



**TO: ANCC MEMBERS**  
**FROM: JOHN REPICKY**  
**RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (Jan. 12, 2005 – Weston)**

**Jan. 13, 2005**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Darien: Jim Cameron, Dave Dever  
Easton:  
Greenwich: Stuart Reider  
New Canaan: Tony Thompson  
Norwalk:  
Redding: Bob Moran  
Stamford: Geza Ziegler, Michael Pensiero  
Weston: Don Saltzman, Bob Atkinson  
Westport: Hal Levy  
Wilton: John Repicky, Carole Kleinfeld  
Cablevision: Tad Diesel, Chris Klimek,

1) **Meeting began** at 6:01 pm with 8 towns represented. HL introduced Jim Cameron (new rep from Darien). TD introduced Liz Losinski (VP Gov't Affairs; CV Corp. Office). SR introduced Mr. Yoshio Ishida from the Japanese Educational Institute.  
Due to the recent snow cancellation, Hal has set up a voice mailbox @ 914-693-6000 x444 to announce cancellations. TD also agreed to put it on News 12.  
Voted: to approve the minutes of Nov. 17, 2004. Approved minutes will be posted on the ANCC website.

**2) Treasurer's Report -**

Activity	Date	ANCC Account	Access Escrow
Opening Balance	11/16/04	\$11,559.54	\$96,238.77
Interest & Dep.		\$3.05	
Checks & Debits		\$117.83	\$14,704.41
Closing Balance	12/31/04	\$11,444.76	\$81,534.36

The Treasurer's report was approved.

**3) Cablevision Access Grants:**

Three more grant requests were submitted by 12/31: Darien - \$4590, Greenwich - \$290, Easton - \$2500. All requests were approved. (Easton contingent on filing their '03 report and clarifying their request for a home computer) JR noted that only Wilton has submitted its report form for 2004 and urge other grant recipients to complete their reports in a timely manner. He noted that using the Council's e-form is important, since information is taken from the form for the annual report.

**4) Review of 2005 Subscriber Rates:**

The increase was announced in November as a 2.8% increase overall for CV's 3 million subscribers. HL broke down the numbers to see how the increase affected CV subs in Area 9. Basic service went up 20.9%; Family went up 7.2%; Equipment (box + remote) 20.7%. Premium rates did not go up. HL asked for CV's response to the questions previously submitted to CV. Tad responded to each of the 14 questions, with assistance from Liz Losinski, who provided her expertise from CV corporate headquarters. Written responses will be provided by CV in the near future.

Q1) re: converter boxes – CV does not sell set-top boxes; digital cards are available for new equipment that contains a card slot.

Q2) re: History of basic rates - Basic cable has gone from \$11.90 in 1998 to \$15.36 in 2005. There are 8,300 "basic only" subs; 54,000 family subs; 120,800 subs total; therefore approximately 1/2 of CV customers did not see a rate increase on service since only basic & family went up.

Q3) re: franchise renewal term vs basic rate increase – CV feels the increases are “fair & reasonable” based on CV’s efforts to improve infrastructure as allowed under FCC rules.

Q4&5) re: program packaging vs a la carte - As digital programming is increased, much of that programming will be “on demand”. This will increase viewer’s choice. Will we ever go totally a la carte? Many providers will not sell their programming that way. Most of the family-tier programming services only sell their programs on a system-wide basis since this affects their advertising revenues.

Q6) re: authority to vet increases - Not all rates are subject to regulation; DPUC vets those that are.

Q8) All employees who have contact with customers were aware of the rate increases prior to public release.

Q9) Weighted averages of CV increases were not done by area because CV is trying to standardize its customer rates and be consistent with all of its customers. TD had responded to HL’s inquiry that weighted average for CT was below 5% for programming & equipment, and below 3% for programming only.

Q10) Customers are notified in the rate-increase letter that for 30 days they can downgrade their level of service without charge.

Q11&12) re: program quality - Some of the programming cited (shopping) is carried on broadcast channels that CV is required to carry. Other programming (e.g. gambling) is carried on cable channels such as ESPN that CV has already committed to carry for other reasons.

Q14) re: protective order on filing for equipment rental increase - The info on the form is not protected. Sensitive back-up filing info is protected. The form is available on the DPUC website.

HL indicated that the ANCC will be making a statement regarding the 2005 rate increases. He asked for input on items to include in the statement. DS motion: Direct the chairman to prepare a press release similar to the one distributed in January '04. Carried: Unan. HL will prepare the release and e-mail a draft to members.

C Kleinfeld - Are there Government rates for CV service to municipalities? Aside from the free drop, TD was not aware of a special rate for municipalities. He will check to see whether it would be at residential or commercial rates.

**5) Grant funds:** HL proposed the establishment of five new \$2500 G-grants from funds remaining in the G-grant access account. Motion approved – Unan.

Motion to empower the executive board to negotiate with CV for the 2005 grant program. (Approved-Unan.)

**6) I-Net Channel Content:** Chris K. distributed a list of I-Net channels that were not carrying signal as of 12/31/04. Please review your towns channels for accuracy.

**7) Franchise Renewal:** TD will advise the Council when he has information on CV’s intentions regarding renewal.

**8) PEG Access:** Bob Moran plans on launching a Public Access program on CH 77 in about a month.

**9) CV Info:**

- CK distributed press releases on the Ed Access awards program
- TD distributed a subscriber survey.

**10) Other:**

- Mr. Ishida addressed the Council, proposing that students (such as those at the Japanese school in Greenwich) produce programs for access. JR will provide contact info so that his students can air programs on Greenwich CH 78.
- JR reminded members that I-Net reports are due.

Next Meeting: Feb. 16, 2005 @ Wilton HS

Adjourned: 8:20 pm