

MGAT

Milford Government Access Television Committee Regular Meeting

Tuesday, April 29, 2014 7:30PM

Parsons Government Complex, 70 West River Street
Board of Ed Meeting Room or 1st Floor Employees lounge Milford, CT. 06460

Members attending: Phil Kearney (Chair), Matthew Gaynor, Barbara Genovese, Albert May, Paula Patterson

Staff attending: Arney Rogoff (Broadcast Ops Mgr), Meg Greene (Rec Sec)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mr. Kearney at 7:39 pm.

Previous meeting minutes: A motion passed unanimously to approve the March 4 minutes.

Public comment: None

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Genovese reported current balances from the sources noted below:

Cable = 501.44. GATA = 4158. 51, City of Milford = 425

Broadcast Operating Report: Recorded Events

March 3 - Board of Aldermen

March 5 - Town Hall meeting with Gov. Malloy

March 7 - Milford Spelling Bee

March 18 - Planning & Zoning

March 24 - Board of Education

April 1 - Planning & Zoning

April 2 - Park, Beach & Recreation

April 3 - Board of Aldermen (budget meeting)

April 7 - Board of Aldermen

April 8 - Zoning Board of Appeals

April 10 - Board of Aldermen (budget meeting)

April 17 - Board of Aldermen (budget meeting)

April 21 - Board of Education

NOTE: The narrative portion of Mr. Rogoff's report is appended to these minutes.

Chair's Report

Mr. Kearney reviewed his budget presentation to the Board of Aldermen and felt the board was attentive. He noted that the court case against Soundview had been won and that the appeal by Soundview had not been filed in a timely manner. However he stressed that ambiguity still surrounds the possibility of an appeal.

Old Business: None.

New Business

Mr. Kearney asked for discussion of budgetary issues and the lack of secure funding from the City. Ms. Paterson said grant money shouldn't be running the entire program. **Mr. Kearney** said his presentation took that approach. He said he would advise the City's leadership of current status of funding by email, noting that the City needs to assign a real dollar value to the program. Ms. Genovese said she has received many indications of the popularity and usefulness of MGAT programming. Ms. Paterson said the quality of the service provided is high. **Mr. Kearney** said the commission was also known for being totally nonpartisan.

Mr. Kearney also said that Ron Davis of CAC has asked that Milford provide more members to sit on the council. He said each town is allocated a certain number of slots on CAC. Milford has 5 spots, but only **Mr. Kearney** is the only Milford

representative on board now. He said the council is involved in cable issues other than government programming as well. He invited everyone to consider serving. He said the council meetings on the 3rd Thr of most months and that the meetings move around the member towns and cities. He noted Ms. Paterson's participation for many years. She said it would be good to get someone to attend who is involved in education. **Mr. Kearney** noted that members can be involved with the city either through residence or work.

NEXT MEETING

In light of schedule conflicts, the next meeting will be held on WEDNESDAY, MAY 28.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Greene, Recording Secretary

ADDENDUM

Production Report Narrative

There is one last step remaining to be completed by MGAT in preparation for completion of the AT&T U-verse connection project. After that, the rest of the process is to be completed by Discover Video in conjunction with AT&T engineers. Unfortunately, our last step involves altering a small portion of the City Hall facility, and we have strict guidelines as to what we can & can't alter in the building, since the building has landmark status. Therefore, there is a high degree of sensitivity when it comes to this project, such that we don't alter anything large or visible in the building. I am currently working on this step carefully, so that no violations of our agreement with the City occur.

Although our budget has been compromised until the end of our fiscal year, I have still managed to cover all meetings this month, which has included volunteering many hours. We have not missed coverage of any Board of Aldermen budget hearings, and have included coverage of meetings we had the option of avoiding, including those covered by others & edited and produced by me. The reason for this effort not to stray from consistency is due to the fact that Milford citizens, who are relying more & more on our broadcasts, would not know why the meetings or events they were expecting to watch were not broadcast. They might then fault MGAT for not performing our function, without knowing the real reason why, and engender bad feelings against us.

My purpose in being here is to provide Milford citizens with the highest quality & volume of programming possible, and we have escalated those qualities over the years. If at all possible, I try not to backtrack on either of those qualities, even if it involves exceeding the normal bounds of my function. I believe this effort has paid off, due to the ever-increasing positive responses we've heard from Milford citizens & officials. I do not want to jeopardize that status for any reason, if at all possible. There is, of course, a limit to the amount I can volunteer, but I will do as much as I possibly can.

This brings up an item of good news & progress. At our last meeting I described a software issue I was having with our video editing program, which prevented me from producing airable DVDs in a timely manner. I have since developed a "workaround" to this issue, which has resulted in clearing the entire catalogue of backlogged programming, such that we are currently up-to-date with all meetings & events, the most current of which are currently being broadcast. This workaround will lift some recording & production restrictions we've been dealing with, and actually speed up post-production processing on all productions. This makes the turnaround time from recording to broadcasting immensely quicker than previously experienced.

Finally, I'd like to thank all our board members who have diligently taken the time to let me know about possible broadcast issues and questions & complimentary comments from the citizens. This effort obviously keeps us ahead of any potential problems, and maintains – if not increases – the quality of our broadcasts. I encourage all of you to keep the communication coming.