

MILLBURY CABLE TELEVISION COMMISSION MINUTES

Large Conference Room – 127 Elm Street

Thursday, December 3, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.

Present: Paul DiCicco; Jeffrey Dore; Roger Desrosiers; Ron Marlborough; Robert Sullivan; Public Access Director Kevin Krassopoulos; Sean Hendricks, Town Manager

Absent: Mary Krumsiek

Paul DiCicco called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

1. Mail and Minutes:

No Mail

Minutes of September 24, 2020. A motion made by Roger to approve the minutes of September 24, 2020 as written, Seconded by Ron, accepted unanimously.

2. Report of the Director:

- a. **Charter Contract Update:** There is no update at this time, until about 4:00 today. When Kevin received a call from John Maher from Charter/Spectrum. Kevin believes this phone call was prompted because he had reached out to a contact at Charter Michael Barnes to ask if Michael could help with getting a cable drop installed in the new Town Managers office. At the bottom of the email Kevin included the line to say that our franchise agreement had expired in December of 2018 and we have not heard anything on Charter/Spectrum's end (a copy of the E-mail is attached to these minutes). In this phone call Mr. Maher asked where we were at as far as the negotiations were concerned. Kevin explained that he had made several attempts to reach out to him and that all of the emails and phone calls remained unanswered. To which John responded he has a lot of licenses to deal with and it was hard to keep track of them all. Kevin told John that he even sent an email to him that laid out two options. Option one was the same terms as Verizon, 5 year contract with 5% annually and \$100,000 capital grant at sign-up. Or option two 10 year contract with 5% annually and \$250,000 capital grant at sign-up. John didn't recall getting that email and ask if Kevin would resend that email. John said he would send a draft license within the next few days. Ron had suggested that if another phone call is made and John says he has too many licenses to deal with ask to speak to his direct supervisor, because he can't do his job. Roger mentioned that if it helps expedite the process the committee suggests that this is treated as urgent and the committee will hold special meetings to make this happen.
- b. **Studio Activity:** The studio has been shut down since the pandemic started in March of 2019. However, we had our first studio shoot on November 20. On November 20 we shot Local Rock, with a local band out of Worcester. Kevin was concerned about COVID but not overly concerned as the band members were all related and Kevin and the Producer of the show Larry both kept their masks on and remained as socially distant as possible. Additionally, today, December 3rd we shot a Celebrity Readers episode with Sheriff Lew and Bob Sullivan and again social

distancing when possible and masks were worn until the shoot started and were placed back on immediately after the shoot was over.

- c. **Government Meeting Schedule:** Kevin has begun to keep a running tally of the amount of meetings that are being covered, recorded and scheduled. He will have information for the committee at the next meeting. Paul had suggested adding that information to the yearend report. As he reported last month, most of the boards and committees are meeting via ZOOM with a few exceptions. There are meetings that happen all hours of the day and Kevin facilitates most of the Towns meetings. Jeff asked Kevin if he had to be at all of those meetings, and Kevin said he has two ZOOM accounts and Cable pays for both of them. All of the committees with the exception of the Board of Assessors, Asa Waters Task Force and a few other, the department heads email Kevin and he sets up the ZOOM number and hosts all the meetings while recording and/or televising them.

3. **New Business:**

- a. The New Town Manager Sean Hendricks was invited by Paul to attend tonight's meeting, Paul then introduced Sean to all members. Sean stated that he tries to make the rounds and meet everyone and get a little information from each committee and to see if there is anything he can help with. Paul brought up the fact that we are having issues with Charter/Spectrum, to which Sean stated having come from Uxbridge he has some experience dealing with Charter/Spectrum and he likes to think he even won a few of those battles. So, Sean has no problem stepping in when needed.
- b. Bob Sullivan asked if Ray Deslyle reached out to me to get that issue of the daily mass taken care of. Kevin informed the committee that Bob had reached out to Kevin to ask if he would be interested in broadcasting the Worcester Diocese mass since there is no Charter TV3. Kevin said absolutely he would. Ray, Steve Kaufman, and a few others had reached out to get it all set up. The Worcester Diocese has a daily mass at 9:00 am and a 10:00 am Sunday Service that they are offering to all of the towns as a LIVE Stream much like they did with Charter TV 3. They said they had already done this with 6 or 7 towns and it is working seamlessly. Kevin worked with the church's IT company to set up the LIVE stream directly in to the Cable Server and things so far are working out perfectly.

