

STURBRIDGE CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF 11/10/14

John Clancey called the meeting of the Cable Advisory Committee to order at 5:05p.m. The following members were also present: Kadion Phillips, Don Fairbrother, Steve Greenberg, Bruce Butcher and Steve Tieri.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES: John Clancey made a motion to accept the minutes of 10/21/14. Steve Greenberg seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

- SCTV is covering all of the town government meetings. Public Access channels have changed; 11 is now 191, 12 is now 192 and 13 is now 194. Each day is programmed with a good mix of programs. The four new camera recruits will start working alone by the end of this month. Bruce visited Charlton Public Access with Don Fairbrother to look at their operation. They record in an old hall on the top floor of the Charlton Library and have built a small control room along the lines of what we want to build in our Senior Center. Steve edited highlights of the Harvest Festival. It is currently playing on channel 192. Two residents came into Bruce's office to vent about on-going problems with both Charter Television and Charter Telephone. Mostly Charter Telephone. One lives at 11 Farquhar Road and the other lives at 11 Newton Place here in Sturbridge. Bill August asks that we invite anyone we can think of who can stand up for Public Access and the construction of a new Public Access studio at the November 17th BOS Meeting.

ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING ON SCTV:

- Weekly Drive-In Movie; Sat. 8pm
- Gourmet Grannies series
- Senior Center Seminars/Events
- Second Chance Animal Shelter series

FINANCIAL REVIEW:

- Don reviewed the finances. The reserves available have grown to \$47,625. We need to buy materials for the Tantasqua Electrical and Carpentry department for the studio work now before the new contract begins. The period opening balance is \$98,744. Contract Year 5 Completion Available Balance is \$98,744. The Contract Year 5 Anticipated Completion Expenses are \$51,119.

SENIOR CENTER USER STATUS:

- Don presented to the Council On Aging regarding the studio build. It is looking good and they will be voting on it this week.

NEGOTIATION GOALS:

- The SCTV will present a list of recommendations for the cable contract at the upcoming meeting to the Selectmen based on what we vote on this evening. These will be the cable committee's recommendations and the Board of Selectmen can choose whether to follow the recommendations.

CONTRACT CHANGES:

(RATE CHANGE, LENGTH OF CONTRACT, PERFORMANCE PENALTIES, WAVING LIBRARY CABLE COST):

- Rate Change: The current rate is \$3.98/month and we are currently at 2.5% and going for 4% (increase would be for anticipated labor cost with the plan to hire a part-time employee as well as capital equipment purchases). This would only be a .49 increase per bill to subscribers. John Clancey made a motion to accept the starting point for negotiations at 4%. Steve Greenberg seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.
- Length of Contract: Should we go with a 5 or 10 year contract was presented. Don Fairbrother made a motion to go with a 10 year contract. Kadion Phillips seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-1.
- Performance Penalties: Penalties put in place holding Charter to meet certain standards and obligations. John Clancey made a motion to include performance penalties wherever possible. Steve Greenberg seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.
- Don Fairbrother made a motion for a senior discount for the digital conversion device in order to receive a digital signal. The device should be free to those qualifying for the senior discount. John Clancey seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.
- Waving Library Cable Costs: John Clancey made a motion to accept waving internet charges to the Library and the Senior Center and also for a free digital receiver at each municipal building. Kadion Phillips seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:

STUDIO BUILD OUT, SCHOOL EQUIPMENT:

- Tantasqua High School is preparing estimates for Carpentry and Electrical supplies.
- John Clancey made a motion to include in the Cable Committee's recommendations to the Selectmen; including Tantasqua Education Channel (194) funds as part of the capital purchases. Don Fairbrother seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a vote of 5-0.

CONSULTING CONTRACT STATUS:

- Don Fairbrother sent out a statement of work last Friday requesting responses by 11/14/14.

The next meeting was scheduled for 4:30 p.m., December 9, 2014, in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall. On a motion made by Steve Tieri, seconded by John Clancey, and voted 5-0 the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.