Metuchen TV/Technology Committee Minutes
Monday, May 22, 2014

Mike Guarino - Secretary Ron Grayzel –Council Liaison Ira Grubman Frank Weichmann
Beatrice Moskowitz, Chairperson; Guest: Don Viapree, Cablevision

Administration

-The meeting was called to order by Mike at 8:05, who noted he had previously circulated the April Minutes for approval; no revisions noted and Minutes approved as presented;
-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 thanking Don Viapree from Cablevision for returning to our meeting this month to follow-up on our initial discussions regarding the Franchise renewal begun in our 3/14 meeting and, which is due to be finalized by July 2015. The discussion with Don focused on the following issues the Committee had raised in our March meeting as key concerns for any future franchise:

WiFi Issues: Don replieded regarding the inability to readily access the WiFI service made available in Borough Hall, as well as other municipal buildings in town noting that his colleague, Anne McDonald had contacted Borough Hall's IT contact, Rich DiNapoli (and Borough Administrator, Bill Boerth), regarding municipal WiFi accounts. Don agreed to provide a cost estimate of the related additional equipment needed for such a process, which would require 3 additional modems;
-*WiFi needs for Schools*: service would be free, if schools have paid modems (may need to request and get cost estimate);
-*Bandwidth Issues;* -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 for the appropriate level of service;

-**METV Equipment Needs**: re prior issue raised regarding ability for METV to obtain the new equipment needed to go High Definition, Don noted that rather than grants for specific equipment, Cablevision would continue to provide capital contribution under any franchise agreement. While he indicated that it could be approximately the same as 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 indicated that it could be$40K under a 15 year rather than the prior 10 yr. term;

-**Main Street Broadcast Capabilities:** frank and other members followed up on the need for a line near the center area of Main Street, for ease of live broadcast of parades, June Bug, fairs, etc.; Don advised that he would provide costs for the equipment needed (line drop/modem/IP transcoder) to implement;

Optimim Business Services: Ron would provide a contact for Anne to contact Metuchen's Chamber of Commerce, so that local businesses to better understand the *Optimum Business* serves offered by Cablevision, so they could schedule a presentation at a Chamber of Commerce meeting.

-After the discussion with Don, several members noted the points raised by Don in our was a factor to weigh in deciding the new franchise term, including whether it was worth going out the additional 5 years for the extra $20K, as well as the potential impact of it being spread out would have over the term. The 10% senior citizen discount would continue as now, with those qualifying under PAD guidelines.

It was also suggested to invite Rich DeSimone to our meetings, perhaps quarterly, starting in July to provide quarterly updates on METV and industry activities. Mike will also check with Ken re our Survey Summary; There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately9:00pm.

M. Guarino 6/23/14