



TOWN OF HUDSON

Cable Utility Committee



Michael O'Keefe, Chairman

Roger Coutu, Selectmen Liaison

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Minutes of the Hudson Cable Utility Committee (“CUC”) Meeting Tuesday July 19, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman O'Keefe called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. ATTENDANCE:

Present: Michael O'Keefe, Leo Bernard, Michael Blau, Selectman Roger Coutu, Stewart Kroner, School Board Representative Lee Lavoie and Harry Schibanoff. Kristofor Georgeou arrived late and Rupert Cote was excused. Jim McIntosh the Cable Facilitator (“CF”) also attended.

Mr. Lavoie requested that we do the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Coutu led the group in the pledge.

3. PUBLIC INPUT:

None.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

The minutes of the May 25, 2011 meeting were reviewed by the CUC. There were no changes or corrections. Motion was made by Mr. Bernard to accept the minutes and seconded by Mr. Kroner. The minutes were adopted with six in favor. Mr. Lavoie abstained because he did not attend that meeting.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Cable Facilitator Contract Renewal

Mr. O'Keefe stated the contract for the CF was approved by the Board of Selectmen (“BOS”) for 130 hours per month.

B. Access Center Air Conditioning

The air conditioning at the Access Center has been completed and is now operating.

C. Franchise Renewal Update

There was a recent meeting with Bryan Christianson from Comcast and the Town Administrator, the Selectman Liaison to the CUC, the CUC Chairman and the CF. The meeting went well and a draft of the agreed terms is expected next week. This draft will be present to the BOS and then reviewed by Town counsel. The

deadline of August 25th for a new contract will most likely be met. Mr. O’Keefe was of the opinion that an extension of the old contract may not be necessary.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Capital Reserve Account Status

As an update, Mr. O’Keefe reported that the BOS approved the transfer of the unused franchise fees funds be put into the Capital Reserve Account. The final figure was \$63,138. When this is added to the existing Capital Reserve Account of \$ 601,775, the new total will be \$664,913. This fund will be used to contribute \$50,000 as approved in a warrant article for the purpose of engineering studies for the proposed Senior Center/Access Center building in Benson Park.

Mr. Coutu updated the CUC on the status of the Senior Center/Access Center in Concord. He reported that the appraisal of the two locations showed a difference of \$78,000 which may have to be paid to the state for construction of the building. He said that the BOS is hopeful that this amount may be waived by the Executive Counsel.

B. Comcast Conversion to All Digital

Mr. O’Keefe said that Comcast has notified its customers that it will be going all digital in a few weeks. This means that all TVs will need to use a cable box or digital adaptor in order to receive cable. It will allow for increased programming.

C. HCTV Production Assistant Position

The BOS approved the new position of a Production Assistance for the CF. The position will be for 20 hours a month. Mr. O’Keefe said that he might have erred in asking for 20 hours per month. After reviewing the Minutes, the time should have been 20 hours per week. Mr. O’Keefe will address this difference with the BOS.

D. Franchise Renewal Public Hearing

Part of the franchise renewal process requires that a “duly noticed” public hearing be held to receive any input from the public about the future cable-related needs and interests of the community. Discussion was held concerning the date of the hearing. Mr. Coutu that made the following motion:

MOTION: To accept the language as proposed by the Chairman for a public hearing to be held for franchise agreement renewal on a date to be determined and duly noticed as required by the Town and State.

It was seconded by Mr. Blau.

Mr. Lavoie asked where the hearing would be held and Mr. O’Keefe said the BOS meeting room. After discussion, it was decided to try to hold the hearing on August 16th prior to our regular meeting.

The Motion passed unanimously.

7. OTHER BUSINESS/ REMARKS:

A. Other Business: None

B. Remarks

Mr. Coutu thanked HCTV for its help in putting together a video about the 9/11 Memorial in Benson Park. He urged viewers to watch it either on TV or online. He also would like to see more interaction between HCTV and Alvirne students. He said it would be a good learning opportunity for the students.

Mr. Schibanoff reported that he had attended a seminar in Concord that included several hours about the Right to Know Act in New Hampshire. He found it useful in understanding the requirements for meetings in the town.

Mr. Lavoie invited viewers to Old Home Days on August 11 – 14th.

Mr. O’Keefe thanked the CUC members that assisted him in the Alvirne graduation at the Verizon Wireless arena.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Coutu moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Bernard. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Submitted by Harry A. Schibanoff, Recorder/Clerk
July 21, 2011