

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS ADVISORY BOARD**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**November 11, 2012**

**In Attendance:** Kurt Krause, Chairman; Ed Ebenbach and Joe Salvati, Committee Members; E. Thomas Scarborough, Board of Supervisors Liaison; Rick Colello, Township Supervisor and Sandra Zadell, Assistant Township Manager.

**Minutes:** On a motion made by Mr. Salvati, seconded by Mr. Ebenbach the minutes from October 1, 2012 were approved.

Mrs. Zadell reviewed correspondence from Verizon regarding their annual report. Mr. Ebenbach requested that she email him the full correspondence.

Mr. Ebenbach presented a 2012 budget review; he reported a balance as of 11/2 of \$ 2, 802. He then presented potential projects to complete the budgetary spending for 2012. The proposed projects were:

1. Lectern wiring and electronics \$278
2. Count down counter and Controls \$512
3. New System Monitors/Input Monitor/Video Patch Panel \$1, 873
4. Presentation Laptop/Notebook \$ 855

The committee discussed which items they should purchase this year, and which they can delay for 2013.

On a motion made by Mr. Krause, seconded by Mr. Salvati the committee approved the purchases of items 1, 2 and 3. Mrs. Zadell will purchase the items in the next week or two.

Mr. Ebenbach stated that our 2013 budget request of \$6,000 still remains in the preliminary Township Budget.

Mr. Ebenbach reported on the Franchise Renewal meeting he held with Mr. Garton the Township Solicitor, and Stephanie Mason the Township Manager. He stated that they discussed the competitive equity right of way issues, which he feels Mr. Garton is keeping an eye on. He did state that our current agreement allows for a 2<sup>nd</sup> channel to be requested if the municipality offers programming between the hours of 5 and 9 pm. Since our channel does host programming at that time, Mr. Ebenbach stated we may want to include that in our request for the next agreement. He also feels that we really aren't getting anywhere with the request for an HD channel.

Mr. Salvati inquired about the PEG fee pass through charge that he mentioned in previous meetings, which other municipalities have included in their Franchise agreements. He explained that this PEG fee would be another revenue source for the Township in addition to the franchise fee and that it can be used for DTV equipment

upgrades. These PEG fees have been known to range from \$.12 through \$.50 per subscriber per month up to 1% of gross revenues payable with monthly Franchise Fees. Mrs. Zadell said that she will bring it to Mr. Garton's attention.

Mr. Salvati also mentioned that other municipalities have voted to extend their existing in-force franchise agreements when both parties failed to reach an agreement of terms by the established deadline and that this might be another option the Township could pursue should we not achieve all our requested franchise agreement goals in a timely manner. Mr. Ebenbach will draft another letter for Mr. Jeter for the TAB board's approval to continue negotiations.

Mr. Ebenbach and Mr. Krause reported on the operational issues we are currently experiencing. The first is the RAID disk failure and the second being the monitor failure. Both are being worked on and should be fixed soon. The monitor will be replaced with a longer lasting solution. They are still looking at log in issues, and the possibility of the need to re-build the TAB computer.

Mr. Salvati reported on programming. He discussed his idea to solicit pictures from residents via the newsletter, website and TV channel for use in our original programming, and even for our files. He also wants a place on our website where we could display these pictures and also in our newsletter. It was decided that when we ask residents to submit pictures we would need a release form as well and that pictures could be submitted to our [info@doylestownpa.org](mailto:info@doylestownpa.org) account.

Mrs. Zadell reported that she had been contacted by Stan Feingold at Whitemarsh Township. He is the station manager there. She will be contacting him to see about possible collaborations for content, etc. and will report back to TAB at our next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.