

MILLBURY CABLE TELEVISION COMMISSION MINUTES
Municipal Office Building – 127 Elm Street – Large Conference Room
Thursday January 21, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

Present: Paul DiCicco, Chairman; Roger Desrosiers; Jeffrey Dore; Ronald Marlborough; Robert Sullivan; Public Access Director Kevin Krassopoulos

Absent: Mary Krumsiek

Chairman DiCicco opened the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

The Chairman noted that the Commission is looking for a seventh member and would like an ad placed on TV.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion made by Ron Marlborough, seconded by Bob Sullivan to approve the regular session meeting minutes of December 3, 2020 as written. **Motion** carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Charter Contract Update – Kevin sent an email to Michael Barnes of Charter on December 1, 2020 in which he mentioned that he has not heard from John Maher about the franchise agreement which expired in December of 2018. Mr. Maher called on December 3, 2020 and asked for a copy of our Verizon contract; Town Manager Sean Hendricks sent the contract to Charter via email on December 14, 2020. Kevin sent an email to John Maher on January 15, 2021 in which he mentioned that the Cable Commission was meeting January 21, 2021 and he would like to update the members on the status of the contract for Millbury. Kevin received a reply from John Maher on January 19, 2021 in which Mr. Maher said he has been working on a lot of issues and hopes to have a draft soon. Kevin spoke with Town Manager Hendricks tonight and Mr. Hendricks will take the lead on this.

Rogers asked if we should report this to the state; Paul said it would have to come from the Town Manager.

Kevin does have the timeline for the last 2 years on non-response from Charter.

Roger asked if Charter has continued to live up to the terms of the contract that has expired. Kevin said yes, but the “non-contract” is hindering our rate from Verizon.

Ron asked if we can contact Senator Mike Moore; Kevin will reach out to the Senator.

Studio Activity – There hasn't been much; Kevin does not want to bring people into the building. He did a Celebrity Reader via Zoom and will do one in February with Tracey Graham from the Library. The high school Video Production class does not meet in the studio as the space is too confined.

The Town Manager has requested a Charter drop in his office. We have a spare box, but there has been no action yet. Bob said to reach out to Verizon and reminded everyone that Charter was going to charge a lot for a drop at the Transfer Station, and Verizon did it for free. Paul would like an update on this next month.

Government Meeting Schedule – Paul had asked for a total on meetings. Kevin said for December and January he did 24 meetings per month, including televised meetings and

meetings he helped facilitate, such as when the Town Planner has a meeting with a developer. We do not film the Board of Health or the Board of Assessors.

Budget Total – Paul had asked former Acting Town Manager Jamie Kelly (now an employee assisting with the FY22 budget) for a total. Kevin said over the past 20-30 years we now have \$983,722.67. The annual budget is under \$250,000. This is salaries plus benefits for 2 people, and includes expenses and a capital expense of \$80,000 in case of equipment breakage. Paul asked if our revenue yearly is a bit more than what is budgeted. Kevin said we are bringing in about \$220,000 a year with the approximate quarterly payments from Charter of \$23,000 and Verizon \$32,000.

Kevin asks every budget season what does cable mean to the town; will the town fund it as revenues go down? Roger stated that the need for communication is so great, would the town give it up? It may take a different format. Bob asked what would replace cable if we don't have it; Jeff said streaming. Bob thinks we can't do without cable entirely. People may resist paying for streaming services. Ron said most young people are doing it now and cutting the cord.

The studio lights were upgraded to LED for a cost of \$75,000, then we received a rebate of \$30,000 from National Grid. The remainder of this year's capital money was spent on new cameras in the small conference room at the Municipal Office Building. In FY 2022, at no cost to Public Access, there will be cameras for the new MHS football field with a fiber optic feed to the studio.

OLD BUSINESS

Letter - from Jamie Kelley to Charter; not available

Charter Communications Service Issues – Roger has had sporadic continuation of audio and video, not every day, but it continues to happen. Current Spectrum ads do not mention cable. Roger's concern is that they are disassociating themselves from cable.

Roger suggested a monthly reminder, maybe a newsletter-type update, to different towns about what is going on to see if there are complaints and the reason behind it. Lapses by Charter in support of cable is impacting service to customers. Better to do it as a group. Kevin has already contacted 5 towns. It is another way to put pressure on Charter, if pressure is needed.

NEW BUSINESS – None

NEXT MEETING – Thursday March 18, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Office Building.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Roger Desrosiers, seconded by Ron Marlborough to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. **Motion** carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

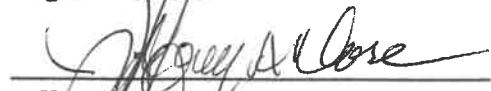
Joyce Sampson



Paul DiCicco, Chairman




Roger Desrosiers




Jeffrey Dore



Mary Krumsiek



Ronald Marlborough



Robert Sullivan