

**CHESHIRE, MERIDEN, SOUTHLINGTON CABLE ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2016
COX COMMUNICATIONS IN CHESHIRE**

Members Present: Rosalie Fountain, Sandra Brunoli, Henry Chase, and Richard Kiewlen

Members Absent: Mike Solimine, Adam Grippo, Karen Roesler, and Susan Moore

Cox Cable: None

Others Present: Kathy Doherty, Recording Secretary

Chairman Rosalie Fountain called the meeting to order at 6:36 P.M. and read the charge of the Council. Rosalie questioned why our charge still says we are a Franchise still.

Peter explained that we are still a Franchise but not in the traditional sense. We are given the ability to service the three Towns that we service. It used to be through a Franchise Agreement with the (then) Department of Public Utility Control which is now known as PURA (Public Utility Regulatory Authority). Cox used to go and apply for Franchise Renewals, there were reviews. You would be given a Franchise term based on what you were going to provide to the community in the period of time.

At the time AT&T got into the market and was marketing their U-Verse product they applied for, and received from the DPUC a Statewide license which had a non ending term. It ran in perpetuity. So to keep a level playing field, they had to offer the same thing to the incumbent video providers and all the providers applied for and received either a CCFA (Certificate of Cable Franchise Authority) or a CVFA (Certificate of Video Franchise Authority). One being serving the properties you currently service and one being the Statewide license and so we switched from our old Franchise Agreements to either a CCFA or a CVFA and you have those in perpetuity. So it is still a Franchise, but it is different from the old Franchises that those of us that have been around long enough remember.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Karen Roesler

Kathy called the roll.

MOTION: To accept the minutes from February 17, 2016 meeting.

Moved by Karen Roesler, seconded by Henry Chase, motion was passed unanimously by the Council members present.

TREASURER'S REPORT – MIKE SOLIMINE

Rosalie stated that the current balance is \$248.52 in the treasury. Peter has the request for the stipend check and Rosalie now has a check addressed to her in the amount of \$2,000.00. She will get the check to Mike.

Peter stated that as part of the State Statute, the Company provides to the Advisory Councils a \$2,000.00 stipend annually that allows them to conduct business.

Rosalie stated that the Council used to get \$4,000.00 each year, \$2,000.00 from Cox and \$2,000.00 from the AT&T U-Verse. Peter stated that AT&T used to have to give to every Advisory Council but now they only have to give to the Statewide Council.

Rosalie stated that when we used to get all that money we used to distribute it to the schools in the form of cameras or video equipment. The schools would submit a list of what they wanted, usually for \$800, and Peter would purchase the equipment and then the Council would present it to them.

Kathy stated that even before AT&T the Advisory Council used to get a cost of living increase on the \$2,000.00 so it was actually more than the \$2,000.00.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

COMMUNICATIONS BY MAIL

We received a thank you note from Peter for the flowers we sent in memory of his mother.

Rosalie stated that the flowers came from Plum Farm in Prospect on Route 68 just off of 70 and the flowers were absolutely beautiful.

We also received two checks, one was also for over \$400.00, she gave them to Peter and he will take them in to get processed.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – ROSALIE FOUNTAIN

We have had three resignations and two appointments. David Cooley, Andrew Jay and Beth Hosmer have resigned. We have two new members, Sandra Brunoli from Southington and Richard Kiewlen from Meriden.

Rosalie welcomed the new members and told them that sometimes we have a lively meeting and sometimes it is over in half an hour.

Kathy asked Sandra if she worked for the Town of Southington and she said she worked for the Town Clerk's Office. Kathy reminded her that she will need to get some more members or it will be up to her to attend or the Council will not have a quorum.

Beth was the only Southington member and if she didn't come we did not have a quorum and she resigned. Sandra is the new member from Southington and now if she doesn't come we do not have a quorum.

We only have one member from Southington so we need two more members from Southington plus a Board of Ed member.

From Meriden we have one member, our Board of Ed member and our Library member so we need two more members.

Sandra said that her only conflict is that she does Board of Finance Meetings which is on the second Wednesday but since the Cable Advisory Meetings are on the third Wednesday there should not be any conflict unless they reschedule a meeting.

