

A.9.C.C.

Area 9 Cable Council, c/o Wilton Town Hall, 238 Danbury Rd., Wilton, CT 06897 www.a9cc.org

TO: A9CC MEMBERS **February 18, 2012**
FROM: Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary
RE: MINUTES OF MEETING (February 15, 2012)
LOCATION: Wilton Town Hall Annex, 238 Danbury Rd., Wilton, CT

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: David Dever
Easton:
Greenwich:
New Canaan: Paul Sedlak,
Norwalk: Herb Grant, Erin Halsey, Art Scialabba
Redding: Bob Moran
Stamford: Geza Ziegler
Weston: Don Saltzman, Harvey Bellin
Westport: Hal Levy, Judi Freedman, Stan Witkow
Wilton: Gary Battaglia, Carole Young-Kleinfeld
Cablevision: Jennifer Young

Excused: Jim Cameron (Darien), Stu Reider (Greenwich), Andy Anderson (Easton)

HL called the meeting to order at 6:05pm, 8 towns represented. Thanked Carole Young-Kleinfeld and Gary Battaglia for hosting the meeting.

1. The Minutes of November 30, 2011 were approved as submitted.

2. The Financial Report from the Treasurer was distributed, read and approved. HG reported a balance of \$17,917.33 in the Escrow Account and a balance of \$10,546.97 in the Operations Account. 2 checks from Cablevision for 2012 community access support and operations support were received during the meeting.

3. Updates on old business:

- A. **Docket 11-07-09: PURA Declaratory Ruling of the Sound View Community Media, Inc.:** January 2012 decision was delayed by PURA until February 1, 2012. PURA ruled that it has no jurisdiction in this matter unless there are legislative changes. A9CC did not comment on this docket because the subject matter did not pertain to Area 9.
- B. **Docket 11-08-06 PURA Investigation into Community Access Programming and Operations:** no change, no decision date. There is no deadline for a PURA-initiated docket.
- C. **The Annual Access Report** was submitted to CV on 12/15/2012 and the A9CC Annual Report was written by HL and submitted to PURA on 1/18/2012 with copies sent to all A9 superintendents of schools and chief elected officials.
- D. **I-Net logs for 2011 were due on January 1, 2012.** All towns have submitted their logs except for Easton, Stamford, and Wilton.
- E. HL reported that **Educational Access Committee Chair Ellyn Stewart** has identified a need for new member orientation. ES will reach out to new Wilton E-Access Committee member Ken Boehm, recently appointed by Wilton's Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gary Richards.

4. To discuss 2012 Government Access grant program

- A. HL summarized an inquiry from Norwalk Community College regarding a program on teen media activities and referred NCC to the Area 9 Norwalk representatives. DS suggested the Norwalk BOE as a possible resource. JY and PS suggested that the group also consider submitting a grant to the PEGPETIA Program administered by PURA.
- B. HL stated that approximately \$112, 000 will be available for this year's grant program, including \$3,000 of the Governmental Access funding and \$1000 from the Educational Access funding rolled over from 2011. The Town of Weston has an outstanding E-channel voucher for \$7000 which had not reached HL as of the start of tonight's meeting. HL will clarify the status of the missing voucher with ES and the Town of Weston. HB recommended direct correspondence with Weston's superintendent of schools. (It was later discovered that the voucher had been submitted prior to the meeting and payment was subsequently made to the Weston Schools).

The A9CC members discussed the importance of following deadlines for all grants and policies in our By-Laws. DS and PS recommended that programming on E-channels should be monitored, because of concern over content on those channels and PS suggested that I-Net logs for all access channels should be reviewed. JY will forward I-Net Logs to HL for member review.

A9CC members agreed to delay decisions on 2012 grant program until April 4th meeting.

- C. Direct Equipment grants will be available once again from CV. HL and BM will coordinate this year's program. HL will review and determine each town's eligibility for a portion of the 2012 cash and equipment grants consistent with equitability policies determined by the Council after completion of the 2011 grant program.

5. Group Discussion – The group discussed the future of television/video in light of the capabilities of the Internet. HB announced Weston's posting of their programming "on demand" on the Internet. BM reported on Apple's huge "server farm" in NC.

6. Other Matters:

In light of few federal rules about content on P/E/G access channels, HL urged members to consider town-specific policies. Easton and Darien have model policies for consideration. DS raised the dilemma of independent policies, when town-specific community access channels in Area 9, in most cases, are administratively hosted by municipalities.

CV's DVR+ service was discussed. JY reported subscription costs and capacity related to DVR+.

DD inquired about upcoming packages for CV customers. JY announced new IO packages to be available in late March and that HBO Go has been approved.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule: 4/4/2012 scheduled for Greenwich (Norwalk City Hall if Greenwich is not available), 6/6/2012 Annual Meeting Location TBA.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Carole Young-Kleinfeld, Secretary