Metuchen TV/Technology Committee Minutes
Thursday, January 30, 2014

Beatrice Moskowitz – Chairperson Mike Guarino - Secretary Ron Grayzel –Council Liaison
Dave Lanton Ira Grubman Frank Weichmann Adam Liss
Don Yerger Joe Fitzgibbon (for Chris Thumann)

Administrative

-The meeting was called to order by Ron at 8:08, who asked the new members, Frank and Adam to sign their Oaths' He then opened the meeting for nominations for 2014 officers. Dave nominated Beatrice as Chairperson and was seconded by Don. Ira nominated Mike as Secretary, which was seconded by Frank;

-Mike then proposed to review and accept the previously circulated December Minutes. Dave made the motion with a second from Ira;

-Mike advised the Committee that there were no complaints received by the Committee.

On-going/New Matters

Cablevision/Refranchise Issues:

-Beatrice than opened the discussion on the issue of which approach the Committee wanted to recommend to the Council as to how to best respond to Cablevision's September 2012 letter invitation to initiate informal negotiations regarding the Franchise renewal;

-Mike reminded the Committee of the two available options - to either initiate the formal assessment process, which includes a public forum noticed to the public, or to first pursue informal discussions with Cablevision;

-Beatrice advised that she did speak with our Cablevision liaison, Don Viapree about the concept of informal negotiation discussions, who indicated that a number of towns were considering that approach, which can be beneficial. She also noted that she spoke to Rich DeSimone, Station Manager for METV, who listed their key equipment needs to include a switcher, new monitor interface equipment and a new character generator in order to make METV HD capable; Mike will incorporate these in the Request List;

-other issues for such discussions included the ability to expand Metuchen's municipal WiFi capabilities;

-Joe Fitzgibbon noted he was asked by Chris Thumann to attend and represent the schools on their cable needs. The Committee thanked them for their input regarding the number of drops in each school and the need for equipment to expand their ability to broadcast live events from the various schools;

-Mike also noted that he had seen several other Municipal agreements in NJ on the internet, which included some good additional points to consider in discussions, including a 10% senior citizen discount on some Cablevision fees and the bolding of any changes in their Fee Schedules. All agreed it would be worth pursing;

Municipal Website/METV:

Municipal Website:

-Frank inquired about the status of the renewal of Metuchen's contract with *City Connections* to maintain site, which is due in February 2014. He also suggested that he could provided a number of questions regarding the current posting process between the Borough and the provider to see if there were any enhancements to be made. Ron requested that he e-mail them and he can forward them to Bill Boerth;

There being no further business, it was noted that the next meeting was re-s scheduled due to the holidays and will be held on February 27, 2014; the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.

M. Guarino 2/23/14