

Cable Advisory Committee
Minutes of March 21, 2013

Present for the Cable Committee were: Chairman Christopher Ferguson, Vice Chair Hank Noel, Ted Kosiavelon, Lenny Proposki, and Louis Rousseau. Also present were: Dennis E. Piendak, Town Manager and Samantha Carver the recording secretary. The meeting was held at the Richardson Room in Harmony Hall located at 1660 Lakeview Avenue, Dracut, MA.

Absent: Gordon Lutz

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Present for this meeting were: William Frangiamore, Business Manager, School Department and Ken Moge, IT Director, School Department, Michael McNamara, School Committee Member Ann Vandal, Finance Director, Town Hall
Jack Lyons, President DATV
Karin Mathieson, Comcast Representative

Mr. Frangiamore and Mr. Moge began the discussion of the issues at the School Complex. They discussed not using the INET and going with fiber optic if available. Currently the band width is inadequate. Mr. Moge talked about the weather affecting the connection. Ms. Vandal also spoke to this point stating that if there was wind, rain or a snow event the internet would drop off when they were using the INET. Ms. Vandal reported that the Town buildings except for Police and Fire are not using the INET and haven't used it for about four years because of the issues with it. They were not able to transmit the payroll without the connection dropping using the INET.

Mr. Ferguson asked Ms. Mathieson to give the Committee an idea of what Comcast has in mind for the Inet. Ms. Mathieson stated because she has just taken over this account she would like to gather information from the Town and School to see what their issues are and what they hope to do.

Mr. Lyons stated that these complaints should have been reported to the Town through the Town Manager who in turn would write a letter to Comcast putting them on notice that they are in violation of the contract according to Section 3.2.

Mr. Frangiamore stated that the size of the system is inadequate for the information going through it. The band width is too small. Mr. Moge stated that at 3:00 p.m. the situation improves on the system and it is faster because most of the teachers and students are not in the buildings. Mr. Frangiamore stated they have researched some costs on what other types of systems would amount to. He also stated that in speaking with Mr. Friel of Comcast it was thought that fiber optic could possibly be done at an affordable cost for the School.

Mr. Lyons asked how long this problem has been going on. Mr. Moge stated that he can recall back to 2001 when he started that they seemed to be offline more than on.

Mr. Ferguson asked about what type of system the school was looking for because this Committee is only charged with the INET system.

Mr. Ferguson asked Ms. Mathieson to gather information on the tickets that have been closed for the Town every time Comcast has had to come out to the School complex for an INET issue.

By gathering this information it may determine a certain area as to where there is a problem with the connection and it can be tested intrusively.

Ms. Vandal stated that the Sewer Department was having a problem at their building on Lakeview due to the band width and the connection being too slow. There was a discussion that it seems like it is this area from Lakeview that has an issue because Parker School is also affected.

Mr. McNamara expressed his frustration with the INET and if it's Comcast's intention not to repair or replace it with something else then the School and Town need to know then what.

Mr. Lyons stated that there needs to be a formal request to the Town Manager expressing the issues with the INET and then he will go on record with Comcast about not maintaining the INET system which is expressly written in the contract.

Ms. Mathieson stated it is her understanding that Comcast has no intention of replacing the INET with something new.

Mr. Noel asked if there was any type of network map that they could obtain from Comcast of the Town to see where (if any) fiber optics are placed and the networking throughout the town.

Ms. Mathieson will get back to the committee on the following items:

- Work tickets
- Fiber Optics
- Network map
- Find out what "maintain and operate" as stated in Section 10.3 of the Contract means

Ms. Mathieson will get back to the Town with answers and she will be communicating with Bob Carr of Comcast as well on these items.

Mr. Ferguson stated that they will give Comcast a chance to respond on these items before sending the letter to Comcast. Mr. Ferguson requested a ten minute recess. The meeting recessed at 8:03 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:12 p.m. and the Committee discussed the next meeting date to be held on May 2, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. where they hope to have further information back from Comcast.

Minutes

Mr. Noel made a motion to accept the minutes of December 12, 2012 as presented. Mr. Rousseau seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Mr. Rousseau made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Mr. Noel seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Cable Advisory Committee



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Absent: Gordon Lutz _____