

# **GATCom regular meeting** (Government Access Television Access Commission)

Minutes for 05/31/16

Present: Aldon Hynes, Allan DeYoung, Nancy Polk, Mary Hill

Also: Pua Ford (coordinator & clerk)

Excused: Theresa Burr-Bahner

*This meeting was NOT video-recorded.*

1. Call to Order: Hynes called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall.
2. Approve Minutes: March 30, 2016  
Hill moved to approve the March 30 minutes as presented; DeYoung seconded the motion.  
*Vote to approve unanimous* **Motion passed.**
3. Receive Coordinator Reports
  - a. *WGATV reports:* In March, **Cablevision began billing the Town** for services that had been free, including the television connection to Town Hall that is used to monitor our signal to Cablevision subscribers. Company representatives notified our top town officials of this, in accordance with statutes concerning the Certificate of Video Franchise Authority. Like AT&T and Frontier Communications, Cablevision has no obligation to provide such a service free (a legacy of the cable licenses before 2007). Ford only learned of this when Accounts Payable let her know that the first bill for \$107 (1.5 months) would be applied to our department's budget. Ford complained to Area 2's Cable Advisory Council. In May, Cablevision's representative to CAC contacted Ford by e-mail and arranged to lower the monthly rate for this one account to \$21.15, plus any applicable franchise fees (instead of about \$65/month). Ford is waiting to hear if the next bills reflect the change.  
At this point it looks like the **year-end budget** will just cover our expected production, without extra projects. There will probably be no balance for extra equipment purchases, such as an audio snake to reduce the number of microphone cables on the main meeting room floor.
  - b. *State and regional updates:* Since the state General Assembly's activity focused on the budget problems, there is nothing to report on that front. But an argument by cable representatives that is the PEG support fee is really a tax may be a problem in the future.
4. Business
  - a. *ACM-NE Board elections:* No action taken. Ford thought she had been sent a ballot, but it turned out to be another nomination form.
  - b. *Summer plans:* ACM-NE video festival had not yet announced at the time of this meeting, so we could not schedule a get-together/meeting to judge submissions. Ford hopes to set up a table at one of the summer concerts with a camera; WGATV could record attendees who want to say hello on television (with permission slips/releases for those under 18 years of age) and also provide information about our services. Commission members had no objections to this plan.  
DeYoung suggested that we needed the liaison from the Board of Selectmen at our next scheduled meeting. It would be valuable to get feedback about recording priorities and about the still-unresolved steps to getting a creative commons license for our content. The chairman will inquire about the liaison's availability for Tuesday, 6/28. If the liaison cannot attend and there is no other business, the meeting might be canceled.

- c. *Consider requests for line transfers:* No action taken. TG will probably zero out our lines if we are within budget overall. No possibility of purchasing audio snake or other equipment at year's end. Is revenue from DVD sales credited to us?
- d. *CAC grant application:* Because there was no April meeting, Ford submitted an application to complete a project that this Commission approved last year for the previous grant. The additional amount requested is \$10,900.34 this year. An amount of \$16,594.66 is held in a capital account from last year's grant. Ford requested retroactive approval for this application, based on the Commission's approval of last year's proposal.

DeYoung moved approval of the 2015-16 grant application to CAC; Polk seconded the motion.

*Vote to approve unanimous.*

***Motion passed.***

- e. *Production personnel:* Ford recommended a pay raise for one person.

DeYoung moved to raise the pay rate from Max Munro from \$10/hour to \$12/hour starting 7/01/16.; Hill seconded the motion.

*Vote to approve unanimous.*

***Motion passed.***

- 5. Adjournment: Hill moved to adjourn at 7:54 p.m.; Polk seconded the motion.

***Motion approved unanimously; meeting adjourned.***

Respectfully submitted,  
Pua Ford

**Next scheduled meeting: Tuesday June 28 at 7:15pm.**