

**CHESHIRE, MERIDEN, SOUTHLINGTON CABLE ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2016
COX COMMUNICATIONS IN CHESHIRE**

Members Present: Rosalie Fountain, Henry Chase, Karen Roesler, Susan Moore, and Beth Hosmer

Members Absent: Dave Cooley, Mike Solimine, Adam Grippo and Andy Jay

Cox Cable: None

Others Present: Kathy Doherty, Recording Secretary

Chairman Rosalie Fountain called the meeting to order at 6:37 P.M. and read the charge of the Council.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Kathy Doherty

Kathy called the roll and there was a quorum in attendance.

MOTION: To accept the minutes of the October 21, 2015 and November 25, 2015 meetings.

Moved by Beth Hosmer, seconded by Henry Chase, motion was passed unanimously by the Council members present.

TREASURER'S REPORT – MIKE SOLIMINE

Mike was not in attendance. Rosalie had spoken with him and he was going to email her some information but she still had not received it, so we have no report.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

COMMUNICATIONS BY MAIL

Rosalie had received a letter from a Dorothea Ellis from Southington about all the problems she has been experiencing with losing service and been getting a “no service” reference on particular channels. She has put off by the “Quick Fix” which only helps for about five minutes.

Ms. Ellis has called numerous times and was told by some gentleman, from somewhere outside of her time zone, to record the times of bad service and he would call her back, but he never did. She has had nothing but problems since she got the mini-box and does not believe she should have to pay for a full month due to all the lack of service she has been getting. In her letter, she included all the dates and times she lost service.

Rosalie will be leaving the letter for Peter but gave a copy of the letter for Kathy to keep with the minutes. Rosalie stated that the Council does not respond to these letters when they come in, they are forwarded to Peter. Sometimes she will contact them to acknowledge receipt of the letters like the one received prior to the previous meeting, but that was just to let them know that Peter would be at the meeting.

Karen asked if Southington experiences these problems more often and Beth said that is why she switched to Frontier.

Henry stated that he has been experiencing these problems as well and said that now for some unknown reason Turner Classic Movies is off the air. At other times he has pixilation problems taking place on channel 8. These things get very frustrating.

Rosalie stated that both herself and Kathy are on a list for having a problem with their boxes and were told that Cox would replace them at no charge. The unfortunate thing is that you will lose everything you have recorded on the box.

Henry stated that he is surprised that Cox does not transmit everything in HD that is available and then give subscribers who have analog a converter. It would save a lot of channel space.

Rosalie does talk to Peter to follow up to see if the issues have been resolved. Peter told her that one of the residents from the previous meeting was completely satisfied but with the other one there was nothing they could do, it was more complaining about what she has.

Rosalie had made a mistake with the Post Office. The Post Office was supposed to notify her if there was mail in the box but they didn't and the bill came due and they locked her out. She got the problem straightened out; she is absorbing the cost of the new key which was \$6.00.

Rosalie stated that the cost of the Post Office Box has gone up from \$98.00 to \$130.00 and she will have to let Mike know.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – ROSALIE FOUNTAIN

Rosalie apologized that the January meeting was cancelled due to illness but thanked everyone for coming this evening.

Rosalie stated that at the November meeting we had two families come and state their problems. The Orcott problem has been resolved and they do not have any more problems. They are happy. As a matter of fact, she had asked Peter about it but Rosalie did see Mrs. Orcott after the meeting at the St. Bridget's fair and she said that everything was fine. Cox redid everything and they are happy.

The Shackfords really were just complaining about what they can receive for what they are paying for. They want an a la cart menu but of course that is not available. Rosalie stated that Peter did send a technician out to their house and she assumes that the other issues with it indicating that programs were unavailable, and where it was dying automatically and cutting out were resolved.

Rosalie also spoke with Peter about getting the New York channels again. Peter keeps bringing it up when he goes to the meetings but nothing is being done to get them yet, but he will keep trying. Peter doesn't know if he is making any progress, but maybe he sees a little bit of light at the end of the tunnel.

Rosalie spoke to Peter about the issue of the 1099 for Kathy. Peter was going to be talking to the attorney at 3:00 today and said he would get back to her but she has not heard back from him yet.

Karen said she did look up the IRS rules and it says very clearly that: if you have an independent contractor, who is not your employee, if the following four conditions are met you must generally report payment:

1. You made the payment to someone who is not your employee;
2. You made the payment for services in the course of your trade or business, including government agencies and non-profit organizations;
3. You made the payment to an individual, a partnership, estate, or in some cases a corporation;
4. You made payments to the payee of at least \$600.00 during the year.

We are not really a non-profit, we are not really a government agency, we are an Advisory Council. Karen felt it would be better if the Company paid Kathy but she had read that a long time ago the Council had not wanted their secretary to be an employee of the Company and that is why the Company pays the stipend to the Council.

The Advisory Council does not have a tax I.D. number. The answer needs to come from Peter. There are other Advisory Councils who have paid secretaries so obviously this is handled somehow, we just need to wait to find out the answer.

