

A.9.C.C.

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

www.a9cc.org

TO: A9CC MEMBERS
FROM: Harvey Bellin for Judith Freedman, Secretary
RE: MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2014 MEETING

Sept. 12, 2014

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: David Dever
Easton: Andy Anderson, Doug Dempsey
Greenwich: Paul Curtis
New Canaan:
Norwalk: Herbert Grant, Erin Herring, Art Scialabba
Redding: Robert Moran
Stamford:
Weston: Don Saltzman, Harvey Bellin,
Westport: Hal Levy, Stan Witkow
Wilton: Philip Sharlach, Gary Battaglia
Cablevision: Jennifer Young

Excused: Jim Cameron (Darien); Jennifer Cirino, Judi Freedman (Westport); Stu Reider, Chris von Keyserling (Greenwich); Paul Sedlak (New Canaan)

Chairman Hal Levy called the A9CC Meeting to order at 6:10pm. 8 towns were represented.

1. **Minutes** of June 11, 2014 Annual Meeting were approved with 2 abstentions.

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

3. **Updates on old business:**

Update on status of PEGPETIA funding to support access stations, which the CT legislature had diverted into general funds. Legislature has again failed to act on restoring PEGPETIA funds, and may address the issue at 9/26 meeting of state bonding commission.

4. **2014 Access Grant Requests:**

- Norwalk G-Grant, presented by Erin Herring. Request for \$7,980.73 to upgrade media server to provide larger stage capacity, remote access better configuration, etc. and to facilitate broadcasting from larger Town Hall chambers more frequently the site for meetings broadcast on G channel. Motion unanimously approved.
- Darien G-Grant, presented by Dave Dever. Request for \$3,155 to reconfigure outdated wiring and cabling of G channel broadcast & recording equipment (\$2,700 installation fees + \$435 hardware). Motion unanimously approved.
- Convent of the Sacred Heart E-Grant request was tabled because the applicant was not available to present the application.
- New Canaan E-Grant request was withdrawn because required grant reports had not been filed. Greenwich E-Grant request was withdrawn because of reassignment of its Educational Committee member.

- Hal Levy reviewed rules for submitted 2014 Government grant requests: \$8,000 available to each municipality's G-channel, with up to \$2,500 pre-approved for operating fees and the remainder available for equipment purchases. Request should be submitted on appropriate A9CC forms for prior to and for voting at next A9CC meeting. Oct. 22, 2014 in Redding.

5. **Review Proposed Expenditure of Access Funds to Enhance Quality of Signals on Town Channels and Eliminate or Simplify Tweaking Needed to maintain Signals.**

Paul Curtis reported on his findings about improving sustainable broadcasts signals by transmitting digital signals from municipalities to replace current modulated analog signals. Advantages include better signals from all municipalities by replacing analog amplifiers with which baseband signals can degenerate based on distance traveled, eliminate need for repeated tweaking by installing a new system with Cablevision can use test generators to monitor and set consistent digital signals. A package of equipment to include digital encoder/decoder, bar & tone generator, video monitor and time base corrector would be supplied to every Government and Education channel headend for the upgrade. Paul and other Council members will work with Cablevision to identify specific equipment. A motion to purchase the equipment out of access funds was seconded and approved.

6. **Finalize A9CC meeting schedule for 2014-15:** The followed schedule was approved:

October 22, 2014 in Redding
December 10, 2014 in New Canaan
February 25, 2015 in Greenwich
April 8, 2015 in Easton
June 3, Annual Meeting TBD

7. **Other Business:** There was a discussion regarding a requirement for closed captioning on the access channels where it was confirmed that the channels were exempt by statute for a variety of reasons including budgets below the threshold and specific exemptions afforded to Educational channels.

8. **Meeting adjourned** at 7:50pm

Respectively submitted by Harvey F. Bellin for Judith Freedman, Secretary