

Cable Advisory Committee
Minutes of January 23, 2014

Present for the Cable Committee were: Chairman Christopher Ferguson, Vice Chair Hank Noel, Gordon Lutz Len Proposki and Ted Kosievelon. Also present were: Glen Edwards, Assistant Town Manager and Samantha Carver the recording secretary. The meeting was held in the Varnum Room in Historic Hall located at 1660 Lakeview Avenue, Dracut, MA.

Absent: Louis Rousseau

Also present was: Jack Lyons a representative for DATV

Mr. Ferguson opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. He asked Mr. Lyons to explain to the Committee what DATV was requesting.

Mr. Lyons stated that in the new Town Hall there is a conference room that can seat sixty people with a control room next to it to house camera controls so that DATV will be able to film the Town's committee and board meetings. They are looking to do the same type of setup as Harmony Hall however the equipment will be high definition ready if and when DATV gets enough band width for high definition. The money for this equipment can come from the technology fund and DATV is requesting that the Cable Advisory Committee make this recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

Discussion ensued about why the camera's currently installed in Harmony Hall couldn't be moved. Mr. Lyons stated that they are older cameras and they are looking to plan for the future. Eventually Comcast will have high definition local access stations and they want to have the high definition cameras for this purpose. The technology fund can only be used Town entities School, Municipal and the like.

The Committee asked the Staff how much the balance in the fund was. It was noted that there was about \$80,000. There was a discussion about moving the head end from the School building to the Fire Station and whether an invoice was received from Comcast on that move. The Staff would look into this because if the Town was billed the balance in the technology fund would be lower.

Mr. Ferguson made a motion to recommend that the Selectmen approve an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to fund the robotic camera equipment for the large conference room at the newly built Town Hall. Mr. Noel seconded the motion for discussion. He added pending available funds to the motion until the Staff is able to verify the actual figure. The motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman had requested the Committee to read the Practical Guide for Cable Television Renewal Process and ask any questions they may have after reviewing this. He also requested getting someone from the Department of Telecommunications to come to their next meeting so they could ask questions about the contract negotiation process. Mr. Ferguson stated that Town Counsel would also be available to the Committee if they had questions during the process.

Mr. Noel talked about streaming video and asked if this eventually would take the place of cable television and he mentioned Roku and other streaming video mechanism available.

Mr. Ferguson stated the Committee is only tasked with negotiating the contract with Comcast for television, not phones, streaming or anything else.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date was discussed to be April 10, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. the location would most likely be at the Historical Society Building.

Minutes

Mr. Lutz made a motion to approve the minutes of September 26, 2013 as presented. Mr. Noel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Mr. Proposki made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Mr. Noel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Cable Advisory Committee

	
	
	Absent: Louis Rousseau