

**Cable Advisory Committee
Minutes of February 18, 2016**

Present for the Cable Committee were: Chairman May Paquette, Vice Chair Hank Noel, 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.

Absent: Louis Rousseau

The Chairman opened the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

Jack Lyons, Gary Meuse and Michael McNamara from DATV were present for the meeting.

Mrs. Paquette welcomed the members of DATV.

Mr. Lyons began the discussion by announcing that they will be moving into a bigger space at the Mill Building where they currently are. They have a space downstairs that is approximately 4,600 square feet and is being retrofitted by the new owner. They will lose their store front location but you will be able to access the studio from the rear of the building. They currently lease a garage on site for the van and that lease will be up in March. They are also hoping to add another person to their staff in the future but that will be three to four years out.

Mr. Meuse discussed the possible loss in revenue for their studio from the FCC trying to require Comcast to give up the rental income from the boxes etcetera which would mean a loss of approximately \$25,000 to DATV. They are also concerned with streaming. As more people stream their media there will be less of a need for cable which would affect the income of DATV. In light of these factors and the fact that their rent will be going up they were hoping the Committee could negotiate 4% for the first five years of the contract and 4 ¼ % for years 6 through 10. There was a discussion on the amount quarterly that DATV receives at \$116,000.

Mr. Meuse stated that the PEG channels are not streamed through Comcast but DATV streams them on their webpage. There was a discussion on trying to negotiate a shorter contract and what DATV member's thoughts were on that. Mr. Lyons cautioned the Committee about a shorter term because whatever they negotiate with Comcast, Comcast will want to recover their cost back over the length of the contract. So the shorter the contract, most likely the less the Town will be able to negotiate.

Mr. Meuse discussed asking Comcast to make the conversion from the Inet to a SDSL connection. The Committee discussed the three major locations where video is done, Town Hall, High School and Harmony Hall and asking Comcast to wire fiber at these locations and get the coding and decoding equipment at Comcast's expense. Mr. Meuse referred the Committee to the Westford, MA contract and highlighted the PEG Access section. He supplied the Chair with a copy for the record. He noted that Westford negotiated a capital grant of \$100,000 with ten payments of \$10,000 a year for new equipment.

Mr. Proposki asked if Mr. Meuse could outline what DATV would be looking for in a memorandum and get it to the Committee for consideration during negotiations. The secretary will also download the contract from Westford for the Committee for next meeting.

The Committee asked DATV members if they had a way of measuring their viewership. Mr. Meuse stated they did not.

The Committee discussed how the video gets back to the studio. Mr. Meuse stated that it goes from Town Hall via the Inet to the Fire Station and then to Lowell (on Walker street) for distribution out to the viewers. He talked about getting that changed so that by using the coding and decoding equipment they would be able to distribute the broadcast from the DATV studio.

Next Meeting Agenda

Mrs. Paquette discussed the agenda items for the next meeting of March 3, 2016:

1. Discuss the needs of the Town with Bill Frangiamore of the School Department and Ann Vandal of the Town
2. Review the first four sections of the Bedford Contract which Attorney August negotiated.
3. Review the Westford Contract
4. Discuss who wants to participate as part of the negotiation team.

The following meeting the Chair would like to have Catherine Maloney of Comcast who replaced Ben Pearlman to discuss the contract. The Committee will meet on March 31, 2016 for this meeting.

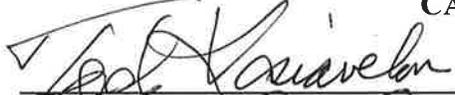
Minutes

Mr. Noel made a motion to approve the minutes of February 4, 2016 as presented. Mr. Lutz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

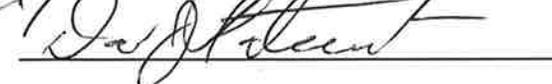
Adjourn

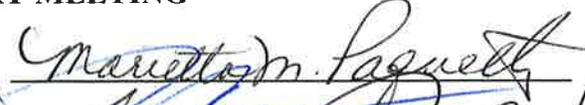
Mr. Lutz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. Mr. Proposki seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

CABLE ADVISORY MEETING











 Absent: Louise Rousseau