

MINUTES

Metropolitan Cable Commission
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
November 5, 2020
11:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Joe Pishioneri, Chair, Sean VanGordon (City of Springfield); Pete Sorenson, Joe Berney (Lane County); Lucy Vinis, Betty Taylor (City of Eugene).

Brenda Wilson, Anne Davies (Lane Council of Governments)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Pishioneri welcomed everyone to the Metropolitan Cable Commission meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pishioneri called the meeting to order.

METROPOLITAN CABLE COMMISSION

Review of Public, Educational, and Government Access (PEG) Grant Process

Ms. Davies reviewed the history of the PEG allocation and grant program. She recommended the Cable Commission formally adopt the policy that the first \$50,000 was dedicated to the government channel and the second \$50,000 funded the grants for public, educational, and fire training channels with the caveat that other jurisdictions may access the grant funds for capital expenses that would facilitate programming on the government channel.

When Ms. Vinis asked for clarification on the \$150,000 set aside for capital expenses related to programming at the new City of Eugene City Hall, Ms. Davies explained the money came from three years of the grant program (not the governmental channel funds). She said the money was reserved in a separate account and her conversations with Eugene staff indicated the amount needed had not increased.

Responding to Mr. Berney's question as to what happened if the cost decreased, Ms. Davies said that would be a decision for the Cable Commission.

Ms. Taylor advocated for keeping the money in a separate account as eventually a Eugene City Hall would be built.

Mr. VanGordon asked if the nature of the project had changed due to developments in technology and post-Covid meeting norms. He noted the original project seemed very heavily invested in infrastructure.

Ms. Davies asked Mr. Moyer to summarize his conversations with City of Eugene staff. He said they had discussed some changes that allowed better integration of live in-person settings and virtual participation and that would impact the costs. Mr. Moyer agreed, however, that technology costs were trending lower and he anticipated the entire \$150,000 would not be needed. He gave a number of examples of how any remaining funds might be used to benefit government access.

Mr. VanGordon suggested the Commission discuss if there were short term needs that could be addressed by tapping into those resources, with the understanding the funds would be reinstated when needed.

Mr. Berney supported reallocating the money to support innovative ways to support civic education in schools and public involvement for local governments. Mr. Pishioneri agreed there were many immediate needs that could be met with the \$150,000.

When Ms. Davies suggested scheduling a separate discussion regarding the \$150,000, Ms. Vinis requested the Cable Commission discussion happen after the Eugene City Council had set more direction regarding City Hall.

Mr. Sorenson asked if the technology was going to change to make it easier to film in-person meetings for a lower cost in the future and also provide better access for those in the rural parts of Lane County to participate in virtual meetings.

Mr. Moyer said the technology was improving and costs were going down. Participation in virtual meetings was possible anywhere in the County where there was good Internet service. He noted virtual meetings had been more successful than he had originally anticipated.

Ms. Davies noted the purpose of the agenda item before them was to formally adopt the funding policy going forward. In response, Cable Commission members concurred with the funding policy as outlined above and in the agenda item summary.

Mr. Pishioneri adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

(Transcribed by Beth Bridges)