

MINUTES OF CABLE TV COMMISSION MEETING
November 7, 2012
CITY HALL ANNEX – 1st FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM #1

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alan Vincent (chair), Jennifer Tigges (vice-chair), Pauline Maloney, Kevin Stevens, Sr. Carol Hoverman, Kathy McMullen.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ron Tigges.

OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Nowack, City of Dubuque
Craig Schaefer, Dubuque Community Schools
Mike Cyze, Dubuque Community Schools
Jeff Dyer, Dubuque Community Schools
Darin Dean, Mediacom
Jim Barefoot, Mediacom

Vincent called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Acceptance of the Agenda

Upon a motion by Hoverman, seconded by Maloney, the agenda was accepted 6 - 0.

Approval of the Minutes of October 10, 2012

Upon a motion by Hoverman, seconded by Stevens, the Minutes were approved 6 - 0.

Public Notice

There was no public input.

School District Update

Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Cyze provided an update on Dubuque Community School's educational access channel and the changes that have taken place since July 2012.

PEG Channel Re-Location

Mr. Dean provided some clarification on the problem that some cable subscribers are experiencing with regard to the PEG channels. The digital channel, 97, where the PEG channels reside falls within the range of the FM radio broadcast spectrum. Any problems with a subscriber's fittings or wiring can cause FM radio to interfere with and often block PEG channel reception. Now that Mediacom's digital transition has progressed far enough, there is available spectrum outside of the FM radio realm that largely alleviate this problem. Nowack asked what digital channel the PEG channels would move to, would they still be sequential within that channel like they are now, and would the converter box numbers remain the same. Mr. Dean said he would have to check on channel availability, but he thought they could remain in sequence and at the same converter box number. Mr. Schaefer said he would like to know what the new channel number would be, but that key for him was the fact that it would allow more people to see the channels.

Stevens moved to request that the PEG channels be re-located to a digital channel number free of FM radio interference in a manner where the PEG channels would be on consecutive, sequential subchannel numbers. The motion was seconded by McMullen and approved 6 – 0. Mr. Dean informed the Commission that some television sets map the channels differently than the cable company sets them up, but mostly they match the setup.

Access Equipment & Facilities

Mr. Dyer presented a request for some production equipment for Sageville School and provided some background into the video production he's done for the School District, primarily at Fulton School.

He's requesting funding for a new camera, editing computer with software, and some production accessories. He is open to suggestions as to which camera to buy. Vincent suggested that because of Mr. Dyer's history of quality production the Commission should recommend getting a good camera. JTigges thought that some of the prices in the application looked low. Nowack suggested that the Commission approve up to a higher amount than is being requested to allow Mr. Dyer and Mr. Schaefer to confer about the exact equipment to achieve the production goals.

Maloney moved to approve up to \$15,000 to purchase the requested equipment. The motion was seconded by Stevens and approved 6 – 0.

Disposing of Old Equipment

This item was tabled until a future meeting per the request of Barefoot.

Mediacom Cable Report

Barefoot reported that most things are back on line after the recent server problems. However, he is going to contact ECS tomorrow to work out a few remaining issues.

Cable TV Report

Nowack declined to report in order to go to the Historic Federal Building to prepare for tonight's live Zoning Advisory Commission meeting telecast.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by JTigges, seconded by Hoverman, the meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.