

## **Cable Television Committee**

### **Minutes**

**July 31, 2001**

These are the minutes for Sudbury Cable Meeting that was held on July 31, 2001, at 7:30 P.M. at the Sudbury Main Fire Station.

Present were Jeff Winston, Hal Barnett, Michael Daitzman, Peggy Fredericksen, and Marty Greenstein plus an ATTb representative Mark Minasian, from the Hudson studio. Also were three guests: Michael Pincus (town resident who is a pro A-V consultant volunteering his time), Larry Huppert (resident) and Matt Fisher (Town Crier). Mark Thompson came at 8:10. He is the town technical guru and regularly attends our meetings.

The meeting began with a discussion of the equipping of Town Hall. Peggy and Mike P. brought in schematic diagrams of the proposed A-V equipment.

Michael and Jeff went to the Westford public meeting with ATTb. About thirty people came. It was on live cable TV. The Westfordians discussed not only high speed data but also contract compliance. David Levy, the Westford chairman, started a Yahoo news group to discuss cable happenings. Jeff is monitoring it.

The meeting split with Peggy, Mark, and Mike P. going out of the room to discuss technical details of the Town Hall proposed setup.

Larry thought that we are not being tough enough on the per diem out of compliance penalty. Jeff replied that the value we proposed was suggested by our attorney Peter Epstein who is a very experienced cable lawyer. Mike D. said, if the Comcast offer is used as a measure, ATTb has already lost 50% of their investment. Jeff reminded us that ATTb is spending its money on the "nearly finished" towns first.

Larry asked if there is competition (like RCN). There is not, Jeff said. RCN is not interested in coming into town and furthermore no other company wants to either. Soon ATTb will be running 20 towns from Westford down through Framingham as one system so economy of scale is in their favor and other companies would not have that. We remember that RCN had said that Lexington was a gamble for them (even though their population density is twice ours).

Larry asked if we would consider a group negotiation. However, Jeff doubts that ATTb would want to negotiate with a combination of towns. We are in communication with Acton, Stow, Ayre, Carlyle, Concord, Westford, etc. ATTb is in breach and we can either start the process towards an injunction or we can negotiate. If we go the injunction route, we will not get more than is in our license. If we negotiate we can get financial considerations at the

cost of a delay. Our goal in negotiation is to have the delay be the "last" delay as well as the money and other considerations that they may give us.

A representative of Prospeed that Jeff met at the Westford meeting stated that he wants Sudbury to be his next installation town (after Westford where he is installed now). He will be selling DSL at \$60/month. He thinks that he can transmit 30,000 feet.

No studio lights (also lavellier mikes, etc.) for the studio yet despite an order that Mark claims was put in last March. Mark to check with Corey. Jeff does not think that it is a money issue, but rather ATTb bureaucracy.

Concord is pushing for a shorter term license. The state is now considering what the minimum license period should be. Michael will prepare a comment on behalf of the committee and will distribute to us for approval. There is a breach meeting in Concord on August 13 (?). Chris Casey sent Jeff an e-mail saying that he does not want participation from other towns, although we are welcome to attend.

We then went into executive session to discuss the contract breach negotiation.

The public meeting concluded at 8:50 P.M.

Notes on the simultaneous sub-committee meeting from Peggy F.:

At the sub meeting of the town hall group, Pincus explained the schematic of the proposed system It was discussed and some changes agreed upon. Pincus will make an updated schematic and send it to Mark Thompson who will distribute it as needed. Pincus will also try to design a plan for the raceways to contain the cables.

The system has been under planning and discussion for several months. Inputs have come mainly from Attb, Great Northern, Peggy Fredrickson, Mark Thompson, and Michael Pincus. Now that the hardware has been agreed upon, there were details to go over about connections and connectors and location of jacks and plates and racks. Kevin Long at Great Northern will not give a final installation price until the installation configuration and method is agreed upon.

The best way to conceal wiring has been a major issue. Art Richard, building supervisor of the town has offered ideas and assistance and wants to be involved with the installation.

The "presentation" elements or the system are separate from the "production"

elements, but they interrelate and interconnect. The funding from ATTB will pay for most of the production system, if all possible sources of funds are used and stretched. The presentation elements, like a video projector, are not covered by the production funding. The system is configured to accept presentation elements when they are added.

Although room sound reinforcement is technically part of the presentation system it will be included in the production plan. Some other elements such as a scan converter for converting computer images to video images will be included also in the production system.

Respectfully submitted,

Marty Greenstein