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SEP 23 2011

CAC Meeting 4/19/12

Called to order 7:40

TOWN CLERK, ACTON

Attendance: Oleg Volinsky, John Covert, Chet Ruszczyk, Mike Gowing, Fred Bowers, Verizon rep – Mary L Frere, Comcast rep- Tim Kelly, ACAT members – Dick Calandrella, Rick Degon, Joe Ianelli

1: Citizen concerns: Fred Bowers

Concern – ON what basis can I be denied service of Internet / phone in Acton

John - Comcast does not have an out, but Verizon does.

Mike – what is the specific concern?

Specific concern – contract at Verizon for FIOS in Littleton, the installer came to install, but he could not connect and left. Tells citizen a new fiber is required. Went 3 times and customer service has no response.

Verizon response – Gave copy of contract to Verizon rep. She will look into it. She has a number that she can reach him and will get back to him tomorrow.

2. Approval of Minutes (skipped)

3. ACAT and Cable operators options for upgrading to digital transmission of PEG Channels

John – provides what the issue is (quality of signal) wants to get a plan in place to accept a digital signal (3 channels) from ACAT in about 2 year time frame. Requires 3 parties. Verizon / Comcast tell us what to do. 480i would be good at a minimum or higher. Initially standard definition 480i digital signal. Not trying to go up, but only change the encoding and reduce the number of channels. We hope you agree with standards (QAM for cable).

Tim K - What is NTSC?

John - National television standard committee.

Tim – thinks Comcast accepts NTSC format either analog or digital.

Mike – ACAT does not care about PAL format.

John, how to send the signal, and then ACAT buy the equipment to perform the interconnect to Comcast.

Verizon is interconnected at the library.

Comcast is connected, and there is radiant gear.

John. Step 1, the signal from the studio to Comcast.

Step 2 – the signal transmitted to the remotes.

John – what needs to be upgraded.

Comcast – will talk to engineers about what is needed, and get back to us. And the 1, 2 year time frame is acceptable. Figuring remote locations and where to upgrade. Also to make sure Verizon is not impacted.

Verizon will take it out of the hub from the library.

John - wants them to produce a normal digital signal and feed up to the headend. The feed back to the studio is a different thing.

John - Need to figure how to get it across the INET so Verizon can gain access. If there is a FIOS drop at the studio, maybe they could pick it up directly at the studio.

Verizon – if everything is available at the studio.

John, how easy to pick up (Verizon) at the studio? Investigate.

Tim K – caution about how long will you be there, other sites (Leominster) have moved 3 times in 2 years. Does not this want to be an issue. Also, they are not paying for the remotes.

Mike – makes more sense, originating from the studio, based on equipment and location to the present configuration.

John wants Comcast to keep informed.

Tim – who needs to be involved.

Mike – Comcast and ACAT would be logical, people doing the work.

John – just keep us informed.

Tim – issue is when end of life of the backend equipment .

Mike reiterates – from a long term standpoint this makes sense and not needed in 2 weeks. Comcast agrees.

ACAT will initiate this with Comcast.

Content is the issue since Comcast has ownership, Verizon pays for this. But if Verizon gets it from the studio Verizon would get this for free. Verizon's contract is with comcast. So how does this need to be handled. Tauton is going through this similar solution but Comcast and Verizon will get together to resolve this issue.

ACAT has radiant also and potentially the encoder can be moved from Headend to ACAT. Option.

Oleg – wants to just provided feedback within 2 months.

Comcast wants to discuss internet essentials – because of purchased NBC provides internet essentials K-12, must qualify – 3 yrs get a 9.95 service – 3M down 7.68 up. Caveats. No internet service form 90 days, if you owe us money wont qualify. But you need to qualify for free or reduced lunch (action has about 2% penetration rate). This is to bridge the digital divide. Provides brochure to Mike and he will bring it to Laura Dusharme.

Item 2 – review of the January minutes John motions, Chet seconds. Oleg – mins approved with minor corrections (spelling errors).

Meeting adjourned 8:45pm