

CITY OF CORTLAND CABLE COMMISSION
Third Floor, City Hall, Mayor's conference room
Monday, December 3, 2012

Present: Richard Menapace, Chair; James Forshee, Arron Hamid, Lisa Kahle, and Sharon Stevans, Commissioners; and Barbara Bergeron, Secretary

Absent and excused: Kevin Williams, Commissioner and Vince Minnella, ex-officio member

Quorum was present.

Chair Menapace called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Commissioner Hamid representing Cortlandville was welcomed.

Commissioner Forshee made a motion to adopt the minutes of November 5, 2012. Commissioner Stevans seconded the motion, and the minutes were adopted.

Old Business:

Regarding the new equipment, Melanie is learning how to use it and is getting comfortable with the computer. She will be teaching Commissioners Stevans and Forshee and Mr. Minnella soon.

In regard to an update into a possible website, Commissioner Forshee checked on some of the other sources mentioned at last meeting. Some designed to let you in free, but later have charges.

The Syracuse site he referenced does not have limitations on downloading. We won't be doing streaming, but need usage and storage with small fees. He would suggest a representative present a program especially if we have any money left over as they charge \$500 a year. Syracuse is interested in municipalities and they are locally based in Liverpool. Commissioner Kahle believes there would be \$200-600 left.

Commissioner Hamid asked about the Cortland Cable Commission accounting system. Chair Menapace explained that there is a separate account set up by the City of Cortland earmarked for CCC. He then asked, "When the money runs out, does CCC lobby for more?" Chair Menapace advised we now have new equipment and might not need more. However, we might be looking into a server base / website to archive older tapes.

Commissioner Stevans reported she had received a response from U.S. Congressman Richard Hanna to October 25, 2012 letter. It was a package of various grant sources, but she didn't think CCC would be doing a grant. Commissioner Forshee suggested if we put \$500 down, perhaps a grant could subsidize another camera. Commissioner Stevans will bring the packet to the next meeting. Hanna's office advised contacting Barbara Lifton (NYS Assembly) to create a member item. Commissioner Forshee suggested thanking Mr. Hanna and asking him if CCC could use his name as a reference.

Chair Menapace advised he, and Commissioner Stevans met with City Mayor Brian Tobin requesting a hearing before an upcoming common council meeting. Commissioner Stevans suggested holding a public comment session at 6:30 or 6:40 PM. Common Council meetings usually start at 7:00 PM.

Mayor Tobin wrote a letter (November 15, 2012) to David Whalen of Time Warner Cable advising of the January 15, 2013 public hearing and asked for a TWC representative to be present. Commissioner Stevans asked what would happen if representative doesn't show. Chair Menapace said he thought a letter advising of this should be sent to the Department of Public Services.

Chair Menapace would like an article placed in "Cortland Standard" similar to that of Tompkins County Cable Commission request customer/client feed back on complaints and concerns.

Commissioner Hamid referred back to the question, what if the TWC representative doesn't show. Commissioner Forshee would like to send a "letter to the editor" reporting this.

Chair Menapace asked participation of all CCC members and encourage Ruth Grunberg, a strong advocate with concerns and good questions. It was suggested letters be sent to Tompkins County Cable Commission including Herb

Engman and others such as Don Barber, Michelle Pottof, Michael Lane, Richard Depaglo regarding TWC concerns.

New Business:

Chair Menapace advised there is a lawsuit filed Manhattan (NY) and Fort Lead (NJ) against TWC about problems with customer service and phone calls put on long holds; the need to have a technician set up modem boxes, one time charge for digital boxes, etc.

Chair Menapace stated he and Commissioner Hamid went to a presentation by Finger Lakes Technical Group, Inc. that run fiber optics in Tompkins County.

ION Investing Company runs loops, but do not have cable to Cortland, but do in Ithaca, basically dealing with businesses, not residential customers. Commissioner Hamid added they deal mainly with government, University of Cornell, Ithaca College, Wegmans and banks, and not looking for residential.

Regarding plans for preparing for the public hearing, Commissioner Forshee stated he thought it would be a good idea to have an e-mail or website for customers to send in complaints and/or concerns like Tompkins County did. Chair Menapace believes the sending to CCC in care of the City of Cortland website would be best. They could be the collection point and we should ask the City to do transcriptions of the information shared with CCC members. Commissioner Stevans or Mr. Minnella would be videotaping. Commissioner volunteered to draft a letter to "Cortland Standard" and Chair Menapace will work on a press release.

Commissioner Hamid asked if there was a current list of complaints, how do we know about them. Chair Menapace advised Ruth Grunberg was a "clearing house" gathering a lot of information. She has even suggested going to the Attorney General Office.

Commissioner Forshee wondered if Albany could give us a breakdown of counties and/or towns who are using TWC and the individual county/town if they have a cable commission; and if so do they have problems with TWC. Perhaps a coalition could be formed.

Commissioner Hamid suggested the CCC find other resources than TWC; (old Sammon's Communications in Cortland) and Franch in Tompkins County that was sold to TWC.

Commissioner Forshee streamed Cortaca (SUNY Cortland vs. Ithaca College Football Game) thru SUNY that appeared on channel 17 (or 16 out of Ithaca), 1026 digital all over New York State and TWC made money on ads on channels 17 and digital 1027 for SUNY share of bandwidth.

Next meeting at January 7, 2013 at 7:00 PM

Public hearing January 15, 2013.

Chair Menapace adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Bergeron