

CITY OF CORTLAND CABLE COMMISSION
Third Floor, City Hall, Mayor's conference room
Monday, September 9, 2013

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

Quorum was present.

Guests: Brian Tobin, City of Cortland Mayor (7:30 PM), Eamon O'Shea, and Ann Doyle

Chair Menapace called the meeting to order at 6:58 PM. He welcomed guests Mr. O'Shea and Ms. Doyle who advised she came to see how this works, what happens, and what can we do about Time Warner Cable (TWC)? Chair Menapace explained to our guests that the Commission is a clearinghouse that receives complaints regarding outages and service and relays problems to TWC.

MOTION: Commissioner Forshee made a motion to adopt the minutes of June 3, 2013. Commissioner Kahle seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Forshee met with Sue Scott, webmistress regarding a website for City of Cortland Cable Commission (CCCC). He advised we've gone through the steps beginning with talking to Mack Cook, Director of Administration and Finance. He explained that CCCC would like to do in the near future 1) archive materials and 2) do video streaming where anyone from anywhere could watch Central New York events. Mr. Cook was happy to hear about our attempt and noted funds were available. Commissioner Forshee put him in contact with the proposed server, Live Sports Video (LSV) and Michael Raite who had visited CCCC in June. As Commissioner Stephans was not present for that meeting, things were delayed, as she is the primary benefactor and user. CCCC was advised video programs could be saved to a thumb drive and sent to him or \$25 per program, downloaded and sent to him to retrieve and reformat. TWC will not allow us to put programs through to another server. CCCC bought the computer, but TWC owns the pipeline. Commissioner Kahle asked, "Who advised this information?" Melanie. "Where is the "home" going to be?" "Why can't compressing be done on our computer?" Commissioner Forshee stated Mr. Raite will set up a special meeting at his (JF) lab where there are screens to see how it would work. Commissioner Kahle reiterated that the materials should be compressed (zipped) on our computer and she offered to see if SUNY Cortland could possibly do this. Commissioner Forshee will check with Mr. Raite and forward available dates to Chair Menapace and also invite Melanie.

Chair Menapace explained to our guests Melanie (Arnold) is employed by TMC at our local office and is invited to our meetings as a non-official representative. In response to a question posed to CCCC, "Does CCCC have control over basic cable rates?" – Carol McTague, from the NY Department of Public Services (Albany), advised TWC has petitioned to deregulate basic cable rates and FCC is to decide. Commissioners Stephans and Hamid remarked that it sounded like CCCC does have control. Commissioner Forshee agreed. Commissioner Stephans asked if CCCC should write to FCC with our opinion with Commissioner Hamid adding, "especially with the contract issues."

NEW BUSINESS:

Chair Menapace stated Mr. O'Shea had joined us this evening as he is interested in becoming part of CCCC. After review, the following representation was confirmed:

City of Cortland Commissioner Stephans, Mr. O'Shea to be commissioned, and also Commissioner Kahle who is representative for SUNY Cortland

Cortlandville Commissioner Forshee and Commissioner Hamid

Town of Homer No representative at this time

Village of Homer " " " " "

Village of McGraw " " " " "

Chair Menapace stated Mr. O'Shea's name will go before the Common Council. Once he is accepted, he'll need to go down and sign up. Commissioner Forshee asked why he wanted to be on the board. Mr. O'Shea stated he worked with a large dish company and knew TWC had spent money on infrastructure, but all the little sheds are gone and many rural areas are no longer included in service. Utility charter of this community is probably not what it was originally set up to be especially with all the lobbying TWC does. Where is cable going? Chair Menapace thinks everything will be streamlined.

Chair Menapace advised David Whalen (TWC representative) was going to send outage reports on a monthly basis. Chair Menapace has received only June 2013 via e-mail, although he did give Chair Menapace Jan-Apr reports following the public hearing held (in January 2013). From May 19 to June 18, there were 116 outages and CCCC would like TWC to offer credit for these outages. No contract comparison, no change; best for CCCC to stay with old contract.

Chair Menapace remarked about the excessive TWC ads now. He also touched on the TWC and CBS conflict in New York City that he listened to for over two hours. Ruth Grunberg had also submitted a "letter to the editor" of "Cortland Standard" regarding this.

She also brought to Chair Menapace's attention that there is heat from the electricity coming out of the converter boxes. Commissioner Forshee stated the converters run 24/7. As there is no residence in the television, if you turn off the set, you have to reset everything when the converter is turned back on. The converter boxes have to run continually but the electric cost is minimal. Mayor Tobin advised it takes one minute to restart, but almost ten minutes to reset. Commissioner Stephans said she has to turn one (converter) off as it "acts up." Commissioner Forshee suggested she return it to the Cortland TWC office as they may need to fix it.

Mayor Tobin asked if there were ongoing negotiations between CCCC and TWC. Commissioner Stephans responded that there were no negotiations and CCCC has decided to stay with the old contract. Commissioner Forshee advised only one little thing was settled. There was a change in TWC representation and the process was restarted with added issues and no give-and-take. CCCC went to the Common Council for funds to replace 1995 equipment. Cortlandville also chipped in. Mayor Tobin expressed the need for Public Address communication and its importance. Commissioner Forshee said TWC kept changing station numbers; Commissioner Stephans added, "They just want our public address to go away. Mayor Tobin suggested there are a number of free entities as an issue; perhaps let it go, i.e. Cortland City Hall. He then asked Mr. O'Shea to go on line at the City of Cortland's website and fill out an application form and he'll present it to the Council.

Commissioner Forshee gave a brief overview of LSV materials and the use of Channel 2 (without using TWC) – cost \$500/year with future streaming watched anywhere in the world. LSV will set up a site and appearance and can back log (archive). CCCC will invite him around the end of September for a demo at Commissioner Forshee's lab at SUNY Cortland. Mayor Tobin expressed great interest and approved progressing with this project. He'd especially like to see "Doodle" calendar. Commissioner Stephans asked about a City website link to LSV; SUNY Cortland, Cortland Historical Society. Mayor Tobin suggested Dick Tupper (Cortlandville) would be interested and should also be invited. LSV is based in Liverpool, NY. Their web site is Livesportsvideo.com and Mr. Raite is willing to come to Cortland. Commissioner Forshee noted a need for streaming sports events; Lacrosse 150 viewers, but the last game there were 1500 and over 2800 during playoffs. Jets extra \$5,000 and LSV could expand to include their events.

Chair Menapace will look into the Lifeline Credit with the Area on Aging Office. If qualified, does a senior receive a discount \$9.25 or \$3.25? He also mentioned Ruth Grunberg had submitted a whole bunch of "internet" problems. He reviewed them with Ms. McTague. She has advised if you want to speak with someone and get their attention to request a customer retention representative.

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, December 2, 2013. Special meetings will be held to go forward with LSV project.

Chair Menapace then announced he is resigning at the end of December 2013. He'd be willing to serve as Deputy Chairman. Commissioner Hamid will consider taking over as Chair.

Chair Menapace then called the close of the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Bergeron