

A.9.C.C.

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

www.a9cc.org

TO: A9CC MEMBERS **December 11, 2014**
FROM: Hal Levy for Judith Freedman, Secretary
RE: MINUTES OF DECEMBER 10, 2014 MEETING IN NEW CANAAN

ATTENDANCE:

Darien: Dave Dever,
Easton: Doug Dempsey
Greenwich: Paul Curtis, Christopher von Keyserling
New Canaan: Paul Sedlak, Roman Cebulski
Norwalk: Herbert Grant, Erin Herring
Redding: Robert Moran
Stamford:
Weston: Erik Haakonsen
Westport: Hal Levy
Wilton:
Cablevision: Jennifer Young

Excused: Jim Cameron (Darien); Andy Anderson (Easton); Stu Reider (Greenwich); Art Scialabba (Norwalk); Don Saltzman & Harvey Bellin (Weston); Stan Witkow & Judi Freedman (Westport); Phil Sharlach & Gary Battaglia (Wilton)

Chairman Hal Levy called the A9CC Meeting to order at 6:06pm. 8 towns were represented. Hal thanked Paul Sedlak for hosting.

1. **Minutes** of October 22 were approved as written, with one abstention.
2. **Financial report** from the Treasurer was distributed, discussed and approved.
3. **Updates on old business:**

Per request of the Council, A letter of agreement between Greenwich High School (GHS) and The Convent of the Sacred Heart (CSH) was signed whereby CSH will share 30-60 minutes of content with GHS on Google Drive every month of the academic year for airing on Greenwich Channel 78. GHS will load and schedule content to recur one hour every day. Fresh content will be added at the beginning of each month.

Paul Curtis will contact CSH about carrying its programming on the Greenwich G Channel or ways of making their headend a transmission site.

4. **Review of Cablevision 2015 rate increases:**

Beginning with the first billing cycle in 2015, Sports surcharge will increase from \$4.98 - \$5.98; Set Top Boxes & remotes will increase from \$6.95 - \$7.80 and PEG fees, which were previously not itemized on bills will be added at .47 per month. For example, customers with 3 TV's will see an increase in cable rates of \$4.02. Jennifer pointed out that the "Sports Programming Surcharge" has been renamed the "Sports and Broadcast TV Surcharge" to reflect the implementation or increase in carriage fees that broadcast networks are now charging Cable companies.

5. 2014 Access Grant Requests:

- Westport E-Grant request for \$7,714.93 was approved after Jennifer Cirino answered a question by telephone.
- Weston E-Grant request for \$13,862.00, presented by Erik Haakonsen was approved.
- New Canaan E-Grant request for \$12,438.06 presented by Roman Cebulski was approved.
- Norwalk Community College E-Grant request for \$7,673.46 from Stoney Duren was approved.
- Convent of the Sacred Heart E-Grant request for \$799.00 from Karl Haeseler was approved.
- Weston G-Grant request for \$3,200.00 from Harvey Bellin to pay down the grant approved at the October meeting was approved.
- Redding G-Grant request for \$1,700 presented by Bob Moran was approved.
- Easton G-Grant request for \$3,191.63 (\$1,691.63 for equipment & \$1,500 for operations) presented by Doug Dempsey was approved.
- Darien, New Canaan and Redding also were recipients of pre-approved operation G-Grants for \$1,500 each in Round 2.

6. Direct Equipment Grant Proposal

At the September A9CC meeting, the Council approved the use of access funds to improve the delivery and quality of access programs with a package of equipment to include digital encoder/decoder, bar & tone generator, video monitor and time base corrector. Cablevision has ordered 12 sets of encoders & decoders for the \$30,000 2014 direct equipment grant. One set of the other 3 items will be purchased using access funds and installed at the Greenwich G headend as the prototype. Once this installation has successfully been completed, the remaining equipment will be purchased from access funds and installed for the other 19 E&G transmit sites. If a town or school wishes to outfit additional headends, they can purchase the equipment with future grants.

7. There was no **other business**. Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

Next meeting is Feb 25, 2015 in Greenwich Town Hall

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