



Granite Town Media

Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

10 December 2020

Present: Kevin Federico, Tim Finan, Chris Gentry, Chris Labonte, Tom Schmidt, Jon Teger, Nathalie Watson

Absent: Dave Alcox, Wade Campbell,

Guests: Bruce Dickerson IT Director

As Chairman of this Committee, I am declaring that an emergency exists and I am invoking the provisions of RSA 91-A:2, III (b), otherwise known as the Right To Know Law.

Federal, state, and local officials have determined that gatherings of 10 or more people pose a substantial risk to our community in its continuing efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. In concurring with their determination, I also find that this meeting is imperative to the continued operation of Town government and services, which are vital to public safety and confidence during this emergency. As such, this meeting will be conducted without a quorum of this body physically present in the same location.

At this time, I also welcome members of the public who may be accessing this meeting remotely. Even though this meeting is being conducted in a unique manner under unusual circumstances, the usual rules of conduct and decorum apply.

Public comments will be limited to three minutes per person. Any person found to be disrupting this meeting will be asked to cease the disruption. Should the disruptive behavior continue thereafter, that person will be removed from this meeting.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting must and will be done by Roll Call vote.

Call to Order:

- Meeting called to order 6:04 PM
- Lisa Griffiths has decided to resign from GTMAC. We appreciate her contributions over the last four years.
- Tim mentioned we now have opening for an additional community member.

Manager Report

- Election coverage – on Election Day GTM had two cameras providing picture – in-picture live split screen coverage of the polling station. Weather was good and as expected turnout was exceeding high. GTM covered movement of sealed ballot boxes from new voter and outdoor unmasked voter locations to the AccuVote optical scanners for tabulation. Prior to the election GTM covered the blank ballot

counting process and preprocessing of mail in ballots. NH Secretary of State Representative congratulated Milford over the election process.

- Comcast equipment upgrade – the three SD (standard definition) PEG channels have been converted to digital as of Nov 10th. Chris reported audio/video quality is much improved. The new high definition (HD) channel is scheduled to go live Jan 27, 2021. HD channel number is still TBD. This will be used as the EDU (educational) channel to improve quality of sports programming.
- Chris stated Comcast has increased the broadcast fee. This is the result of carriage negotiations with various broadcast TV networks. The Milford franchise fee remains unchanged; it is currently 3% as it has been for many years.
- GTM equipment upgrade at high school – no update
- Chris and Andrew worked Jacques' Halloween parade. Normally the students march around the oval but that was not possible this year so the event took place in the gym. To add to the festivities both were in Halloween attire.

Meeting Coverage

- GTM facilitated Zoom training meeting for election officials at the behest of Pete Basiliere, town moderator.
- All town meeting are now being conducted via Zoom. We have experienced some audio problems but they have been resolved. In general staffers have been good at being responsible for managing Zoom meetings. Hybrid meeting are more complex so GTM staff participate.
- Library trustees record their meetings and provide a copy for GTM to put on the channel.
- The school board is holding their meetings in person. Chris has expressed concern to the board about health risk to GTM staffers and the legality of not meeting COVID-19 measures when it comes to public participation. The school district is responsible for managing their Zoom meetings.
- Town and school budget meetings are being conducted via Zoom. GTM provided the school budget committee with our Zoom link. This creates a restriction on simultaneous meetings.
- At this point it is unclear how we will conduct the town deliberative meeting in March as folks wanting to vote need to be checked in in person.

Awards

- Our own Nathalie Watson won 1st place in the Alliance for Community Media festival for her entry: Animal Rescue.

Equipment purchase request

- Chris requested approval to purchase three cameras, batteries and accessories. Two for sports coverage [JVC GY-HM250 UHD](#) streaming camcorders with lower-thirds graphics and a general purpose camera [Sony HXR-NX80](#). These will replace two old cameras that are no longer reliable. Adding these cameras will enable us to cover multiple simultaneous events.
- GTM has spent heavily on capital upgrades this year. However even with this purchase we are running under budget for the year.

- Tom moved/ Jon second to approve purchase not to exceed \$8,500 AIF.

Videos

- Covered high school concert in the football field.
- Planning Christmas winter concert coverage 6:30 PM Dec 22 at the Amato center
- Chris is putting together a holiday greeting video from various town departments including greetings from members of GTMAC.

Policies and Procedures Discussion – no update

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Minutes approved as presented 5-0-1. Tom moved/ Chris L. 2nd Kevin F. abstain, Tim F. Yea, Chris L. Yea, Tom S. Yea, Jon T. Yea, Nathalie W. Yea.

Upcoming Meeting:

28 January 2021 @6:00 PM via Zoom

Non-public meeting

7:18 PM entered non-public meeting. Kevin moved/Chris L. 2nd, AIF. As Chairman of this Committee, pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II(a) personnel meeting is now non-public.

Return from non-public meeting

- One vote was taken and one decision made.
- Vote to seal non-public minutes: Kevin moved/Jon 2nd AIF.

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Tom Schmidt