



Granite Town Media

Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

26 July 2018

Present: Kevin Federico, Tim Finan, Joe Kasper, Mike McInerney, Tom Schmidt

Absent: Dave Alcox, Ron Carvell, Lisa Griffiths, Jon Teger

Guests: Bryan Christiansen: Comcast, Chris Gentry, Nathalie Watson

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order 7:05 PM

Minutes

Minutes approved Joe moved/Tom 2nd AIF

Comcast franchise renewal

- Bryan, Comcast Senior Manager Government & Regulatory Affairs, presented the proposed franchise agreement. This is a model agreement that has been adopted by the towns of: Bedford, Concord and Rochester. It is similar to but has significant detail differences from our existing agreement that is based on the original 2003 Adelphia agreement.
- Backup time – reference to backup time was deleted in the new agreement, is 48 hours in the current agreement. Bryan will add that section back, however Comcast is only able to guarantee 24 hours. This affects residential customers; commercial accounts may have different requirements as specified in their SLA.
- Gross Cable Revenue – this is a confusing definition dating from the days when Cable companies only delivered TV. This is important because the franchise fee is calculated on gross revenue. Per FCC rules Gross revenue is produced from delivering traditional TV services, aka linear TV. Chris mentioned there was a court case where even though the TV service was delivered over the Internet since it was an emulation of traditional cable TV it was treated as such. On the other hand video on demand, Internet and telephone services do not count toward the franchise fee.
- HD PEG – Comcast does not currently support HD PEG channels in the Boston market but is trialing them. No timeline for when this will be implemented in our area.
- PEG EPG – Comcast does not support electronic program guide (EPG) for PEG channels. EPG encompasses multiple towns and each town may have a different number of PEG channel and assign them differently. As a workaround Mike includes program guide information in the slideshow that airs between programs.

- Franchise fee – new franchise agreement does not specify process to change the franchise fee. The old guide stated once approved by the BoS Comcast has 90 days to implement. Chris will add this back into the agreement.
- Comcast coverage map – except for the most sparsely populated parts of town all areas are covered.
- GTM fiber link – Comcast provides a dedicated fiber optic link from town hall to the high school for GTM video programs. They are not willing to add a second fiber to the agreement for us to use for LAN extension to control GTM equipment at HS.
- Agreement length – most franchise agreements run for 10 years, our current agreement is 7 years.
- Citizen outreach meeting – BoS will hold an open meeting where citizens are able to ask Comcast representative questions. Tentative date is in September.
- Franchise agreement approval timeline – Bryan will revise the agreement based on the meeting and forward it to Mike. GTMAC will hold a work session to do a final review and deliver summary to the BoS. BoS will review, obtain legal opinion and if all is well sign the agreement. The current agreement expires midnight Sept 7 so we will likely be operating for a few months with an expired agreement. Bryan indicated doing this for a short period is not a problem.

Mike Action items

- We the People team submitted two videos to GTM and have been paid.
- GTM Equipment update at the high school is complete but still waiting for documentation.
- Turns out there was a Comcast cable drop in the high school meeting room. Mike installed a DTA and monitor in the control room to monitor outgoing feed and added a splitter in case teachers want to use a TV.
- Mike presented quote to upgrade BoS room lighting to LED. Committee approved spending up to \$1500 Tim moved/Joe 2nd AIF.
- NAS program backup – is still being investigated.
- HS cable project to replace copper cable – precise scope of the work is still unclear. School is doing some renovation but we should be able to install new cable in the next few weeks.
- Discussed difference in video quality between video on demand (VoD) programs and the channel 20/21 program stream. Even though both have the same recorded source the streaming feed looks significantly worse than VoD. Mike thinks the bulk of the problem with the school board meeting is overexposure. He will work with videographers. Tim pulled up our meeting live and it looked fine. Need to keep in mind if a meeting is currently in progress the channel stream is real-time version of the meeting. At other times watching either the PEG channels or Internet channel stream you are watching a recorded program being played back. Chris was concerned problem may be due to bandwidth constraints, but that does not appear to be the case as playback was smooth with no hesitation. Mike will do some experiments to see what if anything can be done to improve video quality.
- CIP – major goal is upgrading GTM from SD to HD, and other capital expenditures to production capability – no update.

Video projects

- Nathalie is creating a short “Family Together” video.
- A “Meet the candidate’s” video is planned for state house candidates’ prior to the state primary Sept 11.
- Mitchell is doing a Ghost Train “Meet the volunteers and runners” video.
- Chris Costantino is doing a slide show of the Rotary swim meet.
- Dave Palance is working with Mike to create short interest pieces about Milford history. Hopefully first of many.
- Coverage of high school graduation went well.
- Fire Department training at library – no update.
- Library building demolition – concern expressed spending an entire day filming may not be best use of GTM resources. Perhaps do short before and after video.
- Civil War statue installation at library – no update.
- Fire Department renovation – no update.
- Vietnam movable wall parade – did not cover.
- NH PBS our town program – still need to request a copy and add it to program rotation.

Upcoming Meeting:

23 August 2018 7 PM Board of Selectmen meeting room

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned 9:01 PM

Respectfully submitted: Tom Schmidt