

A.9.C.C.

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

www.a9cc.org

TO: A9CC MEMBERS **October 22, 2015**
FROM: Hal Levy for Judith Freedman, Secretary
RE: MINUTES OF OCTOBER 21, 2015 MEETING IN NORWALK

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: Dave Dever, Jim Cameron
Easton: Andy Anderson, Doug Dempsey
Greenwich: Paul Curtis, Susan Morris
New Canaan: Paul Sedlak
Norwalk: Herbert Grant, Art Scialabba, Erin Herring
Redding: Robert Moran
Stamford:
Weston: Don Saltzman, Harvey Bellin
Westport: Hal Levy, Stan Witkow
Wilton: Phil Sharlach, Mathew Hepfer
Cablevision: Jennifer Young
Guests: Larry Manzi, Norwalk

Excused: Stu Reider, Chris Von Keyserling (Greenwich); Roman Cebulski (New Canaan); Judi Freedman, Jennifer Cirino (Westport); Gary Battaglia (Wilton)

Chairman Hal Levy called the meeting to order at 6:03pm with nine towns represented. He introduced guest Larry Manzi who will be presenting Norwalk's Govt. grant application.

Hal announced that Herb Grant is stepping down as Treasurer but will continue on as a Norwalk member. We will hold a special election to fill the post at the December meeting and Hal will handle Treasurer duties until the post is filled. Members thanked Herb for his service.

1. **Minutes** of September 9, 2015 meeting were approved as written.
2. **Financial report** from the Treasurer was distributed, discussed and approved.
3. **Updates on old business:**
 - I-Net reports not received from the following: E: Darien, Easton, Norwalk, Stamford, Redding, Wilton; G: Stamford. I-Net logs must be submitted to Council prior to new grant applications.
 - The Council has not received appointment letters from Government CEO's (Easton, Norwalk and Stamford) and Schools Superintendents (Darien, Easton/Redding, New Canaan, Norwalk and Stamford). Members were reminded to contact the proper authority to assure those appointments are made
 - Jim Cameron has not yet been able to locate the drone awarded in a grant to NCC for Area 9 access use. He will continue to try to contact Stoney Duren

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

New digital encoders / decoders and accessory equipment has been installed for Greenwich, Darien, Weston, Westport, Norwalk, New Canaan and Wilton Channel 79's and Greenwich and Darien channel 78's.

Jennifer gave status of remaining equipment to be purchased from access funds:

Model	Description	Units	Cost	Total
VAB705S-T-UA3	Fiber Optic Transmitter	10	\$ 1,200	\$ 12,000.00
VAB705S-R-RA3	Fiber Optic Receiver	10	\$ 1,200	\$ 12,000.00
FC-400	Timebase Corrector	4	\$ 615	\$ 2,460.00
SAUN22F5000	Samsung 22 inch TV	20	\$ 168	\$ 3,360.00
	Miscellaneous	1	84.23	\$ 84.23
				\$ 29,904.23

The number of time base correctors has been cut down to only sites with severe signal problems. Vendors will be paid directly from the access escrow account maintained by A9CC. An invoice from Radiant Communications was passed on to A9CC for payment.

5. 2015 access grant program: The following 2015 Round 1 grant applications were considered:

Town/School	Amount	Status
Westport-G	\$10,800.00	Approved
New Canaan-G	\$5,459.92	Approved
Darien-G	\$6,000.00	Approved
Norwalk-G	\$10,799.93	Approved
Redding-G	\$10,800.00	Approved as amended for \$9,560.00
Easton-G	\$10,000.00	Approved
Weston-G	\$6,000.00	Approved
CSH-E	\$9,505.60	Tabled since applicant was not available to answer questions
Greenwich-E	\$11,156.00	Approved
New Canaan-E	\$8,383.42	Approved
Wilton-E	\$20,987.00	Approved (I-Net report waiver granted)

The Council expressed concerns about approving grants for drones because of the uncertainty of liability and their true benefit to Access programming. There was strong sentiment that entities that wished to acquire drones should do so from other funding sources or borrow them from their other municipal departments.

6. To formulate 2015 round two government access grants

A second round of 2015 grants was approved. Approximately \$150K was temporarily calculated to be available for grants, however only \$112,000 is actually available after all committed funds were calculated. \$56,000 will be made available to both the Education side and Government side. The Education committee will create individual grants from its total allotment.

10 Government grants of a maximum of \$5,600 are available of which, up to 1/3 or \$1,866 may be used for operations. All grant requests must be submitted by 12/1 for action at the 12/9 meeting. Towns may also submit secondary grant requests, which will be considered if there are funds remaining after processing the primary grant applications. These secondary requests are also due on 12/1.

7. Other Matters

Sale of Cablevision to Altice – Jennifer confirmed Cablevision’s News Release that the company has been sold to French Telecommunications company Altice, with Cablevision retaining only MSG & AMC. The closing is expected by April or May of 2016 subject to federal and some local review. There is no PURA review needed. A9CC status as a local council is in question once the company changes ownership.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm

Next meeting is December 9, 2015 at Wilton Library. Future meetings are 2/24/2016 in New Canaan Town Hall; 4/6/2016 in Easton and 6/1/2016 TBD