

CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY BOARD

03/11/2022

A meeting of the Cable Television Advisory Board was held March 11, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber and via Zoom.

Members of Committee present: Andrew Cernota, Chairman
Jennifer McCormack, Library Director
Joe Fay, Deputy Chief Police
Nick Miseivitch, IT
Cole Morgan
Steve Buxton, Nashua Fire Chief
Greg Rodriguez
Lauren Byers, Public Works Designee
Alderman Ernest Jette
Kim Kleiner, Director of Administrative Services
Justin Chapman
Cheryl Lindner, Treasury Management Officer

Also present: Jeff Poehnert, PEG Program Manager
Pete Johnson, Education Channel Access Administrator
Dick Gagnon, Nashua CTV

Andrew Cernota:

Jennifer McCormack. All right. I see, we have a- a representative from the police department. Could you state your names?

Deputy Chief Joe Fay:

Deputy Chief, Joe Fay.

Andrew Cernota:

Thank you. All right. Nick Miseivitch.

Nick Miseivitch:

Here.

Andrew Cernota:

Cole Morgan.

Cole Morgan:

Here.

Andrew Cernota:

Fire Chief Steve Buxton.

Chief Buxton:

Present.

Andrew Cernota:

All right. We have a quorum. There are no members of the public present, so we'll proceed directly to acceptance of minutes of previous meetings.

Greg Rodriguez:

I am also here, I'm Greg Rodriguez, I'm sorry.

Andrew Cernota:

Oh, I'm sorry. I was just commenting earlier that you're not on the city website roster, so I apologize.

Greg Rodriguez:

No worries.

Andrew Cernota:

You're attending by Zoom.

Greg Rodriguez:

Correct.

Andrew Cernota:

I believe I need to ask the reason.

Greg Rodriguez:

Just in my office at the school district. I have another meeting right after this.

Andrew Cernota:

Okay. Is there a motion with regard to acceptance of minutes of previous meetings?

Greg Rodriguez:

Someone.

Andrew Cernota:

There is a motion, discussion of the motion. Seeing none, we have to vote on it. Andrew Cernota votes in the affirmative, Lauren Byers.

Lauren Byers:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Alderman Jette.

Alderman Ernest Jette:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Ms. Kleiner.

Kim Kleiner:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Ms. Lindner.

Cheryl Lindner:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

All right. Deputy Chief Fay.

Deputy Chief Joe Fay:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Mr. Misevitch

Nick Misevitch:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Mr. Morgan

Cole Morgan:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Chief Buxton.

Chief Buxton:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

All right. Motion passes. Communications, I believe I received letters from Comcast, updating us on some changes to their, um-

Jeff Poehnert:

I think it was original to-

Andrew Cernota:

Well, there's gonna be-

Jeff Poehnert:

The channel lineup.

Andrew Cernota:

There was channel lineups.

Jeff Poehnert:

Yeah.

Andrew Cernota:

Is there any discussion of the correspondence? All right. Most of it seemed to be fairly dated anyway, as far as this big change.

Jeff Poehnert:

They were right after our last meeting.

Andrew Cernota:

Okay. Old business. Well actually, I suppose also in communications, your reports would be properly there.

Jeff Poehnert:

Yeah. Okay. Would you like me to start?

Andrew Cernota:

Please.

Jeff Poehnert:

Okay. Excuse me. The current balance of our operating account, 2505 is \$609,150, expenses for February 2022, including salaries and facility operations totaled \$74,838. Now this breaks down to a \$17,838 for operations, \$23,000, to CSMG and \$34,000 for our new studio, switcher that we just put in. We have 3,221 cable cast total in December to 2021 to February 2022. Of this 85 are live events, and this broke down to public 96, it had two education, 99 had 36 and government 16 had 47. All right, we do have a couple of requests, as far as finances go. The first one would be to upgrade for the board of health Zoom meetings. The board of health meets via Zoom each month at the health department's, allocation. We did not cover the- these meetings live, but we do record them for replay.

