

**CITY OF CORTLAND
CABLE COMMISSION
Monday, March 5, 2012**

Present: Richard Menapace, Chair; John Nagleschmidt, Deputy Chair; Jim Forshee and Sharon Stevans, Commissioners; Vince Minella, ex-officio member; Lisa Kahle, SUNY Cortland representative; Robert Martin, McGraw Mayor; Kevin Williams, Town of Homer representative; and Barbara Bergeron, Secretary

Chair Menapace called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM with a quorum present. He then introduced Robert Martin, Mayor of McGraw as this evening's representative for the Village of McGraw.

Deputy Chair Nagleschmidt made a motion to adopt the minutes of February 6, 2012. Commissioner Forshee seconded the motion, and the minutes were adopted.

Due to the resignation of representatives for the municipalities of Village of Homer, Town of Cortlandville, and McGraw, Chair Menapace reviewed the steps he had taken in reaching out to those municipalities.

- Talked to Genevieve Suits, Mayor, Village of Homer, who advised she would appoint & try to have someone attend
- Met with Dick Tupper, Cortlandville Supervisor, who will appoint someone.
- Robert Martin is present this evening for McGraw

Chair Menapace advised he had received several calls from Ruth Grunberg who also expressed concerns to Commissioner Stevans. Ms. Grunberg would like the Commission to help try to recoup the \$5.95 loss to subscribers per month when the MSG channel was dropped. There is a lawsuit pending in New York City. Chair Menapace contacted Carol McTague who noted that it was doubtful that Time Warner Cable (TWC) would refund subscribers.

Commissioner Stevans asked that it be placed on record that the Commission send a letter to TWC with a copy to the City (of Cortland) requesting this even though it's probably a dead issue. She also noted that Ms. Grunberg feels the Commission is too passive. Comm. Williams advised the Commission has a contractual relationship with TWC and has no impact on what channels TWC chooses to carry. Ms. Grunberg would like to see the lost channels replaced by CSPAN 1 and CSPAN 2 or a government information channel. Vince Minella added that it is TWC right to add, change or delete channels; quid pro quo,ebb flow.

Commissioner Forshee stated Channel 17 (Cortland High School) is in the process of moving to a new studio facility in the basement from its present location. He also noted that some subscribers are getting channel 17; however some with the box converters do not. There is a current hold up waiting for TWC to change the wire location to the new studio.

Commissioner Stevans shared another concern of Ms. Grunberg's in that people do not know that if they subscribe to the "basic package" they have digital capabilities. A discussion was held on the differences between HD (high definition) and digital.

Chair Menapace advised he had also stopped at the TWC office to see if Jeff Davis could provide a report of the monthly outages. He was advised Jeff has been promoted to Syracuse. Bob Grossi is now in Jeff's former position and Chair Menapace posed the same question to him but was referred to David Whalen. David Whalen will be getting back to us.

Comm. Williams stated the Commission's contract specifies that monthly reports will be provided. Commissioner Stevans again asked for a letter to TWC with a copy to the City of Cortland be drawn up advising that the Commission needs the information in those absent reports. Mr. Minnella remarked about the issue of accountability.

Chair Menapace brought up the other issue with David Whalen and the hold up of the five-cent pass thru. He added he prefers going through Carol McTague. Mr. Williams asked if Mr. Whalen was the gate-keeper in putting on another line item and Commissioner Forshee stated TWC make the line items.

Mr. Minnella suggested citing the contract section that delineates these items. Chair Menapace prefers getting the five-cent pass thru approved first. Commissioner Stevans again strongly urged a letter reminding the Commission is being passive according to Mrs. Grunberg. Monthly reports had been previously generated by Jeff Davis with copies going to the City of Cortland. Commissioner Forshee suggested that perhaps Carol McTague had copies she could share with the Commission. He said, "They are sending reports to somebody; why not us?"

Commissioner Stevans made a motion the Commission send a letter to TWC requesting the monthly reports as cited in the contract, Section 20, #F. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting then went to Executive Session at 7:30 PM.

Chair Menapace announced the next meeting as scheduled for Monday, April 2, 2012 at 7:00 PM. Commission Stevans and Mr. Minnella will both be away.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Bergeron