



Town of Fairhaven

Town Hall 40 Centre Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

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Minutes of Meeting

FAIRHAVEN,
MASS.

Cable Advisory Committee

PLACE OF MEETING: **Town Hall – East Room**

DATE AND TIME: **May 28th, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.**

MEETING OF: Cable Advisory Committee



(Signature)

6-11-2015

(Date Signed)

Present: Barbara Acksen, Ex-officio: Selectman Bob Espindola, Ronnie Medina, John Methia
Absent: None

Guests in attendance: Jim Donnelly, Steve Valoucas,Carolynn Hurley

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M.

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting minutes were presented from the April 7th meeting.

Bob Espindola Made a motion to Approve the notes ammended as noted

Ronnie Media Seconded

There was no further discussion

The motion carried unanimously.

Michael Heylin from Raynham Public Access TV visited introduced himself.

He asked for an explanation of where Chuck Sherwood fit in with his consulting proposal.

Mr. Sherwood presented an overview of his proposal and explained how we arrived at this point.

Bob Espindola explained that there were still things that Fairhaven needed to consider about

Non-Profit status vs. current structure but that the Cable Advisory Committee and the Board of Selectmen agreed that other steps need to take place before that analysis is done.

The Board discussed locations for new drops that may need to be considered, like the DPW building on Arsene Street (to allow live feed) the COA building (to cover debates and other special events) and the EMA building at 150 Sconticut Neck Road.

Bob Espindoala agreed to contact Mary O'keefe from Comcast to inquire about what would be required to drop additional Video Return Lines at those locations.

Bob Espindola will forward a copy of the existing contract with Comcast, which expires in May of 2018, to the rest of the committee.

Jim Donnelly questions if Chuck Sherwood (or anyone else) had ever seen cuts by Comcast based on people not using their funding from a prior contract.

Chuck Sherwood responded that he had not but that communities generally are not in this situation – they spend or earmark their money.

Bob Espindola explained that the CAC needs to come up with a budget for capital to build a studio as well as recurring operating expenses and that we should be able to draw from other communities experience to find that type of information.

Chuck Sherwood talked about different types of Public content that could be available and noted that this falls into a “safe harbor” provision where Management staff are allowed to force material that is adult in nature into late night hours.

Bob Espindola pointed out that we have heard all this before from other communities Public Access station representatives who have come into for appointments with us over time and they all said that those are the types of things that are put into bylaws, policies and procedure manuals.

Chuck Sherwood stated that Massachusetts is second only to California in public access stations and that the reason for that is because of the Town Meeting form of Government here and the fact that people want to tune in to know what is going on in Town and that Public Access programming falls right in line when people begin looking for content about what is going on in the community.

John Methia brought up the expression “Hyper-local” as related to what Mr. Sherwood was describing.

Mike Heylin indicated that in Canton, there are 3 full time employees and 2 part time employees all supported by their operating budget, and he believes that Canton's revenue from

franchise fees is less than what the Town of Fairhaven has for revenues.

Mike Heylin gave an overview of his knowledge and experience with various manufacturers of equipment and said that he would be happy to pull together a comparison of the three main manufacturers that would be unbiased because he does not sell equipment. The goal will be to discuss the options at the next meeting and come up with the spec's that could be used to ask Town Procurement officer (Jeffrey Osuch) to solicit bids from 3 separate equipment suppliers.

Mike Heylin pointed out that some manufacturers include a 5-Year warranty.

A general discussion ensued about some of the pro's and con's of different manufactures but it was agreed to pick the discussion up again at the next meeting.

The committee decided to request from the EMA to hold the next meeting on June 11th at 7:00 P.M . at the EMA building at 150 Sconticut Neck Road so everyone could see that space.

Bob Espindola motioned to adjourn at 9:30 P.M.

Ronnie Medina Seconded

No further discussion

The vote was unanimous

Submitted by Bob Espindola, acting Secretary