

Cable Television Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – January 6, 2014

In Attendance (Absent member marked by “X”)

Victory Chase
Amanda Johnson (arrived 7:20)
Bruce McCracken
Jon MacIvor
Councilman James Vassanella (arrived 7:45)
Joyce S. Miller, Secretary

- The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Roll was called.
- The minutes of the December 2, 2013 meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- Ascertainment period
 - ✓ Nancy Kist from the Township Attorney’s office approved the posting of the Municipal Report on the Township website as long as all personal information was redacted. Joyce will post the report without the appendix items.
 - ✓ Victory spoke to Township Attorney Lou Rainone who said the Committee’s Municipal Report was “the best he had ever seen.”
 - ✓ Mr. Rainone also commented that competition is the best way to bring about lowered rates and improved services, as he had experienced himself when Verizon became available in his own municipality. Victory suggested that OCTV should be encouraged to tell Verizon they have to expand into more communities than the 70 presently required. Jon said his neighbor often switched back and forth between Direct TV and Comcast to take advantage of the companies offering discounts lure him back as a customer.
- Volunteer videographer pilot program
 - ✓ Victory reported:
 - The Community Gardens video is still being broadcast on the access channel and YouTube.
 - The young poets program at the Township Library co-sponsored by the Township’s Cultural Arts Committee was taped on November 9. After Victory edited the program, it was sent to the Township’s IT Department for review. It was decided by IT and the Township Manager that video contained some content that was not suitable for a government channel because of personal and controversial issues, so this video will not be broadcast.
 - The first part of the raising of the Rockingham barn taping is being prepared for broadcast at a future date.
 - The volunteer program ends January 26. Victory will draft the final six-month report to Council, for CTAC review. Following Committee approval and submission of this report to Council, she asks that the Council be requested to allow CTAC a period of time

to evaluate the entire two-year program and make recommendations about any continuation of the program.

- Membership
 - ✓ Mary Juzwin has left her position at the library, and thus will not continue as the library's representative on the Committee.
 - ✓ The Board of Education has not yet named a representative.
 - ✓ Councilman Vassanella will continue as Council representative.
 - ✓ Kirkman Frost sent in his Citizen Leadership Form volunteering to become a member of the Committee. He attended as a member of the public and was encouraged to send his resume to the Committee and to attend the February meeting for an informal discussion with the Committee members. At that point, the Committee would vote on a recommendation to Councilman Vassanella on whether to ask the Council for his appointment to the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

- Jersey Access Group (JAG) is a consortium of New Jersey community media representatives from New Jersey municipalities. Its purpose is to inform and educate members on issues concerning connectivity and distribution of information, mostly through television stations. The annual dues are \$150 per the Municipal access channel. After discussing JAG's purpose and possible benefit to the Township, the Committee supported the Township joining for one year. Joyce was going to request the money in the 2014 budget and find out if the Township would have to join for \$150 (municipal channel only) or \$300 (municipal and Board of Education channel). The Committee recognized the importance of the Township being actively involved in order to take advantage of all possible benefits of the membership.
- Victory recommended that the Township policies and guidelines for FTTV be posted on the Township website.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- The Township's IT Department had communication with Comcast regarding recurring service issues. It was escalated up to the Comcast state representative Rob Clifton. [IT reported after the meeting that the problem seemed to have been resolved. There was no need to report the problem to the OCTV.]
- Joyce received an e-mail from a resident who said the service from Comcast was "...shoddy at best and unnecessarily expensive." He said the Township should encourage competition. Joyce responded to the resident, explaining that the OCTV was the official complaint officer for the Township's franchise agreement. The resident was encouraged to keep the Committee informed on his progress in resolving the issues. The resident's e-mail was forwarded to Nancy Kist.
- Kirkman Frost suggested that it would be helpful for the Township to not only maintain a log of all complaints, but to identify the reason for the complaint (internet, TV, phone) and the duration of the problem if it was intermittent. He also suggested that the public have access to the complaint log to see if others were having the same issue.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

- The next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Monday, February 3, 2014.
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