

CITY OF CORTLAND CABLE COMMISSION
Third Floor, City Hall, Mayor's conference room
Monday, November 5, 2012

Present: Richard Menapace, Chair; Sharon Stevans and Lisa Kahle, Commissioners; Vince Minnella, ex-officio member; and Barbara Bergeron, Secretary

Absent and excused: James Forshee and Michael Berry, Commissioners

Chair Menapace called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Commissioner Sharon Stevans made a motion to adopt the minutes of October 1, 2012. Commissioner Lisa Kahle seconded the motion, and the minutes were adopted.

Equipment has been purchased and at Time Warner on Tompkins Street. Commissioner Stevans said she had seen the camera with light kit and noted it was great and a lot smaller. Waiting for training. Kyle has computer software installed but hasn't been paid. He is holding the equipment until he receives his check. Mack Cook advised Chair Menapace the check was scheduled to be written on November 15.

There was no update on the web site for the Cable Commission.

Commissioner Stevans asked about holding a public hearing before next Council meeting—an opportunity for public comment; "Cortland Standard" presence and taped.

Mr. Minnella suggested a presentation to bring everyone up to speed and have two different sessions of about 5-10 minutes for the benefit of the Council regarding 1) Why we are raising questions and 2) non performance of TWC. Chair Menapace would like the public to present their problems using TWC. Mr. Minnella believes Cable Commission should ask for the public hearing and Common Council members don't have to be a part of the public hearing. Commissioner Stevans stated there would be a captive audience (public, TWC representative, Cortland Cable Commission and maybe a few council members). But the public needs to be aware ahead of time. We are soliciting public comments – modem charge, cost not changed with reduced number of channels, service. Chair Menapace, per Carol McTague, Cortland Cable Commission creates a public hearing. Ruth Grunberg has good concerns, ad advocant.

Chair Menapace would like to meet with Mayor Tobin, then map out a plan with help of commissioners. He also asked commissioners to review contract. What

else can we bring up? Commissioner Stevans referred to the following from the 1995 contract which is now on City of Cortland website.

- 1) section on PEG
- 2) pg. 14 “staffing”
- 3) pg. 21, 29.0 –request on hold for a while—we are not getting (shortage) reports from TWC.
- 4) pg. 22, 29.3—notice of rate change, paragraph 2
- 5) pg. 23, 30.5—Do we have that information? Name of representative?
- 6) “ “ , 31.1—periodic performance (PE Sessions)
- 7) “ “ , 31.2—crux of our meetings
- 8) pg. 24, 31.3, 31.4, 31.5, 31.6

Commissioner Stevans shared a letter she wrote to The Honorable Richard Hanna, New York State Congressman, in reference to the outdated VHS camera used for the taping of his candidate forum with and Mr. Lamb in Cortland. In her letter she asked, “Is there any source of funding to upgrade Community Access equipment independent of a cable provider?”

Chair Menapace advised information had been received from Mayor Tobin that there was a source from Earlville (a solicitation) to run an audit of TWC. Chair Menapace is waiting response from Mayor Tobin.

Chair Menapace asked what we needed to do at the meeting in December. Commissioner Stevans would like to firm up areas of concern. Mr. Minnella would like to see a “punch” list of information the Commission wants from TWC and communicate this to TWC. Dick would also like to advise Carol McTague. Let them know we are planning a public hearing event. Mr. Minnella asked what was the groundwork.

Hearing should be a voice from the public on comments and complaints; looking for a pattern of concerns. Public may ask what has the Commission done, and we have requested information regularly from TWC without response; non-compliance, reluctant compliance. Need to go in with something—due diligence on our part. Commissioner Kahle recommended getting dates when Cable Commission asked for information sometimes via Carol McTague. Do in a letter with bullet list—paying for a modem or customer to purchase on their own. TWC letters going to Cortlandville as seen on their meeting agenda and possibly to City Common Council, but not to Cortland Cable Commission. Cortland Cable Commission needs to know issues in order to relay to the public what our current understanding is of the contract with TWC.

Commissioner Stevans asked if we should reach out to Tompkins County as there was a recent article in "Cortland Standard." Ed Engman, Tompkins County Supervisor was asking TWC customers to bring concerns to an upcoming public forum.

Next meeting at December 3, 2013 at 7:00 PM

Chair Menapace adjourned the meeting at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Bergeron