As soon as Rosalie hears back from Peter she will let Kathy know so that she can email everyone with the answer.

Rosalie stated that the Council used to get \$4,000 a year before AT&T came in and screwed everything up. We also used to have a paid videographer. The only other bills were the P.O. Box.

Kathy noted that the Council used to meet many more times a year. The only months they didn't meet were in the summer, maybe July and August. Then they reduced the times that they met to six times a year. Under the PURA Regulations, we are required to hold six meetings a year but Cox is only required to attend two of them.

Rosalie is going to talk to Peter about this as well. Manchester also has six meetings a year but Enfield only has two and Peter attends both of those. Rosalie will find out why they only have two when we are required to have six.

Rosalie stated that we have still not heard from Southington about replacements. They said that they would look into filling the positions after the November elections but we still have no replacements.

Kathy stated that she spoke with the Town Clerk and she said that she had spoken with the Town Manager's secretary who was going to put it on the list of appointments again for the Town Council to appoint.

OLD BUSINESS

By-laws. Kathy made the revisions to the by-laws that were discussed at the previous meeting including:

Putting on page numbers.

Page 2 – Under Article II Sections A, changing Sections 16-333-257 to Section 16-333-25 (Removing the 7).

Page 5 – Putting Article IV before Officers

Page 9 – Changing Article IV to Article V in front of Committees

Page 9 – Adding k. under 3. Secretary.

Kathy added this for discussion purposes. In the previous discussion, it seemed clear that it will be necessary to have a Secretary on the Council. Adam was the Secretary previously but at the May meeting it was decided that the Council did not need a Secretary as the only thing the Secretary really did was call the roll. Since she, Kathy, really did all the rest of the duties of the secretary it made sense just to eliminate the position of Corresponding Secretary on the board.

Kathy felt that there is going to have to be a Corresponding Secretary on the Council and that the duties of the Recording Secretary are going to have to be kept divided. By adding section k. it allows the Council to delegate some of the duties of the Corresponding Secretary to the Recording Secretary.

The quorum was actually changed and voted on at the May meeting. These changes are just a lot of housekeeping issues along with combining of the Vice-Chairman and Treasurer positions. This revision separated everything like quorum and voting and put them under their own Sections. Quorum used to be under Ad Hoc and was always difficult to locate, this makes everything read more clearly.

MOTION: To approve the changes to the By-laws as presented.

Moved by Susan Moore, seconded by Beth Hosmer, motion was passed unanimously by the Council members present.

Karen asked if Peter responds to customer problems. She said that it seems to her that we really do not get a response from the Company.

Rosalie stated that when it was a Franchise, Peter was at every meeting. Once it was no longer a Franchise, he was only required to come to two meetings. If there is a problem, he is pretty good about responding to them and taking care of them.

We get people sending their payments to us in our P.O. Box. If Rosalie gets one, she immediately brings it to Peter and he not only processes the payment but he contacts them and explains to them the correct place to send their payments.

Rosalie says she is constantly complaining to Peter about the New York channels. There are only three places in Connecticut that have Cox, but Cox is all over - Atlanta is their home base. We are just a little drop in the bucket to them.

The information about the Cable Advisory Council is located on the back of the billing in very small writing. People have to really hunt to find the address to send us their bill payments, but somehow they manage to do it.

Karen stated that in the old Franchise the Cable Company was obligated to provide a cable drop to the Public Libraries in each of the Towns. The drop at the Library in Meriden was done in the 1970's. They have 1970 wiring in their building and they don't really get cable anymore because it's just old. She contacted Cox and they told her they were going to give her a mini-box. Karen told her that they needed new wiring coming in and she was told that, yes they would do that. They haven't.

Karen wrote to them again saying that she hadn't heard from them, asking if they were coming, still nothing. Then she talked to Peter. He said, oh yeah, we will have that done. She saw him again at another meeting and she told him it still wasn't done and he told her that he had emailed somebody and they were supposed to get to her. Nothing ever happens. She is just worried how often this happens. She can take care of this herself. Although she should throw her weight around, she IS on the Cable Advisory Council!!! She just worries about people who are contacting us with some concerns and it is not being followed through and we are not helping them, then she really feels bad.

Rosalie said she will contact him again tomorrow and will also ask him what the story is about the Meriden Library.

Karen said she will send him another request as well. But how many times should she have to?

Kathy stated that this board is really mute, they do not have to talk to us. It used to be they had to come and talk to us and keep us informed of what was currently happening, and what was upcoming, long before it ever became public. Once AT&T got involved, everything became proprietary and they did not have to tell us anything.

Kathy stated that Peter has always been very good about following through with any problems or complaints and she was really surprised that he dropped the ball with the Library because that is not like him at all.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. at the Cox Studio, in Cheshire.

REMINDER

Rosalie has requested that anyone who is unable to attend the meetings, that they please contact either Kathy or herself.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.

Moved by Karen Roesler, seconded by Susan Moore, motion was passed unanimously by the Council members present.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Doherty

Kathy Doherty
Recording Secretary