Rosalie had something from Meriden showing that Richard, Karen and Susan had two-year appointments from the Mayor and that there was one open seat and that a name would be coming soon. This is incorrect as Karen is not representing Meriden; she is representing all three Towns as the Library representative.

Karen said that she sent the Mayor the By-laws and she thought he said there were a couple of people so maybe he has appointed somebody.

Rosalie stated that she believes that the By-laws were formulated when Cox was a Franchise. Some of the By-laws are not really necessary since Cox is no longer a Franchise it is now a CVFA (Certificate of Video Franchise Authority).

Peter stated that there was a group who had made some changes to the existing By-laws. Kathy gave him a written copy and he asked her to send him a copy electronically so that he could see how they relate to the new Franchise Agreement to make sure there are no conflicts based on the change.

The By-laws state "Regular meetings of the members shall be held six times a year on the third Wednesday of the month in January, March, May, September, October and November at 6:30 at the Cox Communications Studio unless otherwise designated by the chair."

According to Peter, we are covered if you send out a meeting Notice and realize that there will not be a quorum; the chair can cancel the meeting. You do not have to reschedule the meeting.

Peter stated that the Enfield Franchise only has two meetings per year which are the two meetings that he attends. It is not the way that the Statute is written, but they have been doing that for years.

Peter suggested a possible change to the By-laws to read "Regular meetings of the members will be scheduled six times a year on the third Wednesday of the month in January, March, May, September, October and November at 6:30 at the Cox Communications Studio unless otherwise designated by the chair."

Peter will go through and propose some changes.

Rosalie – Section D: Notice of Meetings. Notices for the year shall be sent to all Council via email no later than the November meeting. Reminder emails will be sent to members the week prior to the meeting. This way people can RSVP.

Peter pointed out that we would have been good for a quorum based upon the By-laws: "A quorum will require at least one member from two of the Towns served with at least four members attending."

Peter stated that Enfield has no Committees. Manchester has a Scholarship Committee because they utilize some of their funds for a scholarship. Unless there is a specific reason for a committee, it is not necessary.

Rosalie stated that the last thing she had is the question that had arisen regarding the 1090 for Kathy. Peter does not believe that is necessary since Kathy is outside contractor and not a member of the Council. She just reports it on her income tax as she has always done.

Richard asked if, when responding to emails, he should respond to all, or just to the person sending? Rosalie said just to Kathy and herself.

COMPANY REPORT – PETER TALBOT

Peter stated that the only new development is that Cox has started offering the New Contour which is an upgrade from the old Contour. Cox purchased the intellectual rights from Comcast to utilize the Xfinity platform that you see all the advertisements on the TV for. Cox is basically running Xfinity on Cox. But because we purchased the intellectual rights for it, we have rebranded it as the New Contour.

The New Contour records six DVR so you can record six different programs at the same time. You have a terabyte of space to record on which basically allows you to store 1,000 programs on it. You have an interactive program guide that includes a voice activated remote control so you can talk to your remote control and what you ask it for will show up on your TV screen. If you ask for \$1,000,000.00, it will not give it to you. But you can say things like WFSB and it will switch to WFSB. You can also say “Tom Hanks” and it will list will bring up anything with him in it.

Peter stated that you can give it movie quotes and it will give you all the times that that movie will be playing and on which channel it is playing. Peter stated that of the top movie quotes of all time, it recognizes 75 of the top 100 and will take you to whatever that movie listing is.

Peter stated that you can also ask it for other things such as weather and other things that are not video related and it will provide those to you as well. Peter said that they will be getting it at the Cox Studio so maybe he will do a “Show and Tell” at the next meeting for everyone.

Kathy asked if it would be more expensive and Peter said “of course!” He thought that the cost of the box would be the same; he did not think that there would be a tremendous difference between Contour and the New Contour.

Rosalie stated that one problem she has is when she hits the guide, the date is very tiny and she has a hard time reading it.

Rosalie stated that she has four TV's and each remote has to go to the proper TV so she had to label the remotes so that they wouldn't get mixed up.

Peter stated that it is like the whole home DVR which is the first product that Cox came out with. You have the main box that all your shows get recorded on that can be in any room that you choose and then you have satellite boxes in the other locations. In the other locations you only have small little things that still have voice remotes.

