



TO: ANCC MEMBERS
FROM: JOHN REPICKY
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (Sept. 7, 2005 – Westport)

Sept. 9, 2005

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: Dave Dever
Easton:
Greenwich: Stuart Reider
New Canaan: Tony Thompson, Paul Sedlack
Norwalk: Marge Costa
Redding: Bob Moran
Stamford:
Weston: Bob Atkinson, Don Saltzman
Westport: Hal Levy, Judith Freedman, Candace McGovern
Wilton: John Repicky
Cablevision: Chris Klimek

1) Meeting began at 6:05 pm with 7 towns represented. HL welcomed the members Paul Sedlack & Candace McGovern. Minutes of 6/1 were approved. Public Comment: Ann Gill addressed the ANCC noting that there are 3 channels on the directory that she doesn't get (Ch 60, 75 & 78), yet she has not received a rate reduction for the drop in programming. Hal read a letter from Carole Kleinfeld regarding the use of CH 60 for scrolling the digital line-up. She indicated that it seemed senseless to show the digital line-up to subscribers who can't receive it, especially when there is no room on the analog system for CT-N. Hal noted that others also reported the loss of CH 75. CK noted that CV is not producing the Metro Channel (60) any longer. The loss of 78 is a local problem from Staples HS.

- JF noted that the long scrolling menu for calls to customer service is very annoying. It takes too long to get to an actual person to solve problems. CV actually extends the wait be advertising pay-per-view programs. We need to have a faster way to get to the CS reps.

2) Treasurer's Report -

Activity	Date	ANCC Account	Access Escrow
Opening Balance	6/1/05	\$13,077.70	\$125,066.98
Interest & Dep.		298.95	
Checks & Debits		959.62	\$8,400.00
Closing Balance	9/1/05	\$12,417.03	\$116,766.98

JR reviewed the treasurer's accounts. He noted that the escrow account balance of \$116,766.98 does not reflect the encumbrance for 1 grant that has already been approved. Deducting this the fund balance would be \$112,076.98. The Treasurer's report was approved.

3) Personnel Changes At CV:

Tad Diesel left CV on Aug. 1. CK stated that the position has been posted and CV will fill it. CK will work with the ANCC and she can bring important matters to CV officers. CK requested time on next month's agenda for CV to have a representative make a presentation on franchise renewal and other CV issues.

4) 2005 Supplementary Equipment Grants:

CK announced that the requisition is in for the video equipment (Sony RDR-HX900 DVR, DVD player, Mini-T interface, Audio Leveler) that CV is providing as a supplement to the grant program. There will be 20 sets available.

5) Create G-Channel Grants for 2005:

At our last meeting we allocated \$50K each to E&G. Motion: Create 10 G-access grants of \$5K each. Application deadline for grants is December 31, 2005. Motion passed: Unan

6) Dark Channels:

A draft letter has mailed to mayors, selectmen & superintendents regarding I-Net channels that remain dark. JR reported that response to the letter was nil. At this time, there is no need to pursue the recovery of modulators, but the letter did indicate that channels could be reassigned if officials did not justify their need for the channels.

7) Docket 05-04-10 Franchise Renewal:

The DPUC has not yet awarded a contract for a Needs Assessment company. With Tad's departure there is confusion over who to contact at CV for franchise issues. Also, the new docket re: video over IP has put renewal on the back burner. On June 16, Hal & Don met with Tad & Chris for 90 minutes on renewal issues. Hal discussed issues of importance to the Council: renewal process, technology (v-lans, etc), customer service, interconnect (access should be available on any video service in the area), emergency management, privacy, PEG (to continue the current funding model as part of the franchise), and miscellaneous items (rates, programming, etc). DS noted that we need a technical person on the CV staff to consult with the ANCC regarding future technological innovations. On June 10th, Soundview Media petitioned for Intervenor status in this docket. It appears that Soundview will attempt to become the 3rd party provider for Area Nine. If they are successful, our towns will lose control of their E&G channels.

8) Docket 05-06-12 Video Over IP:

Verizon & SBC are going ahead with video services over the Internet. The DPUC opened a docket and granted the ANCC Intervenor status. We are the only cable council involved at this time. CV and NECTA are pushing for discovery because both companies are being closed about their intentions. Verizon has already built their system in Greenwich without applying for a franchise. Timeline: Reply comments due on 9/14. Technical meeting on 9/30. Hearing on 10/24. Final decision on 12/21.

Hal made four points regarding this docket: 1) we like competition; 2) we support level playing field; 3) we seek preservation of service to the community; 4) we support interconnect with competing provider for access programming; Motion: to accept these 4 provisions as the basis for our submissions to the DPUC. Carried: Unan.

9) CT-N:

CT-N is full time on the digital tier (CH116) and is being made available to the G-channels at their request. CV has agreed with the Legislature to find an analog channel for CT-N by Jan. 1, 2007. Both councils requested that CV place CT-N on an I-Net channel.

CK is attempting to get it onto the I-Net. JF asked why CT-N could not be put on one of the newly open analog channels now. CK could not give an answer but promised to get one from Corporate.

10) PEG Access Issues:

Dolly Curtis notified HL that the access coordinator was gone. CK noted that he was absent all summer, but is back now. DC also noted that there were audio issues with CH77.

11) Other Business:

- Carole K. would like to have members reply to her G-channel survey of last spring. So far, she had received only one response (Norwalk).

Meeting dates: 10/19 Weston, 11/30 Darien, 1/4 Norwalk, 2/15 Wilton, 3/22 Stamford Library, 4/26 Greenwich

Meeting adjourned: 7:45 pm