

Montague Cable Advisory Committee
2nd Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall
Meeting Minutes for August 5, 2019.

Meeting convened 5:38 PM 8/5/2019. This meeting is taped.

Members present: Jason Burbank , Richard Kuklewicz. Richard Widmer is on telephone.

Also present: Dean Garvin, Michael Langknecht, Steve Ellis.

The chair opens a public hearing session at 5:47 pm.

Richard K. moves to accept meeting minutes of 2/11/2019, 3/4/2019, and 4/4/2019. Burbank seconds. All are in favor.

Steve Ellis notes the following changes were made to the Montague Community Cable Inc. (MCCI) contract.

- A slight term change to coincide with the fiscal year.
- Clarification of the definition of “school” to include the Tech School.
- Clarification of the requirement for annual reviews, so that an open meeting will suffice.
- A revising of language describing the annual evaluation process so that the focus is not largely on finding performance problems.
- Signature space is provided for the MCCI board.

Discussion of the proposed contract includes noting the FCC rule change which was approved affecting funding of public access cable stations. Mike Langknecht noted that even if Comcast funding for MCCI is effectively reduced, it would not affect the town’s obligations, since the funding is simply passed through to MCCI. He also notes that MCCI will be using a single signatory for its board on the contract.

Burbank makes a motion that the MCCI contract as presently amended is recommended to the Board of Selectmen for approval. Richard Widmer seconds. The motion is passed unanimously.

Discussion then proceeds around the size of the Cable Advisory Committee. Rich K. would like to keep the size at five, even though at present we have only three, feeling that it is important to allow for civic engagement. Since there is general agreement around this no motion for change is presented.

A draft of summary findings of the committee following the third (2018) annual report will be presented to the committee at the next meeting, so that this can be presented to MCCI and the Board of Selectmen. Burbank will prepare. It should include recommendations going forward, including some Spanish language outreach, continued communication and outreach to schools, letting town committees know that recording of meetings is possible, incorporating new technologies for video generation (smartphones).

Date for the next meeting is set as September 16th, 5:30 pm.

The meeting is adjourned at 6:16 pm.