Jeff Poehnert:

As the quality of the sound and video are both substandard with their present setup, we would like to upgrade their equipment to a level that is acceptable for broadcast. This will consist of wireless tabletop microphones, a small mixer, remotely controlled broadcast quality camera, and a central CPU. To accomplish this, we request an amount not to exceed \$3,700. This will be withdrawn from our capital improvements account 22-2505- 81100. We want to replace our Teleview live streaming equipment. National CTV respectfully requests replacement of our three Teleview telecast units. These units provide the 24/7 live stream for each paid channel to our internet. Roku and Apple TV destinations.

We had an issue with live streaming in January, and the manufacturer has notified us that our units are currently considered end of life and suggest that they be replaced. The newer TeleCast 2 units also allow for streaming up to the three independent content delivery networks, our CDNs. Per channel allowing for future expansion. Teleview has an update program that will provide new units at a greatly reduced price. Least pricing for one unit is, \$4,950 each. The update program pricing is \$1,500 each, provided the old units are returned within 30 days. We request the authorization to replace the three units for a total of \$4,500 plus shipping. All right. And, Pete-

Andrew Cernota:

If I could just interject, Jennifer McCormack has joined the meeting and, Justin Chapman has joined by Zoom.

Jeff Poehnert:

Pete.

Pete Johnson:

Okay. So, as far as the, education channel's concerned, they keep quite busy over the last, three months, especially, during December with a number of, concerts in the schools. Most of the elementary schools, still wanted to have holiday concerts, and they were unable to host any audience members, due to the pandemic. So we recorded, concerts, like I said, in a number of the schools, I think we were up to about twelve this year schools that we covered, concerts in. So that kept us busy, we also had a couple of, high school basketball games that season started earlier than normal. We move into, January, continued with, mostly either North South or Bishop Guertin versus North or South games. Continued with, our Nashua Public Health Matters program with the health department.

And, all of those are- are listed in our report here, I don't know that I need to go through them all. In February we did, three superintendent candidate interviews that were all, produced live and, put on the channel for the community to see. Then we got into some playoffs for the, NHIAA, and we did some, basketball and, hockey games. We actually did a live game earlier this week from, the Everett Arena in Concord. So something, new for us being able to go out and do some, live things outside of, Nashua. So... And I guess that's my report.

Andrew Cernota:

Thank you. Mr. Gagnon.

Mr. Gagnon:

Yes. Good morning. Excuse me. Access Nashua continues to work with the public to create new shows and episodes. The political season once again, has begun with many candidates being brought in as guests on some of our shows. We have added a new show called Guided Crossings with Andrea Sebastian. Her mission is to bring awareness of what is available for those families dealing with hospice, as well as preparing in advance for that situation. She has done two episodes so far and working to book more guests now that everything is in order and ready to go. Our regulars keep coming in to do their show episodes like the Ring and All Other Sports, People's View, Fairy Tale Access, Speaking With the Senator, Special Talk, Charge Up, Top 10 Countdown, The Sharing Room, Cheek Chatting, Gate City Chronicles, Nashua Strong, Frankly Speaking, Exit Team Nashua, uh, Empower Hour and Financially Fit.

We continue to be given episodes from the Universalist Unitarian Church here in Nashua as well as some other outside sources for Spanish speaking people. We had one show called Plenitude that we recorded here in the studio. However, the host moved in December down to Florida. We will receive her episodes once she resumes creating them from Florida.

We have spoken to one of our producers, Yvonne Dunnings. She produces the health field, and she has agreed to take over hosting the show that we created specifically for nonprofits to be highlighted called New Hampshire Cares. We plan on starting that up either the end of the month or first week in April. The previous years host, got a new job in Concord and no longer has the time. The future appears to be reviving from the pandemic. And we are looking forward to the future. We continue to be producing over 300 shows a year from our patrons. That's it from me.

Andrew Cernota:

All right, thank you. Are there any questions with regard to any of the reports? All right. Moving on to old business, franchise renewal discussion, Ms. Kleiner, would you like to give us a brief update on that?

Kim Kleiner:

So the, subcommittee... Franchise subcommittee renewal... Sorry, Kim Kleiner director of Administrative Services, met last week, and had some discussion on where we are in the process. We are currently still waiting for updated information from, Comcast themselves. We are still waiting for them, we've reached out, and we expect that information soon. Once we have that, we will update the committee with that as well. Everything else, as discussed at that meeting Public Works is still conducting a review of the Comcast proposal. We're still, touching base with the Arlington Street Community Center and the project that they have existing, as well as, waiting on some budget information, which will come as a result of the RFP process.

