



Granite Town Media

Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – Unapproved Draft

27 October 2022

Present: Josh Breault, Wade Campbell (*left early*), Tim Finan, Chris Gentry, Lisa Griffiths, Tom Schmidt, Nathalie Watson (*Zoom*)

Absent: Dave Alcox, Jon Teger,

Guests: Tina Philbrick

Call to Order:

Meeting called to order 6:01 PM as a hybrid Zoom meeting. The governor has rescinded COVID-19 emergency status pertaining to public meetings.

Non-Public session – NH (RSA 91-A:3, II(a) Personnel

Wade needs to leave early, moved Non-Public to top of the agenda.

Entered non-public 6:02 PM Tim moved, Tom 2nd AIF.

Return from non-public 6:17 PM

One vote was taken.

Membership

- The BoA approved Lisa Griffiths as a returning Community Member her term expires 2025.
- Tina Philbrick expressed interest in joining as a Community Member

Increasing the Comcast franchise fee discussion

- Milford Cable franchise fee is currently set at 3%. The fee is calculated on TV portion of Cable subscriber's bill. The FCC limits the maximum franchise fee to 5%. In addition to the franchise fee Comcast charges customers a FRC (Franchise Related Cost) fee. This reflects the Cable Company's cost to implement PEG services (Public, Education, and Government) such as fiber optic lines and video upload equipment. For Milford customers this is 10 – 13 cents per month.
- Over the years GTM has expanded the number of events we cover and increased the ways our programs are accessed. Currently all programs are available in HD

(high definition) on the internet and a combination of SD (standard definition) and HD on Comcast Cable TV.

- The franchise fee is paid in four quarterly installments and has been fairly stable at about \$170,000 per year over the last several years. GTM budget projection for 2022 thru 2024 project a budget deficit of about \$20,000 per year. The current revolving fund balance is a little over \$300,000.
- Increasing the fee to 5%:
 - Enable us to increase staffing to cover more town events. Our current videographer pay structure is not competitive.
 - The proposed high school construction project will require substantial additional cost as much of our equipment is located at the TV studio and will need to be moved during and after construction.
 - Chris has implemented a capital equipment replacement program but having additional income will provide a cushion for unexpected expenses such as those we experienced purchasing equipment to support remote meetings during the COVID pandemic.
 - The additional income will help reduce the effect of cord cutting, where Cable subscribers reduce or eliminate their TV Cable subscription. Pew Research reports a nationwide reduction to be 5 - 25% per year over the last 5 years. NHCCM member report revenue reduction of 10 – 15% per year recently. This trend will likely accelerate in the future.
- Most neighboring towns already set the franchise fee at 5%. Increasing the fee to 5% should stabilize our income for the next several years. The estimated impact to Comcast customers of this increase will be \$1.00 - \$3.00 per month depending on the TV portion of their bill.
- We no longer have a quorum so voting on this item is postponed until the next meeting.
- Tentatively we are scheduled to meet with the BoS on November 28th to discuss increasing the franchise fee.

Manager Report

- New J-bar on Bulletin Board – updated to show program schedule and includes a weather bug at the bottom. Added per channel GTM branding logos.
- Holiday Concerts – will cover the concerts presented at the various schools
- Halloween Parade Friday Oct 28th will live stream the parade around the oval.
- Heron Pond is also doing a Halloween parade Oct 31st waiting for conformation from the school.
- Budget Committees coverage – its budget season again. Covering both town and school budget meetings. The school budget process is unusual this year in that the committee is meeting in conjunction with the school board for joint sessions at various schools.
- Energy Committee – newly formed Energy committee is meeting weekly in the Police Department conference room. Tina asked about using Zoom to deliver live coverage. Chris indicated that needs someone to manage the Zoom meeting and man the camera.

Approve 25 August 2022 Minutes

- Approval vote deferred until next meeting.

Upcoming Meeting:

The next regularly scheduled GTMAC meeting falls on Thanksgiving. Tina and Josh will check Town Hall calendar to recommend a date for next meeting

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Tom Schmidt