

MILLBURY PUBLIC ACCESS/CABLE TV ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
Public Access Studio – Millbury High School – 12 Martin Street  
Thursday January 17, 2013 – 7:15 p.m.

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TOWN CLERK

**Present:** Mary Krumsiek; Frank Irr; Paul DiCicco; Roger Desrosiers; Jeff Dore; Robert Sullivan; Lori Burrows-Associate Member; Public Access Director Kevin Krassopoulos; Town Manager Bob Spain; Alan Linkevich

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MILLBURY, MASS

**Absent:** Richard Carew

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

**Guest Presentation – Town Manager Bob Spain – Charter Contract**

The Manager stated there is not a lot to negotiate as a lot of the things are routine. He wants to make their rate more compatible with what we did with Verizon; increase the revenue coming in to match Verizon's revenue. Four percent is reasonable; we can ask for 5% and Charter would probably give it to us, then Verizon would have to go to 5%. He would like to do a 5 year contract versus the normal 10 year contract; that would put both (Charter and Verizon) on the same cycle.

Jeff Dore mentioned that under the current Charter contract they provide service to all municipal buildings, but it appears that Charter is moving over to a digital system; are they providing a conversion box? The Manager said that the cable service will have to work.

(Bob Sullivan arrived at 7:30 p.m.)

Chairman Krumsiek read a portion of a letter from Charter: "Charter is providing digital equipment free to customers for a specified period of time."

Jeff asked if they are required to give a box for municipal drops, including Fire Stations and Libraries. The Manager stated that if it is part of providing the service, of which they are only required to provide basic service, and if that requires a box then they would need to provide it.

Lori Burrows asked about having Charter help with cost of closed captioning; Kevin has looked into this and it is very expensive. If a channel itself does not have it then you have to have someone actually sit there and type it in.

Bob Sullivan asked what prohibits us from negotiating where everybody would get one box for free; the Manager said it is prohibited by the cable law. You can't dictate costs; they are free to do whatever they want. The town gets a filing every year saying these are the rates.

(Roger Desrosiers arrived at 7:37 p.m.)

Paul DiCicco asked for a breakdown of the next 30 or 45 days; what we should be doing as a committee. The Manager will tell Tom Cohan (Charter Director of Government Relations) that we had a meeting, and the committee will set up a meeting with him as soon as we can.

Kevin is working on a plan to tape all meetings. Some boards will be taped, the big boards should be live; this may involve another full time person. The Manager said there is a lot more programming since we've brought Kevin on full time.

Different issues with service were discussed, and how most people don't know what the contract is about or don't understand that we have no control over a lot of things.

Chairman Krumsiek stated we will move the next meeting to town hall; she will invite the representatives (from Charter and Verizon) for a Public Hearing.

Paul made a recommendation that anybody on this board who gets a complaint should invite that person down to our next meeting.

## **DIRECTORS REPORT**

### Mail

Charter letter - everyone got a copy.

Ethics – sign acknowledgement form if you have not signed for another committee.

### Equipment

-Kevin is researching new equipment to tape and televise all board meetings; upwards of \$30,000 plus to make it easy for people to do and to make it portable. There is no reason to have fixed microphones and cameras in offices (such as Board of Health). We will need at least 3 people to go around and do these meetings. Equipment has to be something easy that they can walk in and plug in 2 wires and be done.

Bob Sullivan asked what is the purpose of us doing all this?

Kevin said it is due to transparency and the Open Meeting Law. You can legally set up and tape a meeting without asking permission.

-Editing computer stopped working; Kevin sent to the town's IT company but it is beyond repair; to repair it would cost more than to buy a new one.

-DVD recorder in the control room does not work as well as it should; ordered a new one to be delivered tomorrow.

-a shipment of tripods came in, tripods are much bigger than the cameras. He sent them back and got a more reasonable size.

-Bob Spain talked about upgrading the "I net" to fiber-optic (it brings signal back to Charter). It cost Grafton about \$400,000 to do this; they did it themselves as it was not part of their contract. We have most of our municipal buildings in a close proximity. Doing this would make document sharing safer.

### Open House

Will live broadcast next Thursday's meet and greet with the Police Chief; both Verizon and Charter did not work and he will continue to test it tomorrow. It will be taped but he is hoping that the televising will go well; he called last week to activate the drop.

### Minutes

Paul wanted to discuss a few items from the October minutes.

Has the School Committee been invited to visit the studio? Some have come in individually, but Paul wants a few members of the committee to come and see what we do; it will help build our relationship. Roger added we want them to see what we really do and what goes on.

The second thing is the Fire Truck camera invoice. Jeff said the bill has been paid.

Chairman Krumsiek said she will call Fire Chief David Rudge to see if the Fire Department wants to train the committee members (on operating the camera).

## **PREVIOUS MINUTES**

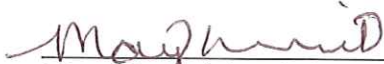
Motion made by Paul DiCicco, seconded by Roger Desrosiers to approve the meeting minutes of October 18, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

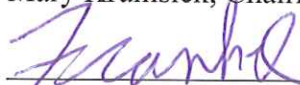
**ADJOURNMENT**


Motion made by Paul DiCicco, seconded by Bob Sullivan to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

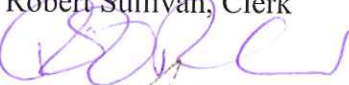
Respectfully submitted,

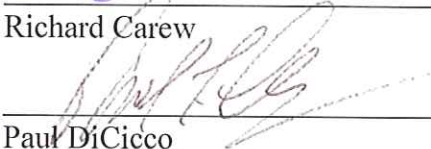
Joyce Sampson, Secretary

  
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Mary Krumsiek, Chairman

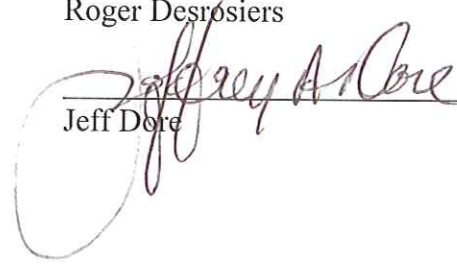
  
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Frank Irr, Vice Chairman

  
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Robert Sullivan, Clerk

  
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Richard Carew

  
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Paul DiCicco

\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger Desrosiers

  
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Jeff Dore