

**Minutes to the Hudson Cable Utility Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 19, 2007**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** Chairman O'Keefe called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
- 2. ATTENDANCE** Present: Michael O'Keefe, Leo Bernard, Steve Boucher, Rupert Cote, Ahmed Elmahdy, Doug Robinson and Harry Schibanoff. Absent: Jeanne Johnson. Excused: Brenda Levesque.
- 3. PUBLIC INPUT:** Ms. Kathleen McLean 6 Juniper Street requested that HCTV broadcast a video that she had produced on a VHS tape but needed assistance in transferring the tape to a better format for broadcasting. Mr. O'Keefe said he would assist her in her request.
- 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Mr. O'Keefe asked if there were any changes or comments concerning the minutes of the May 15, 2007 meeting. Being none it was moved by Mr. Cote and seconded by Mr. Bernard to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Marketing Letter:** Mr. Schibanoff informed the CUC that the marketing letter was sent to the list that was approved at the last meeting and Mr. O'Keefe stated that he had signed and mailed the letters last week. It was too early for any response.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Renewal of Cable Facilitator Contract:** Mr. O'Keefe presented the Facilitator Contract and explained that it would expire at the end of June. The contract was discussed by the CUC and comments focused on the rate of pay, the number of meetings that were to be televised and the Independent Contractor status of the position. Mr. Robinson advised the Committee that it should be able to justify a proposed increase in the compensation rate to the Selectmen. Mr. Cote thought that we should express our appreciation to Mr. McIntosh for his accomplishments and that a record should be kept of his performance. Mr. Boucher recommended that the inventory of CUC equipment be included in the Contract. Mr. O'Keefe said that he would pursue the inventory issue with Mr. McIntosh.

After a discussion of these factors Mr. O'Keefe recommended that the CUC proposed the following:

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bernard to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the Facilitator Contract in its present form with new dates be adopted subject to the following changes: Change the hourly rate to \$22.00 per hour through October 2007 and increase the rate to \$22.66 for the period of

November 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008 and to add the Planning and Zoning Boards to Table A in Appendix A. Mr. Cote seconded the motion and the Committee unanimously voted the motion.

Equipment Purchase: Mr. O’Keefe distributed two product information sheets to the CUC. It had been recommended by the Planning Committee that additional microphones be obtained so that they would not have to share microphones during a televised meeting. Mr. O’Keefe recommended that the Committee purchase four new wireless microphones. Mr. Boucher asked if an extended warranty would be obtained and Mr. O’Keefe said that he does not usually purchase them. After an explanation of the product and its uses it was proposed:

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Bernard that Mr. O’Keefe be authorized to purchase four Shure ULXS124/84 wireless microphones at a cost not to exceed \$4,000.00 including shipping. Mr. Cote seconded the motion and the CUC members present adopted it unanimously.

The second equipment request was for a camera turret that could be used in our productions to present a different perspective of the proceedings. It would be helpful in the televising of parades, sporting events and other similar activities. There was a discussion concerning the length of the cable and after that it was proposed:

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Cote to purchase a Camera Turret PT-20 at a cost not to exceed \$1,700.00. Mr. Bernard seconded the motion and with no further discussion it was adopted unanimously by the members present.

C. Political Programming: Mr. O’Keefe distributed an article prior to the meeting entitled “ Political Speech and Peg Access” written by James N. Horwood, Esq. and Allison L Driver, Esq. This article discussed the issues of political advertising on PEG Access and how various court decisions have been made protecting the ability of individuals to exercise their First Amendment rights with political ads on Access TV. The Hudson CUC currently does not accept 30 to 60 minutes political ads. This restriction was primarily implemented due to the inability of our technology to provide this type of service. The Committee discussed many points of view but it was decided to table the issue at this time and re-visit it again in the future after changes are made in our equipment and we have had further time to consider this issue. Mr. O’Keefe will investigate what other towns in NH are doing in this area.

D. Verizon Offering FiOS TV: Mr. Schibanoff said that a sales person had visited his home in the past two weeks offering Verizon FiOS TV at a price that was lower than Comcast rates. He said that the Verizon package did not have PEG access channels in their offering. Mr. O’Keefe had investigated this situation and discovered that the Verizon program was done through DirectTV and would not constitute a second cable company in the town.

7. OTHER BUSINESS/ REMARKS

- a.** Mr. Bernard reported that meetings of the Planning Board and Zoning Board have been cancelled without notification to HCTV. This resulted in the CUC having to pay the minimum rate to the camera crew as provided in our agreement with them. He asked that a better system of notification be established and Mr. O'Keefe said he would look into it.
- b.** Mr. Robinson thanked Mr. O'Keefe and Mr. McIntosh in their assistance in producing programming about the new recycling requirements in town.
- c.** Mr. Boucher talked about three newspaper articles dealing with the efforts by Comcast to improve their service programs, an article concerning the difficulties Litchfield has experienced with Comcast and an article about the use of Cable cards instead of Cable Boxes.
- d.** Mr. Elmahdy inquired by the new digital TV requirements and wanted to know if this would present a problem for our broadcasts. Mr. O'Keefe said it was primarily a broadcaster's issue and not one that would negatively impact HCTV. Mr. Elmahdy also said that Comcast has been adding new HDTV channels.
- e.** Mr. Cote once again commented on the fact that Mr. McIntosh has done a fine job in the past year and he should receive recognition for it.
- f.** Mr. O'Keefe said that the new Tightrope System has been ordered and that it will expand our capabilities when it is installed including our ability to cable cast on the Internet.
- g.** No other Committee members had remarks.

8. ADJOURNMENT Mr. Bernard moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Cote. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 P.M.

Submitted by Harry A. Schibanoff, Clerk
June 22, 2007



TOWN OF HUDSON
CABLE UTILITY COMMITTEE



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PUBLIC NOTICE

CABLE UTILITY COMMITTEE

June 19, 2007 - 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall, 12 School Street, Hudson, NH 03051
Selectmen's Meeting Room

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Attendance**
- 3. Public Input**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**
 - A. May 15, 2007 Cable Utility Committee Meeting Minutes
- 5. Old Business**
 - A. Marketing Letter
- 6. New Business**
 - A. Renewal of Cable Facilitator Contract
 - B. Equipment Purchase
 - C. Political Programming
 - D. Verizon Offering FiOS TV
- 7. Other Business/Remarks by Committee Members**
- 8. Adjournment**

Posted: June 18, 2007