’s technology; there are gadgets that attach to phones to swipe cards that need no cable at all. Kevin said it would be a lot less expensive to get the Transfer Station a cell phone account and an intuit device.

Kevin said the cable portion of it came about because both contracts state municipal drops get a free cable drop for television purposes, and they will use that and add the internet access to it. The television is the stepping stone. Roger and Mary don't see why.

Roger said focus on the internet. He does not agree with the 4.5% or 5% being an issue. Credit cards are a more accountable means by which to do this particular job. When there is money exchanged during a busy day, it is so easy for things to go awry. They are probably very concerned and they (employees) would be upset if the amount of money does not match up.

Bob does not see any fiscal sense to this; if this were his house he would not pay \$4300.00 to put a wire in. He said we are basically spending a lot of money for something we could get for less; as a committee we should protect the finances of the town. This is not a good fiscal solution.

Mary said it has nothing to do with the cable contract and with this committee.

Motion made by Roger Desrosiers to ask Mr. Spain to table the issue with regard to the wiring to the Transfer Station and consider merely gaining access to the internet at the Transfer Station.

Discussion ensued. Rich would like someone to come to this committee and tell us why we need to vote on this issue as it seems to be outside of our area. Mary said that he (the Town Manager) told us that we are going to pay for it.

Motion taken off the floor by Roger Desrosiers. He agreed that we should have someone come in to explain why it is necessary to wire that area; Bob agreed, and wants an explanation as to why the Town Manager thinks it is fiscally responsible.

Kevin reminded them that the committee can only negotiate cable. If we put the cable in to the Transfer Station all they would get for free is the municipal cable drop for TV.

Roger suggests that going forward this should be described as, even if cable at the Transfer Station, meaning TV access occurs, we are addressing this the wrong way; the purpose is internet at the Transfer Station. To state it otherwise implies that the primary mission is to get a TV there; it sends the wrong message to the public. The committee would like the Town Manager invited to the next meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Website - A website for the channel is being built; it will be MillburyPublicAccess.com. It will have a frequently asked questions (FAQ) page, photos of the facility, what kind of things we are doing, a program schedule, and probably a comments page so if someone wants to see something specific they can let us know. In the future we will have video on demand (VOD) and live web streaming. Rich asked about video storage; Kevin said it would be part of a playback system and from what he has researched, it is stored remotely. To build the website is 2 installments of \$500.00; once it is built it is turned over to Kevin for maintenance after they show him how to do everything. Rich asked if we see how often people look at the site; he would be curious about the VOD. Kevin said there will be a ticker. Rich said once it is up there is an easy way to market it – put the web address on the door, etc., and get people there to increase the viewership. Kevin has been told to do a Facebook page too. Roger asked about a call-in show. Kevin said we have the ability to do a live call-in show; one has been done in the past 20 years (by the first Town Manager, Ray Houle) and we could only hear one side of the conversation. We now have the interface to hear the caller on the air.

Portable equipment for government meetings – Kevin is waiting for a demo unit of the anycast. With the HD technology, the new anycast is complete different; it is all touch-screen

based. It is for the places that are not wired - Board of Health, Senior Center, Asa Waters Mansion, Butler Farm, and the Public Library. The plan is to get some kind of remote control camera system and run them from the anycast. It will eliminate the need for camera people and for room; some of those locations do not have room for extra people. The cameras are about \$3000.00 each. Kevin spoke with the Superintendent after the School Committee meeting about putting remote controlled cameras in the Media Center; he said "do it".

OLD BUSINESS

Cable in the classroom - Mary said on December 22nd Charter showed up with 5 free boxes; 15 boxes total – 5 for each school. They came to the High School first and the IT Director sent them away, as he was not ready for them to come in. Kevin did not realize this was happening; someone told him the trucks were at the school, so he called Charter and was told that the trucks were here (at the High School), but when Kevin got here at 2 p.m. they were gone, so he assumed they started at another school. Kevin emailed the IT Director, who replied that they had to reallocate rack space and that he did not accept the boxes or the install. Kevin said that regardless of all the work that Mary and he did to get the 5 free boxes for each school – it was turned away. When the IT Director is ready he will let Kevin know and Kevin will set the appointment.

Bob asked if the IT Director has responsibility for all 3 schools; Kevin said yes he does. Charter had already come out to see if each school had the technology for this, and they do.

Roger asked how much time is needed in order to prepare for each school; Kevin said it is a matter of a screw gun to drop the modulator down about 6 spaces to put in a rack shelf, to put the box on, then wire the box to the modulator. It would be about 1 day per school.

Mary suggested that Kevin speak with Rick Bedard (School Business Manager), and we can pay for the rack shelves, which are about \$35 each. Kevin said it is mostly used to separate the boxes for ventilation. Kevin is almost sure they don't want him to touch it and do it but he is willing to do this, and wants to do this before Comcast takes over to make sure we get the 5 free boxes per school. Roger asked how do we resolve this; Kevin said an email or a call to Rick Bedard should resolve it in a week or two.

Roger asked what will these 5 boxes allow each school to do? Kevin said you can choose a channel - if a teacher wanted a station for a class, the teacher would email Rob (IT Director) and he would go to the room where the boxes are kept and tune one of the boxes to that channel and then tell the teacher which channel to turn to.

Teleprompters - Kevin said we purchased 2 more teleprompters and they are mounted to the tripods. The cameras are still a little bit out of balance with the weight of the prompter and the camera; it just needs some fine tuning with the plate they are mounted on. We are waiting on one piece of equipment so they can all receive the same signal, and then we can send out video or text depending on what the person on set wants.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion made by Robert Sullivan, seconded by Richard Carew to approve the meeting minutes of the March 20, 2014, the September 18, 2014, and the November 13, 2014 meetings.

Motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is Thursday February 19, 2015 at 7:15 p.m. here in the studio. This is school vacation week.

ADJOURNMENT

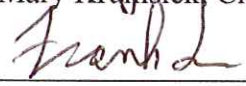
Motion made by Robert Sullivan, seconded by Richard Carew to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m. **Motion** carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

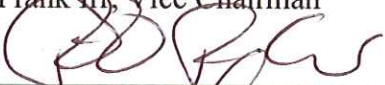
Joyce Sampson



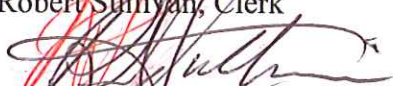
Mary Krumsiek, Chairman




Frank III, Vice Chairman



Robert Sullivan, Clerk

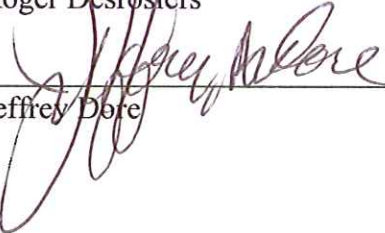


Richard Carew



Paul DiCicco

Roger Desrosiers



Jeffrey Dore