Kathy asked if you could pause and fast forward on the satellite boxes of the New Contour? Peter stated that he would try it at when he got home and see. Peter will check into that.

Kathy stated that is why she has two Contour boxes at her home because both he she and her husband want to be able want to be able to fast forward, reverse and pause. If the New Contour will allow that to be done on the satellite boxes then it is possible she only needs one Contour box and not two and that could save her money.

Peter stated that you can pause up to an hour without physically hitting a record button. Cox has had that feature ever since DVR came out. After an hour, it starts playing on its own. If it starts running, you can still fast forward for an hour and pick up what you missed. But once you get past an hour, you can't go back beyond that.

Peter stated that the DVR is recording what you are watching behind the scenes without storing it on your DVR to use up your space.

Kathy does not watch anything live anymore but she is having a lot of problems with it not recording properly the entire program and lots of tiling issues. Kathy sets up her recordings to begin a couple minutes early and end a couple minutes late but on Sundays to run an additional hour.

Karen stated that because the Council does not do follow-up's to subscriber's concerns, they do not really know if the issues have been resolved. According to the charge of the Council, we are ombudsmen and we should be following up to make sure that their concerns are being taken care of.

Peter stated that with him only attending two meetings a year and them usually being six months apart, the best way to keep in touch is through email. In the past, he has only updated Rosalie on the status of issues.

If he has an accurate email distribution list, he has no problem emailing everybody on the committee and keeping them updated on what is going on and how the issue was taken care of.

Rosalie stated that last November we had a public meeting and we had two people attending with issues. It was resolved and she did report on it at the next meeting.

Karen stated that the Company has told Rosalie that the issue has been resolved and she believes her, but we don't really know if the customer feels satisfied.

Rosalie stated that she saw one of the people who had been at that meeting complaining at a church fair and they had told her that everything was working beautifully now.

Peter stated that if he sends something out to the entire Council telling you how the Company has resolved it, certainly you are more than welcome to follow up with that person to find out if it has indeed been resolved. Peter suggested that if the complaint is from someone in Southington then a member from the Council in Southington could follow up; if the complaint comes from Cheshire, then a member from Cheshire could follow up; and if the complaint comes from Meriden then a member from Meriden could follow up.

Karen just feels that since the Council is responsible then they should be following up to make sure that they are indeed satisfied.

Henry asked how the public knows when the meetings are held and he was told that it is published in the Town Clerk's office in all three Towns. Henry thought that we should notices to the papers. Peter suggested that you could put in a press release.

Henry stated that there is an analog channel that was still broadcasting on 34 and eventually did some changing and they now broadcast on 32 as a low definition digital channel WNRT. It is a commercial station with ads everything on it. They had a main channel and a sub-channel 32-2 which broadcasts Indian language movies.

Rosalie stated that on the New Contour guide it states Manchester Council. Peter stated that they are having an issue with the listings because they have to go through Comcast to get the listings changed.

Cox is working through an issue with getting the proper labeling and the programming because on all the other boxes that they offer they list their public access programming by time slot. They haven't been able to do it yet with the New Contour.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Do we have to meet? Rosalie and Peter have discussed this?

Peter can't say you don't have to. Enfield does not. Manchester does, but if they don't have a quorum, they don't. All he can say is the State Statute says is that the Advisory Council should meet six times a year with the Company representative attending two of those meetings. With the By-law changes, you should list it as will schedule meetings six times a year. And then based on quorums, based on issues, you can hold a meeting, not hold a meeting, based on the discretion of the Council.

Rosalie stated that last month we had to cancel because of no one was at the Cox studio and we would not have had a quorum anyway. Beth quit so we would not have had a quorum.

Kathy passed out copies of the new member roster to everyone present with the information she had, she did not have Sandra's phone number.

Peter stated that he would create a new distribution list and send out the State Statutes and State Regulations that apply to Advisory Councils which he does every once in a while.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 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. If we do not have a quorum, you will be notified not to come.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.

Moved by Karen Roesler, seconded by Henry Chase, motion was passed unanimously by the Council members present.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Doherty

**Kathy Doherty
Recording Secretary**