

MILLBURY CABLE TELEVISION COMMISSION MINUTES
Public Access Studio – Millbury High School – 12 Martin Street
Thursday October 17, 2013 – 7:15 p.m.

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14 JUN 13 AM 8:19
MILLBURY, MASS

Present: Mary Krumsiek; Frank Irr; Paul DiCicco; Jeffrey Dore; Robert Sullivan
Absent: Richard Carew; Roger Desrosiers
Public Access Director Kevin Krassopoulos; Town Manager Bob Spain

Chairman Krumsiek opened the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

GUEST PRESENTATION - TOWN MANAGER BOB SPAIN

Negotiations with Charter Communications are finished; Kevin sent board members a copy of the contract. The biggest change is the format. It is similar to the Verizon contract so it is easier to compare the two with similar language. It is a 5 year deal versus the normal 10 year as done in the past; both companies will expire at the same time so one does not play off the other.

Tom Cohan and Heidi Vandebroek (from Charter) were at the October 8 Board of Selectmen meeting to answer any questions; nobody had any and the Manager does not see any issues with the Board signing the contract. The prior contract expired in March and things continue until a new contract is signed.

We are limited in what we can talk about in a cable contract. We cannot talk about internet or telephone; this contract covers television per federal law. We cannot ask about having only certain channels or pricing, but we can ask for channel space for public access, which we have. We can talk about PEG (Public, Education, Government) funding and customer service standards. Over the years this becomes boilerplate; both Charter and Verizon are on the same level playing field and offer almost the same services. It is personal preference and the individual choice of the consumer.

We are starting to branch out and go live in places that we have not before; we are getting as many places as we can where we can go live with TV coverage and wiring. We need just 1 drop and the feed goes to both services. Under current technology we just couldn't go live for the (Bicentennial) parade. Charter helped out and brought in their mobile truck and helped out. We should have no problem going live anywhere we have a meeting.

The Manager has asked Kevin to work on going live and/or tape all boards and commissions. Starting November 1st meetings in the large conference room will be live and if there are 3 or 4 other meetings those would be taped, and some may just be with a stationary camera. Board and committees who meet in the large conference room will go live first, the second phase will be meetings in the small conference room, then all the others. The cameras in the large conference room will be replaced and moved to the small conference room. We have the ability to go live on different channels at the same time. The third phase is the "out" boards - Library Trustees, Council on Aging, Board of Fire Engineers – and these would require portable equipment. Kevin could go live from the Senior Center and the Library. Where we can go live we will, where we can't we will go live to tape.

The good news is we are making progress. Under the watchful eye of the committee we have made improvements. Since Kevin came on board full time we have made great strides in our offerings on all 3 channels including going live for town meetings. The public access channel has a lot more shows than it ever had; when you have no offerings you get no offerings – if people see it is a vibrant channel you get more interest.

Mr. DiCicco: When we sat down with Tom and Heidi, the subject came up about quarterly complaint statistics – will we be getting the statistics?

Mr. Spain: It is a requirement of the contract. When I get something I give it to Tish and it is sent to Kevin.

Mr. DiCicco: Can we make it standard – Kevin on a quarterly basis can get this.

Mr. Sullivan: Can we ask the people making the complaint to also notify us so we know what we are getting back is the truth?

Mr. Spain: We can but it would only be as accurate as people doing it. A complaint is something you have to take corrective action against. If they have to come fix your set, they should count that – the company does not count that. In my opinion none of the cable companies properly report the number of complaints that they get. I don't consider a normal service call a complaint, but if they have to go back then that is a complaint because it was not fixed properly the first time.

Discussion ensued about cable boxes and drops at municipal locations.

Mr. Dore: Do you want a vote from us tonight?

Mr. Irr: He already has it done.

Mr. Spain: Unless you have issues that you want me to address, I will be asking the Board to vote to sign on November 12th.

Town Manager Bob Spain left at 8:10 p.m.

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New Equipment - Kevin is meeting with the Finance Director to sign the purchase agreement.

Omni Music Library –Kevin checked with Omnimedia about the CDs, they are not ours to keep, we have to destroy the CDs or give them back when the contact expires.


NEW BUSINESS - None

OLD BUSINESS Frank asked if Kevin has heard anything about the cable advisor at the school; Kevin said no.

PREVIOUS MINUTES **Motion** made by Bob Sullivan, seconded by Frank Irr to approve the meeting minutes of September 19, 2013. **Motion** carried unanimously.

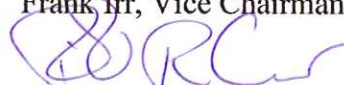
ADJOURNMENT **Motion** made by Bob Sullivan, seconded by Paul DiCicco to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. **Motion** carried unanimously.


Respectfully submitted,
Joyce Sampson


Mary Krumsiek, Chairman


Frank Irr, Vice Chairman

Robert Sullivan, Clerk


Richard Carew


Roger Desrosiers


Paul DiCicco

Jeffrey Dore