

OWOSSO CABLE ACCESS ADVISORY COMMISSION

MAY 12, 2008

5:00 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairperson Steven Flayer

PRESENT: Commissioners Christopher Hardwick, Jack Johnson, Greg Klapko, Jessica Thompson, Michael Tillotson, Vice Chairperson Paula Perry, and Chairperson Steven Flayer.

ABSENT: Commissioners Jon Hagel (Diane Baldori attended in his absence) and Renita Mikolajczyk.

Commissioner Tillotson asked the Pledge of Allegiance be said at the beginning of each meeting.

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Tillotson to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of the Pledge of Allegiance and an item of business to send a letter to the Michigan Legislature in support of legislation that guarantees local government units the 2% PEG fee as dictated in PA 480 of 2006.

Motion supported by Commissioner Hardwick and concurred in by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 14, 2008

Motion by Commissioner Hardwick to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 14, 2008 as presented.

Motion supported by Vice Chairperson Perry and concurred in by unanimous vote.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

CABLE LEGISLATION – LETTER OF SUPPORT

City Liaison Amy K. Kohagen briefly explained the letter of support indicating some municipalities were having trouble getting the 2% PEG fee from their respective cable companies and the proposed legislation would explicitly require payment of the fee per the Uniform Local Cable Franchise Agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Klapko to authorize sending the following letter of support to State Senator Valde Garcia and State Representative Richard Ball:

May 12, 2008

Representative Ball/Senator Garcia,

On behalf of the City of Owosso Cable Access Advisory Commission, I urge your support of SB 636 and HB 5047 which guarantee local units of government a 2% fee for public, educational and government (PEG) channels. When the cable franchise act was passed in 2006 (PA 480), it included a provision that required a local unit of government to receive at least 2% of gross revenues for PEG channels. In communities across Michigan, cable companies are not honoring this provision of the statute. Senator Thomas and Representative Johnson have introduced bills, SB 636 and HB 5047 respectively, to close this loophole and ensure that local communities receive the 2% that was promised when PA 480 was enacted.

SB 636 and HB 5047 make clear that the cable service providers must follow the legislature's intent and pay a fee of up to 2% for PEG channels. This is a problem that is happening all across the state,

and it impacts the communities in your district. Though the City does not currently levy the 2% fee the Commission would like to know that we have the opportunity to take advantage of that option in the future as our cable access channel grows.

Again, my fellow City of Owosso Cable Access Advisory Commission members and I urge you to support these bills and request that they receive a committee hearing and vote.

Sincerely,
Steven Flayer
Chairman

cc:	Ms. Samantha Jones Legislative Associate Michigan Municipal League 208 N. Capitol Ave., 1st Floor Lansing, MI 48933 Fax 517-372-7476	Mr. David Bertram Legislative Liaison Michigan Townships Association P.O. Box 80078 Lansing, MI 48908-0078 Fax 517-321-8908
-----	---	--

Motion supported by Commissioner Tillotson and concurred in by unanimous vote.

DISCUSSION OF SHORT TERM PLANS

Commissioner Hardwick gave an overview of the list of needed equipment he had put together. The list included a professional style camera, professional grade switcher, a quad-core computer, video editing software and broadcast software at a cost of approximately \$22,000.

There was extensive discussion regarding keeping costs low by forgoing the studio and production facilities for the short term. The Commission agreed their goal in obtaining equipment was to allow high quality 24 hour broadcasting capabilities with low manpower needs. There was some discussion regarding shifting the broadcast schedule between the City, OPAC, and KoK to increase total broadcast time while the Commission develops its funding proposal. There was further discussion regarding manpower needs and changes in program submission standards.

Commissioner Klapko left the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Commissioner Thompson listed the equipment owned by the schools, which included a camera, 2 tripods, a portable light kit, and a DVD duplicator.

There was general consensus to gather more information on a minimum amount of broadcast equipment with a concentration on keeping the price as low as possible. The list of needed equipment included: quad-core computer, broadcast scheduling software, editing software, and possibly a different modulator to connect the new equipment with the existing head end at City Hall. Commissioner Hardwick agreed to compile the requested information. It was agreed the Commission would write a short term funding proposal during its June meeting anticipating a presentation to Council in late June.

DISCUSSION OF PROGRAMMING RULES

Motion by Commissioner Tillotson to table the issue due to a lack of time for discussion.

Motion supported by Vice Chairperson Perry and concurred in by unanimous vote.

There was a brief discussion regarding emailing meeting packets rather than using the postal service. All members agreed to receive their meeting packets electronically.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

There was a brief discussion regarding Commissioner Tillotson's program submissions to KoK.

Thomas Ford commented on his desire to see the Commission ask City Council for the entire amount of funding raised by the franchise fee. It was noted the Commission plans to ask the Council for any and all funding needed to accomplish short term and long term goals.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Tillotson for adjournment at 6:45 p.m.

Motion supported by Councilperson Johnson and concurred in by unanimous vote.

Amy K. Kohagen, City Clerk