

MILLBURY CABLE TELEVISION COMMISSION MINUTES  
Municipal Office Building – 127 Elm Street – Large Conference Room  
Thursday March 18, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

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

Chairman DiCicco opened the meeting at 5:37 p.m.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**Motion** made by Jeff Dore, seconded by Roger Desrosiers to approve the regular session meeting minutes of January 21, 2021 as written. **Motion** carried unanimously.

The Chairman read all Charter and Verizon Correspondence regarding channel line-up changes and additional channels that have been added to the line-up.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Charter Contract Update – On March 10, 2021 the Town Manager received a Draft Charter Contract with the term as follows: 10 year contract, \$100,000 up front, 4% annually. Kevin spoke to the town manager and told him those were not the terms that the Commission had agreed to. Kevin explained to the Town Manager that the Commission had stated the contract terms that they would agree to are as follows: 10 years, \$200,000 (it could be \$100,000 in year one and \$100,000 in year 6), and 5% annually. The Town Manager sent that information to John Maher at Charter and there has been no communication since.

Kevin mentioned to the committee that he was concerned that the percentage increase in the current Verizon contract was contingent on the "incumbent" Charter granting 5% in their new contract. Roger mentioned because Verizon has granted the Town a 5 year contract and we are 2 plus years into it that, even if Charter were to come to the table with an executable contract would Verizon be willing to up their percentage from 4% to 5% would they do so with a year left in their existing contract? Ron stated that Charter should pay the extra percentage that Verizon didn't give us because the contract was held up by Charter for so long. Roger mentioned that maybe its time to get the State behind us, and he asked if they would even help us. The question was asked if their would be any kind of penalty that Charter would have to pay because of this delay. Bob Sullivan suggested it may be time to "Lawyer up".

Studio Activity – There hasn't been much; On April 22<sup>nd</sup> there was a Local Rock shot in the studio and that has been it so far. Kevin does not want to bring people into the building. 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, at this time there has been no further action on this item.

Government Meeting Schedule – Paul had asked for a total on meetings. Kevin has recorded on average 35-45 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.

**NEW STUDIO LIGHTS** – Kevin is pleased to announce that we have new LED studio lights. These lights produce no heat and are much more energy efficient than the ones we used to have. The cost was approximately \$80,000 but with incentives from National Grid it ended up costing \$54,000, that includes installation and we will not have to do this again anytime soon. Kevin stated he will donate the surplus lights to the High School Auditorium.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Charter Contract Draft** – As previously mentioned, the Town Manager received a draft contract with the incorrect terms and sent a message back to John Mayer at Charter and has not received any additional information.

**Staffing Reductions** – Kevin mentioned that due to Covid-19 and the lack of studio productions that he chose to reduce the cable access staff to one. Roger stated that he would like to publicly thank Joyce Sampson for all her work over the years and that she was a great asset to the studio and worked on many great projects over the years. Paul seconded that and mentioned that we couldn't have do it without her for the years that she worked with Kevin.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Charter Communications Service Issues** – There has been no change on this item (mainly because we can't get them to respond).

**NEXT MEETING** – Thursday May 20, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Office Building.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** made by Ron Marlborough, seconded by Mary Krumsiek to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. **Motion** carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Krassopoulos



Paul DiCicco, Chairman



Roger Desrosiers



Jeffrey Dore



Mary Krumsiek

Ronald Marlborough

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Sullivan", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Robert Sullivan