Andrew Cernota:

Thank you. Any questions? All right. Let's move on to- to new business, Public access bid update. Ms. Kleiner, would you like to continue with- with that?

Kim Kleiner:

I do. Kim Kleiner, Director of Administrative Services. My apologies, there was an email late last evening, Kelly Parkinson, our Purchasing Manager, was able to complete a pretty comprehensive, comparison of the two bids, that was emailed, late last evening to the committee. We will make sure that that's included in the meeting minutes from today. Looking at that, I think it gives you a pretty good idea on the different aspects of the two, proposals, and each are very unique, in their own way. I believe it

would be best if the advisory, chooses a subcommittee or a member, group to interview in the two proposals. And bring forth, more information to the advisory if it's all that's all.

Andrew Cernota:

All right. Thank you. If anyone's interested in participating in those interviews, if you'd like to contact me or, Ms. Kleiner, we can, make sure that we appoint that interview, panel. All right, streaming update requests, Mr. Poehnert has given us some information already. But is there a motion. Motion to perhaps approve the request?

Jennifer McCormack:

I'll move that we approve the request to purchase live streaming equipment in the amount of \$4,500 plus shipping.

Andrew Cernota:

All right. Um, Ms. McCormack has made the motion any discussion? Seeing none will go to a roll call vote. Andrew Cernota votes, yes. Justin Chapman You'll have to unmute yourself.

Justin Chapman:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Okay. That's a yes. And Ms. Byers.

Lauren Byers:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Alderman Jette.

Alderman Ernest Jette:

Yes sir.

Andrew Cernota:

Ms. Kleiner.

Kim Kleiner:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Ms. Lindner.

Cheryl Lindner:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Ms. McCormack.

Jennifer McCormack:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Deputy Chief Fay.

Deputy Chief Joe Fay:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Mr. Miseivitch.

Nick Miseivitch:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Mr. Morgan.

Cole Morgan:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Chief Buxton.

Chief Buxton:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

All right, the motion passes.

Jeff Poehnert:

Thanks.

Andrew Cernota:

Next one on the agenda is, the Board of Health Zoom upgrade request. Again, is there a motion?

Nick Miseivitch:

Motion to approve.

Andrew Cernota:

Motion to approve, any discussion Mr. Miseivitch?

Nick Miseivitch:

Mr. Poehnert, you mentioned it's gonna be remotely controlled broadcast quality camera.

Jeff Poehnert:

Well, from within the room.

Nick Miseivitch:

Oh, from within the room. So wifi.

Jeff Poehnert:

Yeah.

Nick Miseivitch:

Type scenario.

Jeff Poehnert:

Yeah.

Nick Miseivitch:

Okay, thank you.

Jeff Poehnert:

All right. I did that, make that clear.

Andrew Cernota:

Any other questions? All right. We'll proceed to a vote. Andrew Cernota votes. Yes. Mr. Chapman.

Justin Chapman:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

All right. Again, in case it didn't get picked up, that was a yes. Ms. Byers.

Lauren Byers:

Yes. Sorry. Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Alderman Jette.

Alderman Ernest Jette:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Ms. Kleiner.

Kim Kleiner:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Ms. Lindner.

Cheryl Lindner:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Ms. McCormack.

Jennifer McCormack:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Deputy Chief Fay.

Deputy Chief Joe Fay:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Mr. Misevitch.

Nick Misevitch:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Mr. Morgan.

Cole Morgan:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Chief Buxton.

Chief Buxton:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

All right. Motion passes. Okay. Next item on the agenda is public comment. We still do not have members of the public present, remarks by members. Does anyone have anything that they'd like to... Ms. Kleiner.

Kim Kleiner:

Thank you, Chair. Kim Kleiner Director of Administrative Services, as you noted, we would like to get together the panel, for review of the RFP proposals. So we would just ask if possible that they reach out to either you or I by next Friday, so that we can have purchasing schedule those interviews. It will likely result in us meeting to have an advisory, committee meeting before the next quarter, so that we can move this along, choose the proposal that we'd like to move forward so that we have the budget information, to choose the Comcast or use for the Comcast renewal. So, we'll need to move that along, in order to have the information to close out the Comcast franchise renewal.

