

**CHESHIRE, MERIDEN, SOUTHTON CABLE ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF APRIL 19, 2017  
COX COMMUNICATIONS IN CHESHIRE**

**Members Present:** Rosalie Fountain, Richard Kiewlen, Henry Chase, Adam Grippo, and Karen Roesler

**Members Absent:** Mike Solimine, Sandra Brunoli 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.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT – Karen Roesler**

Karen called the roll and a quorum was determined.

**MOTION:** To accept the minutes from the January 18, 2017 meeting as presented.

Moved by Adam Grippo, seconded by Richard Kiewlen, 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 but Rosalie had his report. At the previous meeting the balance was \$1,735.93, there are bills pending of \$274.00 which will leave a balance of \$1,461.93.

**MOTION:** To accept the Treasurer's report.

Moved by Richard Kiewlen, seconded by Adam Grippo, motion was passed unanimously by the Council members present.

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS BY MAIL**

Rosalie received one advertisement in the P.O. Box which the Council now has to pay \$130.00 a year for.

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – ROSALIE FOUNTAIN**

Connecticut Statewide Advisory Council. This is located in Colchester, CT and they have six meetings a year which are held on the even months on the fourth Wednesday (February, April, June, August, October) and the second Wednesday in December. The location and time and meetings is as follows: Baci Grill, 134 Berlin Road, in Cromwell, social time starts at 6:30 P.M. when they order and eat dinner and the meeting starts at 7:00 and the meeting generally ends by 8:30.

Rosalie stated that she spoke with Peter about this and it is not necessary to attend the meetings. The representative we had, RIT Campbell from Southington, resigned several years ago and Rosalie totally forgot about it. If anyone is interested, please email Rosalie and let her know. These meeting used to be held in Meriden but they have now changed the venue.

The State-wide Video Advisory Council operates under the PURA regulations and requires that we have a representative from our region. Adam asked if we are penalized for not having a representative on the Council, Rosalie will check.

Rosalie stated that she had received a complaint from a customer in Southington. Rosalie had spoken with her and the problem had been resolved, the problem had been with her remote control. They came twice and didn't solve the problem, the third time she insisted they send a Cox person and not a contractor and that he come with a new remote and when he came to the door she asked him if he had a new remote and if he didn't she wouldn't let him in. He did and the problem was fixed.

Meriden Post Office. The next Chairman will have to go in to fill out an updated form for the P.O. Box. They will need two forms of ID, drivers license and car registration.

Susan couldn't be at the meeting this evening but she put together the requirements for the position of Recording Secretary. Susan is not interested in either the position of Recording Secretary or Chairman. She did volunteer to type minutes during the meeting, but we will need a back-up person. She did that with the understanding that we would hire someone for that position.

Here is a suggestion: the minutes taken at the meeting will be emailed to the Chairman, the Chairman can email out the notice two weeks before the meeting, also keep and up-to-date list of representatives. The other job would be to send the minutes via email to Southington and Meriden Town Clerks. Cheshire will not accept email. They will have to either mail them or bring them to the Town Clerk.

If we hire a Recording Secretary, the pay would be \$100 per meeting held plus expenses. If a meeting is cancelled, the secretary would get \$50.00 for the missed meeting, we do not have to reschedule the missed meetings. Peter said the other two Councils only have a couple meetings a year because they can't get volunteers to join.

Adam asked if they are penalized for not having more than two meetings a year and Rosalie said that they only have the two meetings a year. If you schedule a meeting and cancel a meeting you are not penalized because you tried.

Kathy suggested that if Susan is willing to type the minutes at the meetings and if you can get a back up person to do the minutes when Susan cannot attend then that would be the best alternative. Then you can make the Chairman responsible for sending the minutes out. Times have changed. This is not the same Council that she has worked on for the past thirty years and there are people working to disband this Council. It is not easy to find someone who is willing to do take minutes, much less everything else that she has been doing. In her opinion this Council will be disbanded within a year, she is just leaving before it is done.

Karen agreed and said that she could back up Sue but said that she does not have a tablet but she does take good notes.

Kathy does not even send the Towns the Agendas for this Council. Cheshire requires cancellation notices but they will not accept emails. She emails minutes to Southington and Meriden. Cheshire used to require two original copies, now they only require one.

Karen said that the person who is the secretary is the person who should take the minutes. She said that she will think about it before the election next month as long as there is someone to back her up.

The other two Councils in the State which have Cox as their providers only have two meetings a year, even though they are also required to have six just as we are, because they cannot get the volunteers to serve on their Councils. They choose to ignore the State requirements and only have the two meetings in which Cox is required to attend. This Council used to have some power and authority but it does not anymore and it only exists because the State tells us we have to.

Kathy explained that the Council was put together to work for the subscribers, on their behalf, at the time of the Franchise Renewal. That was the original purpose of this Commission. She also explained the origination of the stipend for the secretarial expense and how we used to video the meetings and used the excess funds to purchase video equipment for the schools.

Karen questioned if Public Access and Government Access would be affected if this Council was disbanded but it is governed by PURA and not this Council.

Adam noted that Cox has to provide those services and Frontier shares some sort of equipment here. However, if the equipment breaks, Frontier is not obligated to repair their part of it. So, people with Cox would still get their services but people with Frontier may not. It is still not a level playing field.

Karen noted that Cox does has to provide every public library with an internet connection.

We will vote about the Recording Secretary at the next meeting.

Rosalie had a long talk with Peter about the issues and he spoke with the Town Clerk in Cheshire but they will not accept minutes by email.

Peter also talked with the Representative from Glastonbury about entering the bill to eliminate Advisory Councils but the deadline has already passed for this year but he will do it next year.

Peter also checked into the non-profit status with the Secretary of State and they have no record of the Council being non-profit.

As far as the stipend is concerned, Rosalie told him that it is ridiculous that it comes in September / October when it should be coming in the beginning of the year so he is going to try to have Cox process it earlier in the year.

Rosalie stated that she is resigning as Chairman. She will stay on the Council and she is willing to be the person who will get the nominations for the position of Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. She will contact each of the members by email and ask them if they will be willing to take one of the positions. The elections will be held at the May meeting. Please consider taking one of the positions. Mike stated that he would be willing to stay on as Treasurer, but if someone is interested, please let her know.

Karen stated that she would take the position of Secretary.

**MOTION:** To accept the Chairman's Report.

Moved by Adam Grippo, seconded by Richard Kiewlen, motion was passed unanimously by the Council members present.

**COMPANY REPORT – PETER TALBOT**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Adam brought up the issue of data caps. With Cox you don't get unlimited internet there is a data cap like your cell phone data that a lot of people don't know about and if you are a heavy user and do a lot of streaming you can get hit with additional charges. The cap for Cox is 1 terabyte and Cox charges another \$10 or \$15 for another 10 gigabytes which would last like another day if you hit that terabyte mark. There is no way to increase the ceiling unless you go to a business plan. If Peter was here we could ask him about that because Frontier does not have data caps. But Frontier does not have service everywhere and they do not have the speed that Cox has.

If people cut the cord and everything they do is streaming, they could hit that cap pretty fast. As far as Adam knows there is no remedy but to pay extra money for very little extra data.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. at The Watch Factory Restaurant, in Cheshire. **Please let Rosalie know if you are planning on attending.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** To adjourn the meeting.

Moved by Adam Grippo, seconded by Henry Chase, motion was passed unanimously by the Council members present.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kathy Doherty*

**Kathy Doherty  
Recording Secretary**