

A.9.C.C.

Area 9 Cable Council, 17 Crawford Road, Westport, CT 06880

www.a9cc.org

TO: A9CC MEMBERS **March 2, 2015**
FROM: Hal Levy for Judith Freedman, Secretary
RE: MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2015 MEETING IN GREENWICH

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: Dave Dever, Jim Cameron
Easton: Doug Dempsey
Greenwich: Paul Curtis, Christopher von Keyserling, Stu Reider
New Canaan: Paul Sedlak
Norwalk: Herbert Grant
Redding: Robert Moran
Stamford:
Weston: Don Saltzman, Harvey Bellin
Westport: Hal Levy
Wilton: Phillip Sharlach
Cablevision: Jennifer Young
Ed Access Committee: Susan Morris

Excused: Roman Cebulski (New Canaan); Erin Herring (Norwalk); Stan Witkow, Judi Freedman (Westport); Gary Battaglia (Wilton)

Chairman Hal Levy called the A9CC Meeting to order at 6:00pm. 9 towns were represented. Hal thanked Paul Curtis for hosting.

1. **Minutes** of December 10 were approved as written, with two abstentions.
2. **Updates on old business:**
 - 2014 Grant Funding Documentation was submitted to CV on 1/23
 - A9CC 2014 Annual Report was filed with PURA on 1/28 and sent to A9CC members, Area 9 CEO's & Schools Superintendents.
 - I-Net reports were not received from the following: E: Darien, Easton Greenwich, Norwalk, Stamford, Redding, Weston, Wilton; G: Easton, Stamford, Greenwich, Wilton. Logs can be submitted to CV until Friday. I-Net logs must be submitted to Council prior to new grant applications
 - PEGPETIA grants reinstated as of February 9, 2015

3. **Status of infrastructure upgrade of town-specific access channels:**

12 sets of digital encoders / decoders have been purchased directly by CV in its 2014 direct equipment grant. Greenwich was chosen as the first test site since Paul Curtis is directly familiar with the setup. Darien has been added as a test site because it is one of the sites with poor signal quality. Paul is the contact for technical questions.

Jennifer compiled the following chart identifying all the equipment and costs for the project, both purchased and remaining. It shows that approximately \$96,000 more from access funds is needed. Two questions remain: (1) Will Cablevision replace, at its expense, failed equipment as it has done with the existing modulators and demodulators? (2) Will Cablevision be supplying a 2015 direct equipment grant, which can be used to purchase some of the remaining equipment?

Item	Description	Total Quantity Needed	Quantity Purchased & Received in 2014	Net Quantity Remaining	Unit Cost	Net Cost
VAB705S-T-UA3	Fiber Optic Transmitter	22	12	10	\$ 1,200	\$ 12,000
VAB705S-R-RA3	Fiber Optic Receiver	22	12	10	\$ 1,200	\$ 12,000
CR200-P	Cage with Power Supply	1	1	0	\$ 690	\$ -
VABX7612SL-T-2A3	Easton & Redding Interconnect Fiber Optic Transmitters via Bridgeport	1	0	1	\$ 6,720	\$ 6,720
VABX7612S-R-2A3	Easton & Redding Interconnect Fiber Optic Receivers via Bridgeport	1	0	1	\$ 6,720	\$ 6,720
VABX7816SL-T-2A3	Darien, Greenwich & Stamford Interconnect Fiber optic Transmitters via Stamford	2	0	2	\$ 8,880	\$ 17,760
VABX7816SL-R-2A3	Darien, Greenwich & Stamford Interconnect Fiber optic Receivers via Stamford	2	0	2	\$ 8,880	\$ 17,760
810	Bar & Tone Generator	20	0	20	\$ 203	\$ 4,057
FC-400	Timebase Corrector	20	0	21	\$ 615	\$ 12,922
RK-1	19 inch Rack Adapter	20	0	20	\$ 65	\$ 1,307
RK-3T	19 inch Rack Adapter	20	0	20	\$ 35	\$ 708
SAUN22F5000	Samsung 22 inch TV	20	0	20	\$ 168	\$ 3,360
PEPA730	Wall Mount	20	0	20	\$ 32	\$ 642
Grand Total						\$ 95,956

4. **Financial report** from the Treasurer was distributed, discussed and approved.

5. **To formulate 2015 access grant program**

Cablevision submitted a check for \$100,000 for 2015 E&G access funding. Jennifer stated that a check for \$43,356.88 collected from Frontier U-Verse would be submitted to the Council shortly for E&G access funding.

After setting aside \$100,000 of grant funds for the remaining costs associated with the digital upgrade, the council voted to allocate \$180,000 in funding for 2015 grants to be split \$90,000 each for E & G. The education committee shall establish the educational grants and those applications will be voted on by the full council for approval.

The Council established Government grants to be a maximum of \$9,000 each with up to \$3,000 used for operations. The deadline for submission of applications will be the Friday before the October meeting.

As per the rules, all towns and schools must have submitted grant reports for prior grants and 2014 I-Net reports before submitting any new grant applications.

The Council voted to authorize the use of any 2015 direct equipment grant from Cablevision to be used towards the purchase of system upgrade equipment (see agenda item 3).

There was discussion on how to further ensure that grants are used for the enhancement of programming on the access channels and it was decided to change the grant application forms to modify the question *“How many hours a week does you town broadcast video programming and how many different programs are broadcast each week?”* with specific tabular entries. Hal will submit drafts to all council members for comments.

6. **Other business**

There was discussion on what is allowed on access channels in regards to commercial content. Several towns have incorporated rules into their access channel policies based on prior

investigations by the Council on this issue. We will distribute and post on a9cc.org the documents that are submitted to the Council.

Darien reported success in using Vimeo for programming archiving. Redding also concurred on its experience.

Stu Reider inquired about any progress in getting Stamford active in E&G access. It was responded that Phil Sharlach had discussions with Stamford last year, offering A9CC help in bootstrapping Stamford's establishment of town-specific access channels. However Stamford has failed to appoint any delegates to A9CC in order to facilitate this.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm

Next meeting is April 8, 2015 in Easton;
Future meetings are: June 3, 2015 TBA