

DRAFT MINUTES

CATV Advisory Committee Minutes February 18, 2010

Place: Wheelwright Room, Town Offices
Time: 5:30 p.m.

Present: Matt Quandt, Joe McCarthy, Candance Hoene, Jim Fellows, Sam Bruno, IT Coordinator Andy Swanson, Town Manager Russ Dean, Attorney Kate Miller.

Absent: Pam Darlington, Herb Moyer.

The committee discussed the warrant article from the recent deliberative session establishing the revolving fund for cable access. Discussion regarding how much of the proposed franchise fee would go toward EXTV.

The committee then discussed the capital grant offered by Comcast of \$115,000. Comcast wishes to amortize this and collect it from subscribers. The committee discussed whether this was a good idea. It was understood that by amortizing the capital payments subscribers are actually paying at a much higher interest rate than through the franchise fee.

The town manager described how the current franchise fee is collected, it runs one year behind – for example we are paid in January 2010 for money collected from subscribers in 2009.

The committee then looked at dates for meeting with Jay Somers from Comcast, and it was agreed February 24, 2010 would be an acceptable date.

Sam Bruno reviewed the terms of the proposed agreement again. Discussion was had on length of 7 years. Also discussion on passing through of the \$115,000 capital grant. Discussion was also held on a proper level of franchise fee in the new agreement, and the idea of sequencing it through the contract.

Sam requested how much was in the escrow fund currently and the balance was estimated at \$30,000 by the Town Manager. To make the new EXTV work it would take at least \$110,000 right now to properly equip the studio. This leaves a gap of \$80,000.

The committee then reviewed the other proposed business terms from Comcast including no pass through new origination points at the EOC and the Lincoln Street school, and upgrades to the SST infrastructure at no cost to subscribers.

Jim Fellows motioned to adjourn, seconded by Sam Bruno. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Russell Dean
Town Manager