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Cable Advisory Minutes 10/25/2006

Selectmen's Cable Television Advisory Committee
Minutes of Meeting of October 25, 2006

Meeting began at 7:00pm in the Selectmen's Chambers, 2nd floor, Town Hall
Members present- Phil McCarthy, Paul Berg, Jim Walsh and Mike Quinn
Also present- John Maher, John Leone, Norm McLeod and Glenn Koenig

The draft minutes of the meeting of June 28, 2006 were VOTED (4-0) approved on motion of Mr. Quinn seconded by Mr. Walsh.

Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Maher briefed the Committee on their meeting on 10/19/06 with Tom Steel of RCN and advised they informed Mr. Steel of the highlights of the recently renewed Comcast license. Mr. Steel was told that the town would like to see a renewal proposal that included service to all residences and businesses, 5% of gross cable revenue, 400K in PEG capital funds over 10 years, assurances of sufficient I-net capacity and On Demand PEG storage capacity as highlights of their proposal. Mr. Steel indicated that RCN might not be able to match Comcast's capital funding due to fact they had half as many subscribers and that he would have to check with their engineers on the feasibility of On Demand storage capacity for PEG programming. He said he believed their I-Net had sufficient capacity to handle Arlington's current and future needs. Mr. Maher told Mr. Steel that he would like to have a renewal license agreed to by the end of the year and Mr. Steel agreed with that.

The committee was also informed that the Verizon licensing process has been commenced and that we were awaiting their filing of the Cable Television Division Form 100, Application for cable television license.

Mr. Leone, ACMI president, said that they took over studio operations and PEG programming responsibilities from Comcast on Sep. 25, 2006. He introduced Norm McLeod who ACMI has hired as their Executive Director. He said that Mr. McLeod had held that position at Southern Berkshire Community Television in western Massachusetts and would be relocating to the Arlington area. He has been working with Glen Koenig and consultant Greg Hall on the I-Net issues and changes and updates needed to broadcast all PEG programming to all cable providers. It was clear to all that Mr. Koenig has been more than generous with his volunteer time in assisting with this endeavor. Mr. Leone stated that they have also hired Jeff Monroe, formerly a Comcast employee at the Arlington Studio as a part time IT person. Mr. McLeod indicated that he was happy to accept the challenge in Arlington and would diligently assess the current PEG programming status in town and move on to implement the goals and objectives of ACMI.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.