

MILLBURY CABLE TELEVISION COMMISSION MINUTES

Public Access Studio – Millbury High School – 12 Martin Street

Thursday October 15, 2015 – 7:15 p.m.

Present: Paul DiCicco; Joseph Coggans; Richard Carew; Roger Desrosiers; Jeffrey Dore; Mary Krumsiek; Robert Sullivan; Public Access Director Kevin Krassopoulos

Absent: Associate Member Michael Lawton

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

Chairman DiCicco explained the charge of the committee.

Chairman DiCicco opened a discussion about Tom Reilly's editorial in last week's Millbury-Sutton Chronicle by reading the Letter to the Editor written by Roger Desrosiers (attached) published in this week's edition of the Chronicle. The Chairman also read a correction published in this week's Chronicle (attached). There were no additional comments.

MAIL - none

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion made by Mary Krumsiek, seconded by Joseph Coggans to approve the meeting minutes of September 17, 2015. **Motion** carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Fly Pack - We have a contract with HB Communications (HB) for the "fly-pack" or portable system. There is a new state bid list contract number and the contract that was sent out got stuck in HB's legal department as it had the wrong contract number (it was OFF30 now it is OFF40). There were certain items in the quote that should have been included; there have been some changes to the initial quote, including the dollar amount, which went up. The price has gone from \$36,831.00 to \$38,925.00. The major difference lies with the technical services, which is a \$1447.00 difference, and there were also some equipment changes. Chairman DiCicco asked Kevin if he has checked around, and he has done that. Ms. Krumsiek asked if he had to go through the state bid list, Kevin said no, and added that there are other companies on the state bid list, but he has worked with HB in the past. Kevin needs to verify that OFF40/OFF40A covers the same things as OFF30/OFF30A.

HD - Chairman DiCicco asked for a summary of where we stand on us getting online with high definition (HD). Kevin does not see it ever happening. In this age that we are in we are still broadcasting in analog. We use HD cameras for some of our things but before it gets recorded it gets downgraded to standard definition. It is cost prohibitive for the cable companies. For our end you can't buy standard definition equipment anymore. Everything we now buy is high definition or upgraded. We broadcast analog but we leave here fiber optic, so it gets transcoded into light at some point in our system. When it gets to Charter and Verizon it gets changed back from light to video and it becomes standard definition.

We are quasi-digital if you want to call it that; we are on a higher tier than we were before. Per Chairman DiCicco requests, Kevin read the following as a public service:

Charter channels are 191 government, 192 education, 194 public access.

Verizon channels are 24 education, 26 government, 28 public access.

PEG means public access, education, government.

OLD BUSINESS

Complaint Data Forms (attached) were passed out to everyone. Chairman DiCicco recommended that we invite Charter in, but we will hold off until we see the updated reports. Mr. Dore noted that the complaint form from Charter is a year and a half old. Chairman DiCicco will get ahold of Charter and request quarterly reports immediately. Mr. Coggans wants to invite both Charter and Verizon. He does not want to surprise or blindsides anyone; he wants to have a list of questions in advance that we are going to ask so we can get an answer that night, instead of a "We'll get back to you."

Mr. Desrosiers said the quarterly complaints were embedded within the contract. We should go back to see if that has been changed, if it hasn't been changed then they are not doing what the contracts demand. We should do our own homework to see what the obligations are in the current contracts. We as a committee can't be of assistance if we don't hear from the people in the community who have complaints with Charter or Verizon. The public should reach out and call the Town Manager's office at 508-865-4710 and that office will refer the complaint over to the board and we will follow up if it seems to be a legitimate complaint. Mr. Coggans stated that the complaints should be put in writing along with the phone call. Kevin has already emailed his contact at both Charter and Verizon for an updated report.

NEW BUSINESS – None

CITIZEN SPEAK - None

NEXT MEETING

Thursday November 19, 2015 at 7:15 p.m. at the High School studio, 12 Martin Street.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Joseph Coggans, seconded by Robert Sullivan to adjourn the meeting at 8 p.m.
Motion carried unanimously.


Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Sampson



Paul DiCicco, Chairman

Roger Desrosiers



Joseph Coggans, Vice Chairman

Jeffrey Dore



Richard Carew, Clerk



Mary Kumsiek



Robert Sullivan

2015-10-08 / Editorial

Desrosiers: No public access funds used for electronic signboard

Today, the need to stir controversy, by substituting opinion for news, is too often the focus in our media.

Unfortunately, this has been the case with a columnist from the *Millbury-Sutton Chronicle* over the past several years. We have a columnist who consistently pontificates about what he observes and gives the pretense that this is unvarnished truth. Apparently, when issues and decisions don't mesh with this his views, he has no compunction to denigrate and to belittle those involved.

I have been the recipient of several of his incendiary, unsubstantiated and divisive comments that are most of all, untrue. Fundamentally, I see harm from not answering these specious comments that seem to escalate from week to week without rebuttal. The ordinary citizen reading about his rants has no substance to decide the accuracy or legitimacy of his condemnations.

I am the co-chair of the Millbury Bicentennial Commission and a long serving member of the Cable Advisory Oversight Committee, both appointed positions. In last week's commentary, strong implications were made regarding an electronic digital signboard that would use public access funds to pay for it. He alleges that there would be a possible misuse of public access funds. As is common practice with this columnist, he did not speak with the co-chairs of the Bicentennial Commission nor the Cable Advisory Oversight Committee.

The truth: Anyone can read the minutes from either committee meetings and see that no such discussion ever occurred, the only discussion that related to this issue pertained to getting a drop from Charter Communications to the electronic signboard. Never has any discussion for public access funds to purchase the electronic signboard ever been discussed.

When this information was provided to this columnist, he brazenly responded by indicating that regardless of the information, the influence of his column would prevent any discussion or vote going forward. He is unapologetic about reporting falsely and simply puts his ego before the truth. How sad.

The *Millbury-Sutton Chronicle* is an important source giving everyone information about the community. However, monitoring the accuracy and the substance of this columnist's accusations is essential. If printing innuendo continues, then I will not renew my subscription. I will not support the dissemination of skewed information.

Roger Desrosiers
Millbury

2015-10-08 / Editorial

Clarification

In last week's "Just a Thought or Two," a portion, with regard to the Bicentennial Commission's electronic message board, read: "And supposedly the Cable Advisory Board—full of former Bicentennial Commission members— is planning on giving up public access money for this purpose? Can anyone say conflict of interest?"

To clarify, funds from Cable Access were not used to purchase the electronic board. We apologize for any confusion.