

Metuchen TV/Technology Committee Minutes
Monday, April 24, 2014

Mike Guarino - Secretary Ron Grayzel –Council Liaison Dave Lanton Ira Grubman
Frank Weichmann Don Yerger

Administration

-The meeting was called to order by Mike at 8:09, who noted he had previously circulated the March Minutes for approval;

-Mike also indicated there was no new correspondence to the Committee and no new complaints had been received since the prior meeting;

On-going/New Matters

Cablevision/Refranchise Issues:

-Mike opened the meeting by noting that several members of the Committee did meet with Don Viapree from Cablevision on 3/24 to initiate informal negotiations regarding the Franchise renewal. The discussion with Don focused on the following issues the Committee had raised as key concerns for any future franchise in the following general categories:

o The cable/technological needs in the various Metuchen schools;

o Metuchen's Public Access Channel and its equipment needs for future broadcast capabilities; and

o Metuchen's cable/tech needs & future services for municipal buildings, public spaces and subscribers;

It was also noted that Don was responsive to the concerns raised by Frank and Dave regarding the inability to readily access the WiFi service made available in Borough Hall, as well as other municipal buildings in town;

-Ron indicated he was advised that as further follow-up from the 3/24 meeting, Anne McDonald from Cablevision was in contact with our Borough Administrator, Bill Boerth in order to confirm the status of the various WiFi accounts for the Borough. She had also suggested to Bill that she could have a Cablevision technician come to Borough Hall to assess the current coverage. All agreed that would be beneficial;

-Mike also inquired whether Ron would be able to provide a contact for Anne at Metuchen's Chamber of Commerce, so that local businesses to better understand the *Optimum Business* serves offered by Cablevision and perhaps they could make a presentation at a Chamber of Commerce meeting.

-several members noted the weak WiFi signal in Borough Hall and the overall need to increase the bandwidth throughout the various municipal buildings and public spaces. Don agreed to review current capabilities. It was noted that we should have 8-10MB to have the appropriate level of service. Frank also mentioned that encoders were needed downtown on Main St. to enhance transmission capabilities;

-Several members also noted another important concern regarding the point raised by Don in our meeting regarding capital contribution under any franchise agreement. While he indicated that it could be approximately twice the prior \$20K grant, under the newer refranchise agreements Cablevision pays it over the course of the franchise, rather than one lump payment as done previously. Don also advised that it could be more under a 15 year rather than the prior 10 franchise term. All agreed this was a factor to weigh in deciding the new franchise term and whether it was worth going out the additional 5 years, as well as the potential impact of it being spread out would have over the ability for METV to obtain the ew equipment needed to go High Definition;

-Mike reminded all that he was contacted by Don and that he would be attending our next meeting. It was also suggested to invite Rich DeSimone to our meetings, perhaps quarterly, starting in June to provide updates on METV activities. Mike will also check with Ken re our Survey Summary; There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00pm.