

**CHESHIRE, MERIDEN, SOUTHLINGTON CABLE ADVISORY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF JANUARY 18, 2017
COX COMMUNICATIONS IN CHESHIRE**

Members Present: Rosalie Fountain, Sandra Brunoli, Karen Roesler, and Susan Moore

Members Absent: Mike Solimine, Henry Chase, Richard Kiewlen, Adam Grippo

Cox Cable: Peter Talbot

Others Present: Kathy Doherty, Recording Secretary

Chairman Rosalie Fountain called the meeting to order at 6:35 P.M. and read the charge of the Council.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Karen Roesler

Karen called the roll and a quorum was determined.

Rosalie noted that there are corrections to the November 15, 2016 meeting minutes as follows:

- At the top of page 3, change Beth to Karen.

MOTION: To accept the minutes from the November 15, 2016 meeting with the above noted correction.

Moved by Susan Moore, seconded by Sandra Brunoli, motion was passed unanimously by the Council members present.

TREASURER'S REPORT – MIKE SOLIMINE

Mike could not be at the meeting as he is taping at the Town Hall. They are right in the middle of doing their budget and have a lot of meetings.

Since the last meeting Mike deposited a \$2,000.00 check from Cox and paid \$382.00 in secretarial fees and expenses. The balance in the account is \$1,865.93. He will be sending Rosalie a check for the Post Office Box which is for \$130.00 which leaves \$1,735.93.

MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's Report.

Moved by Sandra Brunoli, seconded by Karen Roesler, motion was passed unanimously by the Council members present.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

COMMUNICATIONS BY MAIL

Rosalie received one payment which she gave to Peter.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – ROSALIE FOUNTAIN

Rosalie had received a letter from the Connecticut Statewide Video Advisory Council located in Colchester. The letter stated that State Statute 16-331I requires that we have to have one representative on the Statewide Council. The letter was to remind us of that requirement.

Peter stated that the meetings are held in Meriden at the Sheraton 4 Points on Research Parkway. They used to do food at the meetings also.

Peter stated that they do the same thing that the Council members do on this Council but they do it for Frontier and Cablevision too because Cablevision applied for and received a statewide license.

Rosalie will give them a call and get further information about the meeting including the date, time, length of meeting, etc. Once that information becomes available, she will email everyone asking them if they would be interested in being part of that Council. The original letter can also be attached to provide the background as to what they are requiring.

Rosalie received a complaint from a customer, Ann Duffy, in Southington. She had tried to call some phone number from a complex located at 117 Buckland Street in Plantsville. When she called the phone number, the person she was trying to reach, the call wouldn't go through. But, that person could use her phone to call out and it would work. She called another person in that same complex, same thing. She is currently out of Town but Peter told Rosalie to have her call him and he would try to help her out.

Rosalie had to go to Meriden to fill out a new form for the P.O. Box. When she got the bill it was addressed to some weird name she had never heard of.

Rosalie thanked Kathy again for the minutes and read the resignation letter that she submitted effective May 17, 2017 which will give the Council until September to find a replacement.

Susan checked around at the Board of Education and there is a whole scale of pay depending on the meeting, how long they have been there, and what their particular classification is.

Susan did not feel she would have a problem getting someone to come to the meeting and do the minutes for under \$600.00 to prevent the Council from having to do a 1099. The problem would be if the Council wanted anything else done other than just the minutes.

Rosalie stated that Kathy does a lot more than coming to the meeting and doing minutes. Kathy sends minutes and notifications to the Town Clerks in all three Towns and emails the members on the Councils.

It is not always easy to find people to take minutes and recording secretaries generally only do the minutes not the other things as well.

Susan said that she wouldn't have a problem bringing a laptop and doing the minutes at the meetings since there is Wi-Fi but she would need a backup. That is also an option. She says that you make a copy of the Agenda and that is a basis for your minutes. You change the heading from Agenda to minutes. It is not as comprehensive, but it would be a solution.

Meriden and Southington both accept emailed minutes. Peter will check with Cheshire's new Town Clerk to see if she will accept emails and if not, why not.

Kathy stated that once we vote on our yearly meetings she does send them out to the Town Clerk's of each Town. Cheshire does not post these meetings. If the meetings are cancelled, a cancellation notice does have to be submitted to Cheshire.

Rosalie had a thought that the Council offer \$100.00 a month to do the meetings then that would keep it under the \$600.00 to do the minutes and send out the notices and do everything that needed to be done.

Maybe it should be \$99.00 because if it is \$600.00 or over you have to do a 1099. Or five meetings at \$100.00 and then one meeting at \$99.00.

Basically, the Council just needs to be clear as to what the expectations are. Also, the Council needs to decide if they are still going to offer that amount whether or not a meeting is held or not? Possibly offer \$50.00 if the meeting is cancelled.

Susan will put together a list of duties / job description to go over at the next meeting and a decision will be made on how much will be paid if when there is a meeting and how much will be paid if the meeting is cancelled.

Rosalie stated that she would like everyone to seriously consider taking on a position on the Council: Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer. Think about it and hopefully we will have some volunteers.

Peter noted that we are still missing members, two from Meriden and three from Southington.

Peter stated that he has a meeting in Hartford with a Representative for Glastonbury who introduced a bill a couple years ago to eliminate Advisory Councils. It went nowhere, but he is going to talk to him and see if he will re-introduce it.

Peter said that this is not a unique problem. He does the Manchester and Enfield Advisory Councils and they both struggle to get people to come to the meetings they struggle with issues. Back when we first started doing this, it was a monopoly but you also had rate regulation. Now you have competition and it is a whole different ball game. You don't have a Franchise Agreement.

The whole purpose of the Advisory Council was to represent the public at the time of Franchise renewal and there are no Franchise renewals anymore. It's nice if you get a complaint, but if Rosalie gets a complaint, she calls Peter, he calls his people and they handle it. Peter reports back to her and says it's done. You are a go between, let PURA handle it. They are a government agency. They are sitting in New Britain getting paid to do this stuff.

Rosalie said we want New York channels. Peter says Atlanta refuses.

COMPANY REPORT – PETER TALBOT

Peter said that they do have Wi-Fi and if you hold the meetings here he can run it up on the board.

Peter also wanted to clear up the 1099 issue. He got the impression that the Council wanted Cox to do the 1099. There apparently was just a lack of communication on this issue. Cox turns the money over to the Council but they cannot tell the Council how to spend it.

Peter thought all of the Advisory Council's had filed for non-profit status. He will check into that.

Peter stated that he will see if he can get the payment processed sooner.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Susan stated that she will be not be able to attend the next meeting but she will forward, via email, a potential job description to everybody.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 6:30 P.M. at the Cox Studio, in Cheshire.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.

Moved by Karen Roesler, seconded by Sandra Brunoli, motion was passed unanimously by the Council members present.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Doherty

Kathy Doherty
Recording Secretary