

OWOSSO CABLE ACCESS ADVISORY COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 22, 2010

5:00 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER: CHAIRPERSON JAMES GUTTING

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: CHAIRPERSON JAMES GUTTING

PRESENT: Commissioners W. Shaffer Fox, Christopher Hardwick, and Eddie Urban, Vice Chairperson Michael Tillotson and Chairperson James Gutting.

ABSENT: Commissioner Jack Johnson.

SET TIME LIMIT AND RE-AFFIRM RULES OF CONDUCT

Motion by Vice Chairperson Tillotson to set a time limit of 60 minutes and re-affirm the Rules of Conduct.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

James Carmody, 123 West Main Street, indicated he felt there was a lot of political programming on channel 95 with no opposing viewpoint presented. It was noted that the City plays what it receives and apparently no one with an opposing viewpoint submitted a program for playback. It was suggested people encourage others to record and submit programming they would like to see on the channel.

Rebecca Tillotson indicated that her husband had offered to record the local Democratic dinner but was turned down. She also noted that the program on the Tea Party her husband submitted was non-partisan.

Vice Chairperson Tillotson noted the Commission has no obligation to make sure equal time is given to every viewpoint, the Commission simply provides the opportunity to play a viewpoint.

PROVIDING BROADCAST SERVICES AFTER MARCH 1, 2010

Chairperson Gutting reminded everyone of the letter that was received from OCTS indicating they will not broadcast after March 1st without a contract with the City. He briefly noted the limited broadcast equipment owned by the City. He went on to indicate he has a computer, switcher, and a demonstration version of a scheduling program he would be willing to allow the City to use temporarily in conjunction with the City's DVD player.

Commissioner Hardwick cautioned the Commission about just how much work is involved in operating a cable channel saying the work appears easy but is actually very technical. He went on to say that he had joined the OCTS board at the request of former Chairperson Flayer and KoK had combined their broadcast operations with OCTS in anticipation of OCTS taking over all broadcast responsibilities. He asked that the Commission look at seeing what OCTS had to offer and what they had in mind for a contract. He felt that if the City were to take over full time broadcast responsibilities many programmers would be upset.

Vice Chairperson Tillotson noted his desire to purchase two 5 disc DVD players to run the channel.

There was discussion regarding inexpensive alternatives to provide playback, concern with overburdening City staff, recognizing the work the KoK and OCTS has done over the years, and using the opportunity to explore a software solution for broadcasting.

There was further discussion regarding whether producers would have the capability of recording programs in a format conducive to broadcasting from a computer, emergency spending should equipment fail and investing in old technology.

City Liaison Amy K. Kohagen expressed her support for the software experiment as long as a DVD player would be available, saying it would be helpful to learn if this would be a viable option for purchase in the future. She also noted that the City currently has funds budgeted for the purchase of broadcast equipment and should the Commission not move forward with purchasing the funds may not be available in next year's budget.

There was a consensus to broadcast 8-9 hours per day at first with a goal to move to a 24/7 broadcast.

There was further discussion regarding acceptable formats, OCTS's continued participation in the channel, having Commission members learn how to operate the temporary system, and acknowledging there will be growing pains during the transition.

Motion by Chairperson Gutting to begin providing programming full time from City Hall as of March 1, 2010 utilizing the existing DVD player and a borrowed computer and encouraging the submission of video formats that are easily ingestible into the hard drive of the computer.

Motion supported by Commissioner Fox.

Voice vote. 3 yes, 1 no (Vice Chairperson Tillotson had stepped from the meeting just prior to the vote.)

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vice Chairperson Tillotson to adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

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

Amy K. Kohagen, City Clerk