Andrew Cernota:

Excellent. Thank you. Anyone else? All right, if not,

Alderman Ernest Jette:

It's true.

Andrew Cernota:

Oh, Alderman Jette.

Alderman Ernest Jette:

So I... You know, I- I don't want to, I hope it's appropriate to, talk about this, publicly. But people have voiced complaints about the quality of the, broadcast of the public meetings. And, you know, they're technical things. I think, one is, the, during the meetings there's, I don't know how this all works, so forgive me.

But, people have complained that, you know, as the camera changes view, there seems to be difficulty focusing. You know, it focuses in, focuses back. And, I don't know if that's, if that's, you know, fixable or not, but you know, people have complained about that. And, the other thing, I think I'm not sure that this also can be cured, but people have, complained about, the, microphones, not the microphones, but the people... I guess, the people talking in the microphones. And I'm as guilty as anyone else.

You know, when... You know certainly when people look away from the, microphone, you know, they lose the, quality of the, of the, you know, hearing the speaker. But also that there have been times when the speaker sounds muffled, maybe it's 'cause we were, you know we've been wearing masks, I'm not sure.

But the other night there was a meeting where the speaker not wearing a mask, but the sound was, you know, distorted. And, again, I don't know if that is, operator error or, you know... I don't know what we can do about that, but I just wanted to, You know, I said that I would relay that to the,

Andrew Cernota:

The microphone issue is one that we've encountered before and we've offered to do microphone training, for members of boards and commissions. I don't know if we've ever had anyone take us up on that.

Alderman Ernest Jette:

No.

Andrew Cernota:

I saw Ms. Kleiner's hand up and then I know Mr. Poehnert wants to address.

Jeff Poehnert:

Yeah.

Kim Kleiner:

Oh, thank you chair, I'm Kim Kleiner Director of Administrative Services. So I think we've had a number of things that have occurred. Certainly we, you know, we hear, feedback on the meetings and we're happy to do so. We're happy to hear that feedback. I think staff has continuously working with our experts, made improvements along the way. The microphone is not a new issue. Having served on a board and sat, I can say that I have had many times where they would say lean forward and I was guilty of not doing that. And, so it's always an issue. Unfortunately, different people, have different tendencies when they speak to either lean forward, lean back. I think everyone does as much as they possibly can to address it. Even speaking out when a member maybe, not heard so that we... They can address it right then when the member is speaking.

But I think staff has done everything that they can. I do wanna say that the introduction of Zoom to public meetings brought a lot of complications, and staff and our experts, at ATV, they've worked very hard, they've made investments in technology. I really think that they've done an amazing job and I would like to personally thank them for all their work. But it does bring challenges that we've certainly addressed before. I think if we as a city continue to believe that having that Zoom capability is important, and has value, then we have to live with some of the, challenges that, that may bring forth, during public meetings. There's a tradeoff there.

I did mention before, and I will mention it now. So we have, just hired, a young lady from Nashua South. She's in the program there, the CTV program with, Mr. Leon. She will be assisting Jeff Poehnert with the public meetings, in the Zoom portion of those public meetings going forward. Hopefully to give Mr. Poehnert our very well deserved, break. He's been doing the public meetings for, you know, almost a year and a half now, every single night. So we owe him a debt of gratitude. I think we've worked and we'll continue to work between our new, hire, the student, which gives her incredible opportunities and Mr. Poehnert and our videographers to do the best that we can.

Andrew Cernota:

Right. Mr. Poehnert?

