

**Cable Advisory Committee
Minutes of January 28, 2016**

Present for the Cable Committee were: Chairman May Paquette, Vice Chair Hank Noel, Louis Rousseau, Gordon Lutz, David Patenaude, Lenny Proposki and Ted Kosiavelon. Also present was: Samantha Carver the recording secretary. The meeting was held at the Town Hall located at 62 Arlington Street, Dracut, MA.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and stated they would begin taking any input for the public meeting on the cable contract. Mrs. Paquette stated they are interested in hearing about the local access and overall issues if any.

Audience members who spoke:

Mr. Michael Poitras of 46 Juniper Road – stated he would like to see DATV get continued support and that he watches the public access stations quite a bit because he cannot always make it to the meetings.

Mr. Chuck Moran – 241 Varnum Road – was in support of Dracut Access Television and what they bring to the community.

Mr. Michael McNAmara – 34 Brox Road – stated that he was also on the School Committee and wanted to thank DATV for all the programming they do filming the local events. He stated they are a valuable tool for the Town. He talked about the technology needs to the Town and that some consideration may be taken for Comcast to provide some of the cost for upgrading fiber.

Jack Lyons – 59 Mill Street – Stated that he was part of the original negotiators when they were planning the DATV studio and that most of the questions they would get was on programs, cost of the cable billing and senior discounts. He stated that the P.E.G. channels for educational and government are an important part in the community.

There was a comment about the length of the cable contract and whether it would be another ten year contract. Mrs. Paquette stated that the length of the contract would be part of the negotiations with Comcast. Mr. Noel stated that technology is moving fast and questioned whether a ten year contract would be a good idea. Mr. McNamara stated that an important question would be to look at a shorter term due to the technology changing.

Mr. Lyons commented that Comcast will look at their recovery period if they make an investment in the Town with new technology such as fiber. They will look at the bottom line to see if they can't recover their costs in the short term. Mr. Moran asked why Verizon has not come into the Town. Mr. Kosiavelon stated that when the Committee had a representative from Verizon into a meeting they had said maybe in six years they would try to come into Town. Mr. Lutz commented that they had an issue with the INET and Comcast could not repair it any longer and they didn't have parts, so by trying to negotiate a shorter contract it may benefit the Town with the technology advances.

Mr. Patenaude of the Committee also commended DATV for their programming of school and town events.

Mrs. Paquette closed the public hearing and continued with the regular cable meeting. The Committee reviewed Form 500 in their packet. It was learned that last year's form was photocopied in error and the secretary will email the current Form 500.

Minutes

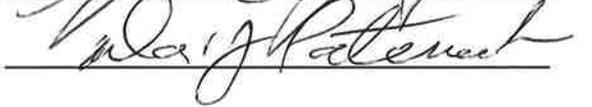
The Committee reviewed the minutes of January 14, 2016 for approval. Mr. Noel made a motion to approve the minutes of January 14, 2016 as presented. Mr. Rousseau seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

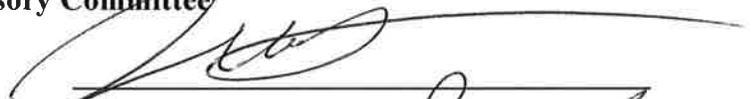
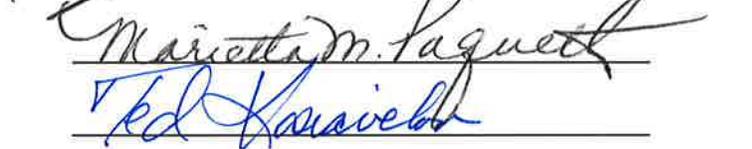
Adjourn

Mr. Noel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Rousseau seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Cable Advisory Committee


James P. Rousseau

Ted Karsiebb

Daisy Patenaude


Marietta M. Paquette

Ted Karsiebb