

Cable Advisory Committee Meeting July 25, 2012

Call to order 4:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Paul Ciccotelli, Chairman, Patricia Rumney, Secretary/Clerk, members: Matt Underhill, William RC White, Guests, from WCTV Jay Heard, Steve Ruiz.

Motion made, seconded to take New Business on the agenda out of order to discuss the needs/ concerns of WCTV. Unanimously approved 4-0-0.

Jay Heard asked the committee what was needed from WCTV. Paul Ciccotelli explained the necessary feedback required to negotiate with Comcast for the new contract. What has occurred in the past and what you would deem necessary for the future. There are 33 mos. to end of the contract. Consequently, there is time to accomplish this.

Jim Newman, associate member, arrived at 4:30 p.m.

Jay responded that he felt we had a fairly good contract in place; however, replacement equipment for HD (hi-definition), etc would be needed for the future. He questioned whether or not we will need an attorney down the line. Paul responded that Peter Teitelbaum, the BOS liaison is an attorney and we shall see how things move along. It should be noted that Peter Teitelbaum was not in attendance today. William White asked if the Board of Directors have a 5 yr plan so we can go through the ascertainment process. Steve mentioned through technology WCTV has expanded the educational channel .The School Dept has a 3yr plan to possibly offer a morning show, etc which will require more funding. Steve needs the cost for changing to high definition. In addition, moving the studio will cost. Comcast's response to outages at WCTV has been good. Capitol needs would be expanding video return lines. Discussion ensued about Inet. What does the Town want? Video to replace Inet, they originally pulled, a possible discount for senior subscribers.

Jay asked for an explanation of ascertainment. Paul answered he hoped the Cable Advisory Committee could complete this within a year. It is necessary for

the committee to investigate complaints received from subscribers and what they might be. Matt noted that the BOS may have received them. Any future complaints should come to us. Pat questioned whether or not subscribers know that they have a place to offer their complaints. Most people accept things as "It is what it is".

Pat also questioned whether or not subscribers get real good reception and where the maps are located which delineate the coverage areas within the contract. The maps are kept in the library and could be looked at. These maps are referred to as strand maps. Comcast will most probably bring updates to the committee. We will need to compare them to what we requested in the previous contract and how well they fared in meeting our requests. Matt responded we should check connections. Area edges may not be tied into Wareham but a surrounding town. At the time, subscribers in those areas received pertinent explanations. However, some may have been disappointed on not being able to access local stations broadcast by WCTV. What means could we use to get subscribers to voice their opinion or satisfaction with Comcast?

Pat noted, in preparation for this meeting, reading the guidelines, it does create questions. When do we notify Comcast of our meeting to prepare for negotiations? Paul responded that the BOS will send the letter for notification of our committee.

William noted that he wonders if the BOS actually understands what our mission is. It was noted that Peter will report back to the BOS .

Motion to accept the minutes from July 11, 2012, as read by the secretary, made by William White, seconded by Matt Underhill, unanimously approved 4-0-0.

Paul proposed the following dates for future Wednesday meetings.

August 22, September 5 & 19, October 3 & 17, November 7 & 28, December 12

In Room 225 in the Multi Service Center, at 4:00 p.m. in the 2012.

Motion made by William, seconded by Matt to accept the dates as proposed.

William questioned our time line as proposed by the State Guidelines. Paul asked him if he would create a reverse calendar for the guideline topics necessary. It was also noted that we should send a letter to the WCTV Board and explain what we specifically need from them going forward with ascertainment.

A discussion ensued about the Open Meeting Law and how we should proceed. What can be done and what would be considered a violation. There should be no discussion in e mails or in public when a quorum of members is present about issues and concerns. A request to the Chairman can be made to put an issue on the next agenda.

Motion to adjoin made by William White, seconded by Matt Underhill, unanimously approved 4-0-0 at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A Rumney, Secretary

Next Meeting :Wednesday Aug 22, 2012 4:00 p.m. Rm 225 Multi Service Center