4. **Old Business:**

- a. **Charter Communication Service Issues:** After last month's meeting Kevin crafted a letter to send out to the surrounding town access centers to find out if other towns experienced the same issues we are having with Charter/Spectrum. Kevin met with Roger to tweak a few things contained within the letter and then the letter was emailed out to about 15 access centers. Kevin received 5 responses compiled them into one document and supplied it to the committee for this meeting. This item was tabled to be discussed at the next meeting after the committee has some time to look over all of the responses.

- b. **Vote to reduce the number of members from 5 to 7:** Paul stated that with the addition of Ron Marlborough, we will keep the number of members to 7, so now we have an additional vacancy to fill. Roger would like to see someone younger join the committee, some "fresh blood" as the committee is getting older the current members will not be able to do this forever. Paul agreed someone to pass the torch to. Bob Sullivan said he had some experience with his referee officiating that it is very difficult to get new people involved because there are so many people in other areas looking for volunteers. Paul commented that there are over 30 vacancies for committees in town right now that are not being filled. It was at this point that Roger mentioned that there were probably some newly graduated Millbury High School alum that might be interested in offering up some time. Kevin added that because there is not a "cable club" currently at Millbury High School the students don't know that this is available to them. Kevin also mentioned that he was a topic of discussion amongst the High School Leadership Team regarding some students expressing interest in forming new clubs and bringing back some older clubs. The Leadership Team used Kevin as an example if it weren't for the "cable club" at Millbury High School there would be no Kevin as there is today. There is no way for a student to know that something like this is available to them, and going forward they should not overlook the fact that sometimes they need to really consider the advantages of having those groups and clubs. Kevin is interested in working with the Superintendent and the school system to get the "cable club" specifically re-energized.

6. Next Meeting:

- a. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 5:30pm
- b. The Meeting schedule is as follows: March 18, 2021, May 20, 2021. The Commission reserves the right to hold a special meeting as necessary is a topic that needs attention should come up.

7. Other Business not reasonably anticipated to be discussed:

- a. Paul discussed the Committee Members appointment expiration dates. As of this meeting everyone is sworn in and up to date on their appointment.

8. Adjourn:

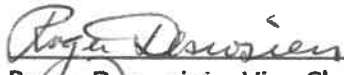
- a. Motion to adjourn made by Ron, seconded by Bob. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

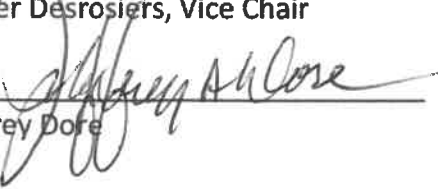
Kevin Krassopoulos



Paul DiCicco, Chairman

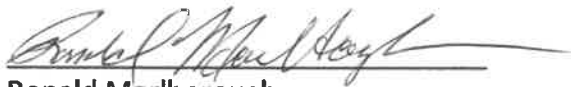


Roger Desrosiers, Vice Chair

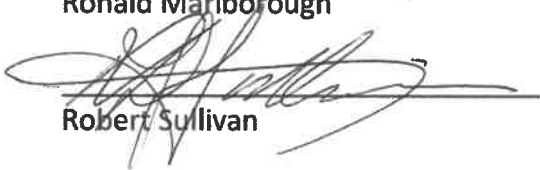


Jeffrey Dore

Mary Krumsiek



Ronald Marlborough



Robert Sullivan