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Cable Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes 02-10-04

SELECTMEN'S CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Minutes of meeting of February 10, 2004

Meeting began @ 7: 15 p.m. in the selectmen's chambers, town hall.

Members Present – Phil McCarthy, Bob Chebator and Paul Berg.

Also in attendance – John Maher, Joe Miksis, Steve Mazolla, Steve Meister, Glenn Koenig, Kathy Colwell, Cathy Fennelley, Steve Galeotalanza, Julie Kuhn, Robert Scalese

The draft minutes of the meeting of December 18, 2003 were VOTED approved on motion of Mr. Berg, seconded by Mr. Chebator.

Mr. McCarthy brought up the school dept request for technology funding for further discussion. He reported on the meetings with the Selectmen on January 26, 2004 and the DPAB on Feb.3, 2004.

Mr. Maher advised that a meeting would held by Selectmen Lyons, Supt. Donovan, Comptroller Lewis, Webmaster Stange and Bob Sprague to discuss further the selectmen's vote to utilize 40K from the tech fund for re-hiring Mr. Sprague as school information officer and aide to the CTAC over a period of 18 months.

Mr. Mazolla reported on the unreliability of the Comcast I-Net and the need of the school dept. to address the problem as soon as possible. Mr. Meister, Mr. Miksis and Mr. Koenig all related how the old copper co-axial cable results in inadequate transmission of data, voice and video as well as their belief that with the install of fiber optics to the Dallin studio and the install of the school depts. request for hardware to allow for transfer to the RCN fiber optic line the problems could be resolved. Mr. Koenig also mentioned that some work would be necessary at town hall to support live broadcasts from that location.

On motion of Mr. Berg, seconded by Mr. Chebator it was VOTED that the committee would ask Mr. Maher to arrange for a meet with Jane Lyman of Comcast to address these issues and see if we could secure the necessary hardware and/or funding from Comcast to effectuate these changes in exchange for relieving them of the costs of maintaining and operating their old I- Net.

Mr. McCarthy floated the possibility that if all else failed, they could explore further the use of 100K for school dept hardware from the 5% fund if it could be accomplished without detriment to the the original set aside of those funds to support a new community based PEG access operation.

Mr. Maher reported that the mgrs. office had released the RFP for a needs assessment study. The timeline for actions thereunder was amended to better reflect the realities of the reviewing and selection process.

Mr. McCarthy stated that a meeting would most likely be called after completion of discussions with Comcast representatives.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

