

**MILLBURY CABLE TELEVISION COMMISSION MINUTES**  
Municipal Office Building – 127 Elm Street – Large Conference Room  
Thursday November 13, 2014 – 7:15 p.m.

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**Present:** Mary Krumsiek; Richard Carew; Jeffrey Dore; Frank Irr; Paul DiCicco; Roger Desrosiers; Robert Sullivan; Public Access Director Kevin Krassopoulos  
Town Manager Bob Spain; Kevin Mailloux, Charter Communications Director of Field Operations; Heidi Vandenbrouck, Charter Communications Senior Communications Manager.

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

Chairman Krumsiek turned the meeting over to Public Access Director Kevin Krassopoulos. Charter Communications was invited in to talk about issues that we have been having. At this point, most issues have been resolved except to try to resolve the cable in the classroom situation; there is a conference call on Monday.

On October 14, 2014 Charter went all digital which meant that anyone who had a cable ready television set lost their service; if you had a digital box nothing changed.

All of the municipal facilities, the schools, cable access and the housing authority buildings (community rooms) were affected. As of today, all these sites have been taken care of, except for the transfer station which never had service to begin with; Charter will be running a line down to it for service.

For cable in the classrooms, because Charter is supplying one box to each drop for free, each school gets one box. When the schools expanded, the schools split the Charter wire so that almost every classroom had a television. With digital, every television needs a converter box. Kevin tried multiple solutions; the conference call will offer some solutions.

Kevin Mailloux, Director of Field Operations, said that he spoke with the school about the challenges and the structure that they want set up. Charter will do a site visit to see what technology is available; he is very confident that they can come up with something that will work for the classrooms.

Chairman Krumsiek thanked Charter for getting the elderly housing done so quickly.

Paul DiCicco asked if down the road the schools can buy the boxes to have a short-term expense as opposed to the monthly charge which is a long-term expense, which will not go over well with the taxpayers. Mr. Mailloux said he is not aware of any situation where a box can be bought by a customer; today there is a rental charge on the converter, but they will work with the schools to determine the best way to get the signal through the school.

Chairman Krumsiek asked why the PEG channels were moved to 191, 192 and 194. Ms. Vandenbrouck said the change was made nationwide across 29 states; it is a dramatic change, but they moved the stations to what they call the “public service neighborhood”.

Paul DiCicco noted that cable television is a want not a need. You can still get channels off the air even with the new high definition televisions, there are antennas out there; you can get basic cable and not pay a dime for it. What you are paying for cable TV today is your choice; it is what you want, not what you need. Town Manager Spain agreed that it is not a necessity; you can get regular stations and HD stations with an antenna; you do not need a box or a cable company.

Mr. Desrosiers said the overwhelming perception that the average person has of the corporate world is that we get a lot more than we probably need. The difficulty that most people have is essentially being able to keep the very small amount of cable that they need for themselves without hitting the remote button improperly and not being able to correct it for the next 3 days, which is more frustrating than many of the things that we are talking about. Offer a lot of new things and new technology that we think we need, but something needs to be done for the 80% or more of people that want to watch television and not be overwhelmed by the whole process. He also takes issue with the high numbered PEG channels. Charter seemed to indicate tonight that they are looking for uniformity across the country, but 11, 12, 13 is uniformity. Why channels 191, 192 and 194? If it is a technical thing then tell us it is a technical thing. Ms. Vandembrouck replied that those decisions are made by corporate marketing/corporate programming. They make the contracts with the networks and decide where the channel placements go across the country.

Mr. Sullivan asked about channel 3; Charter has always supported channel 3; will Comcast be mandated to keep channel 3 or is it going to be optional? The Town Manager guesses that it will probably be kept if it is profitable enough. Mr. Sullivan said channel 3 is local; do you think Comcast will follow the pattern? Ms. Vandembrouck said she could not comment on that; they cannot speak for Comcast. Mr. Sullivan asked when the turnover would be done; Ms. Vandembrouck said it depends on the FCC and the Department of Justice working on the first part of the deal with Time Warner Cable. Town Manager Spain said the Time Warner is the biggest piece; Comcast is buying Time Warner first then buying Charter.

Frank Irr spoke about the current (Millbury Sutton) Chronicle "Just a Thought or Two" column. The column mentioned that maybe it was time for a turnover on the Cable Advisory Board. Mr. Sullivan felt that (in regard to the contract) what was mentioned in this column was incorrect as we do not have an open negotiation with Charter. There are so many things that we can't open; we have gotten contracts that are better than other towns. Mr. Sullivan asked if a letter can be sent to the person who writes the column. Mr. Irr said if the writer continues to write like this about boards that have volunteers who give their time then nobody will be on any of these boards. Mr. DiCicco thinks we should not respond (as a board). Mr. Dore said relative to connections to municipal buildings the Verizon contract states the same thing however the majority of the buildings are not connected. Kevin Krassopoulos said we did not duplicate the effort because Charter was already in the buildings, and it is the same delivery system; everything in town that we broadcast from feeds back to the high school studio and we feed it out to the public from there. The biggest change will be on Charters end – they will need to buy the processors to bring the signal up to HD.


Regarding the school, Charter told Kevin K. that they have to reeducate the educators. The information is still there, it has to be delivered in a different method. You can go to Charter's website and see the same thing. The students (Video Production Class) tape the daily news and broadcast it on YouTube.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

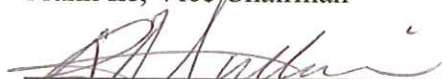
**Motion** made by Paul DiCicco, seconded by Roger Desrosiers to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. **Motion** carried unanimously.

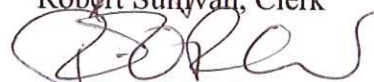
Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Sampson

  
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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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Roger Desrosiers

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Paul DiCicco

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Jeffrey Dore