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VERNON AREA CABLE ADVISORY COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting dated January 29, 2014

Community Voice Channel Conference Room
105 Notch Road
Bolton, Connecticut

Attending Members: Paul Batterson, Tolland Representative; Larry Perosino, Tolland; Justin Waine, Ellington; Elaine Buchardt, Andover; Ed Meincke, Hebron

Attending Guests: John Bairos, Comcast; Nick Lavigne CVC Executive Director

1. Call to Order; Review of Last Meeting: Paul Batterson called the meeting to order at 7:15pm in the Community Voice Channel Conference Room. The Council reviewed the minutes of the October, 2013 meeting. Larry Perosino provided a copy of an email he wrote suggesting a change for clarification to the October minutes so that the 2nd paragraph, last sentence in the Comcast report reads:

John reported that MSG (Madison Square Garden) network will no longer allow Comcast to air the network's live sports programming (e.g. NY Knicks, NY Rangers) like Comcast was able to do last year; however, Comcast is continuing to have conversations with MSG on carrying their programming.

There was consensus that this change should be made to the October minutes. Larry Perosino/Elaine Buchardt motion to accept the October, 2013 minutes as amended. Motion was unanimously approved.

2. Comcast Report – John Bairos – John Bairos provided a check for the annual payment of \$2,000 for the VACAC to Paul Batterson.

John Bairos shared a December 9, 2013 email that he received from the attorney representing the Community Voice Channel and their court case against former CVC Board President Deb Hilton. The email indicated that Ms. Hilton was scheduled for a plea bargain hearing on December 13, where she was expected to enter a guilty plea. John Bairos did not have confirmation as to whether she did enter that plea, and he said he will get an update on the outcome of her court appearance.

John provided a handout showing that some of the music channel offerings have been rearranged. He also noted that the Weather Channel, which was provided on unlimited basic cable, has now gone up a tier having been moved to expanded basic cable. He reviewed the blackout rules on programming and noted that PURA regulates the rules and notices to customers, but not the rates.

John also provided a handout on updated channel lineups and the new pricing structure as of January 22, 2013.

Larry Perosino asked if Comcast bills indicate to customers when their contracts for special promotions will be expiring. John Bairos said that should be indicated in the corner of the bill, but he will look into it and confirm. Larry also provided John with a copy of a wireless wi-fi flyer he received. He said he doesn't think he has the modem that the flyer refers to, but was uncertain because he would not expect to get the flyer if he didn't have that modem. John said he will have someone from Comcast contact Larry to walk him through obtaining the wireless wi-fi.

3. CVC Report – Nick Lavigne – Nick Lavigne said he has been shopping around with retailers for the installation of a new broadcast system. Their current server is on its way out. He said the new Tigtrope system is very expensive and they are leaning toward a new company, Castus, a broadcasting system that is more simplified and software based. He said the Castuss system is less expensive than Tigtrope.

Elaine Buchardt asked if leasing a system might make more sense. Nick Lavigne said going the leasing route is always a gamble, because there is a good chance you might end up paying a lot more in the long run.

Nick reported they also recently purchased a new Mac Pro, as their old one, a G5 died on them. However, they have not yet received it as Apple has backordered it to a February delivery. This is top-of-the-line equipment that will help with future proofing. This piece of equipment can edit a 4K camera.

Nick reported that the studio workshop that was wrapping up as this meeting was beginning was larger than normal with 14 participants. Their average sized workshop is usually around seven participants. He reported that they are doing quite a few more workshops lately and he credited Melanie Dunn, who handles outreach for the CVC, for this as she has been working on getting information out to local media and into take-home information for school students.

As Nick had still been with the workshop participants when the meeting started and missed the portion of the meeting where John Bairos gave his report, Justin Waine asked him if he had any further information about Deb Hilton's court appearance on December 13. Nick reported that Deb Hilton entered a guilty plea, but she did not take the plea bargain offered to her. She will go to sentencing on February 7. Nick also reported that operations at CVC are running more smoothly now, he has an open dialogue with employees about any of their concerns, the CVC Board seems pleased with how operations are going, and employee relations are much improved. Paul Batterson asked Nick when the CVC will be holding their next Board meeting. Nick said he will check into it and let him know.

Nick Lavigne asked John Bairos if Charter Communications is trying to sell off their northeastern properties to Comcast. Nick said he had heard Charter was trying to

purchase Time Warner. John Bairos said Time Warner is up for sale and there have been some news reports that Comcast and Charter are in a joint bid to purchase Time Warner. He said there are rules about how large a territory can be for cable companies and Charter may have to sell some of their areas if the purchase happens.

4. Treasurer's Report – Paul Batterson provided a report showing account activity for 2012 and 2013. John Bairos suggested the report clarify the expenses for Annie Gentile (clerical services) and Elaine Buchardt (reimbursement for food provided at meetings). As of the end of 2013, the account had \$6,681.85 and Paul will be adding the \$2,000 check from Comcast he just received to this amount. Ed Meincke suggested that they get some closure at their next meeting on what to do with their surplus funds. The Council briefly discussed the potential for scholarships and/or awards for media students and for adult volunteers who tape various town meetings.

Larry Perosino asked Nick Lavigne about what town meetings, if any, the Town of Tolland covers. Nick reported that Tolland uses live feed for both their Town Council and Board of Education meetings.

5. Other Matters – The Council set their next meeting for Wednesday, March 26 at 7:00pm in the Community Voice Channel Conference Room.

Elaine Buchardt/Larry Perosino motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie Gentile
Recording Secretary