Jeff Poehnert:

Yeah, no, I just was gonna add also, one of the couple of the technical things that we've had to do the spread or the gate on these microphones are a bit more narrow because of Zoom, because of feed... The

possibility of feedback. So it is a lot easier to, if you go over to the side, it's not gonna pick it up, and that does happen all the time. As far as the, focus on the cameras, that does happen from time to time. And that's something that, well, if Pete wants to address it, but something that we can

Pete Johnson:

Sure when this room was, redesigned a couple of years ago, we had suggested, additional lighting for this room. At night, it's still very dark, as you can see, there are only eight light bulbs (laughs) in this room, so there's not a lot of contrast. And the, cameras work and the focus works on a contrast basis. So when there isn't much light, they have difficulty focusing, quickly and appropriately because the room's not bright enough. We've had that issue, since we put these specific cameras in, which was, I don't recall the date when they were in, but, um-

Jeff Poehnert:

Yeah. Would've been, the beginning of the pandemic.

Pete Johnson:

The other cameras previous to this were more nighttime security cameras, and they were a little bit better with the focusing. These are a little bit more for professional television, which normally you would have more light. And, so that's the issue with those? One of the things with the microphones in this room where still on a temporary, microphone mixer. We had a number of issues with the previous, mixer, if you recall, early on, when we came back into the, chambers, we've since somewhat resolved those, but every microphone is active. So it picks up a lot of room noise and other things that are going on. In December, we, worked with the- the vendor to come up with another solution, where we could go back to having control of the microphones in the room.

As far as being turned on and off, right now, Jeff tells you that, "Okay, it's one minute to seven, we're gonna open things up and the microphones are on, please don't, you know, say anything you don't want the public up to here." Before that control was in this room via the little touch panel up there, and whoever's running the meeting can turn on the microphones. That functionality's going to return, but unfortunately with the supply chain issues, the, vendor itself has continually pushed back the date of when that equipment's going to be available.

First, it was going to be in January and then beginning of February, and then the end of February. And now they're looking at the end of March. So I don't wanna make any guarantees as to when it's going to be finally happen, but they should see some improvements in the audio, at that point in time. The other thing that will happen is only the person's microphone who's talking will actually be active. So it's a computer based system, which determines who's talking turns that microphone on only. So you, aren't gonna get a lot of the extraneous room sound that you're, hearing right now. So hopefully that answers some of your questions.

Jeff Poehnert:

Thank you. So the, the cameras are, automatic. The focusing is done automatically.

Pete Johnson:

Correct.

Jeff Poehnert:

It's not the cameraman that's-

Pete Johnson:

Correct.

Jeff Poehnert:

Okay.

Andrew Cernota:

Mr. Morgan.

Jeff Poehnert:

Thank you.

Cole Morgan:

And just to add a slight bit of color from the professional AV industry. You picture having a three hour sound check for a concert and it still happens.

Cole Morgan:

Yeah. It's not a problem just here. It's the whole industry battles us, even with the technology.

Andrew Cernota:

Mr. Poehnert.

Jeff Poehnert:

And just one thing I thought much about that maybe we should make a, training session for people using Zoom. Because a lot of people, they don't have their computers set up, right. And so they come into the meeting and nobody can hear them. And they're asking us to turn the volume up, which now is going to, possibly start the feedback. So we can't really do that. So it's very important how each person... And that's the variable with Zoom. It comes in as a mishmash, you know, I mean it's into our system. So no matter how we set it up before a meeting, it may change during the meeting. You know, the way the sound from Zoom is coming, it is different than the way we set the room. So I would, I would like to possibly train people on how to get their own computer ready for Zoom, if they're gonna be on.

Andrew Cernota:

All right. Any other comments, if not, is there a final motion?

Alderman Ernest Jette:

I move to adjourn.

Andrew Cernota:

Motion to adjourn. All right. And thanks to Zoom, we have to do a roll call. Andrew Cernota votes in the affirmative. Mr. Chapman has left the meeting. Ms. Byers.

Lauren Byers:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Alderman Jette.

Alderman Ernest Jette:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Ms. Kleiner.

Kim Kleiner:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Ms. Lindner.

Cheryl Lindner:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Ms. McCormack.

Jennifer McCormack:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Deputy Chief Fay.

Deputy Chief Joe Fay:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Mr. Misevitch.

Nick Misevitch:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Mr. Morgan.

Cole Morgan:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

Chief Buxton.

Chief Buxton:

Yes.

Andrew Cernota:

All right. See everyone at our... Well, as yet unscheduled, most likely to occur, meeting after we have, conducted the, interviews of the, RFP submission, submitters. All right. Thanks everyone.