

MINUTES

Oshkosh Cable Television Advisory Commission

REGULAR MEETING

May 15, 2002

The regular meeting of the Oshkosh Cable Television Advisory Commission was held at 4:00 p.m. on May 15, 2002 in Room 404 of City Hall.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Witte and roll call was taken. Present were members Mr. Williams, Mrs. Thorpe, Mrs. Sieber, Mr. Tower and Mr. McCormick. Also present was Barb Pandolfo, Time Warner Public Relations Manager and Jon Urben, Executive Director of Oshkosh Community Access Television.

Chairman Witte then asked for consideration of the minutes from the January 9, 2002 meeting. It was moved by Mr. McCormick, seconded by Mr. Williams, that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Being that there were no communications from cable subscribers or the general public, Chairman Witte moved to the Report of the Franchisee. Mrs. Pandolfo noted Time Warner could now provide HD (High Definition) boxes to subscribers. She noted the new boxes work great and are no additional cost. The HD can only be seen however on HD screens. Currently the following are the only channels/networks that offer their programming in HD: WFRV Channel 5, HBO, Showtime and soon WBAY. Mrs. Pandolfo noted about 60 subs currently use the HDTV boxes (less than 1%). She also noted that the FCC set 2006 as the date for when all networks were to be broadcasting in HDTV, however the industry seems to be responding slower to the process and it may be closer to 2001 before a industry-wide transition is made.

Mrs. Pandolfo also noted Time Warner is launching multiple ISP (Internet Service Provider) services on the RoadRunner cable modem service by next week (end of May). AOL and EarthLink will be available as an ISP through RoadRunner, with perhaps another local ISP soon. Benefits to RoadRunner as an ISP is that you can connect up to 5 home PC's to the service simultaneously. The FTC required Time Warner to provide multiple ISP's on their cable modem service as part of the approved AOL/Time Warner merger. Benefits for subscribing through one of their multiple ISP is the cable modem speed advantage (2 meg downstream, 4 meg upstream), as opposed to standard DLS lines. Mrs. Pandolfo noted the price for any of the services is \$44.95/month.

Mrs. Pandolfo noted Time Warner is also launching Video-on-Demand this fall. In essence the service allows subs to watch programming when you want it. This service includes Movies-on-Demand (MOD), Subscription-on-Demand (SOD), and Free-on-Demand (FED). Any of the services requires digital subscription package. MOD

provides movies from 99 cents to \$3.99, movie streams to your subscriber box, watch when you want it with full VCR style functionality (play, pause, stop, etc.). MOD will have 150 movies available through digital box, 24 hour viewing window. SOD is similar to MOD but is for HBO series, specials, etc. that you can watch when you want to watch them. FOD offers free programs from networks such as A&E, HGTV, etc.

Mrs. Pandolfo noted Time Warner will roll-out digital video recorders in June, 2002, similar to the TIVO concept. Subs will be able to record up to 30 hours of memory (taped programs) and play them back with full VCR functionality. She also noted Time Warner is sponsoring a screening of the Harry Potter movie on June 22 at Fox Cities Stadium under the stars. Finally, Mrs. Pandolfo noted Time Warner is again sponsoring a Summer Movie Series at the Grand Opera House, showing 5 movies starting June 22 with all proceeds (\$3 adults, \$2 children) going to Grand Opera House School Programs.

Chairman Witte then asked for the Report of OCAT. Mr. Urben then presented the cable commission with four major highlights: a new program on OCAT entitled JOBLINE, the robotic camera project for the meeting rooms, a review of the awards received by OCAT in both state and national award competitions and the 2001 Value of OCAT Services Chart. Here are the details of Mr. Urben's report:

Jobline

- Debuted May 6
- Offers job postings of city, county, state jobs (and non-profits)
- 41 postings since May 6
- Jobs can be posted by going to OCAT website: www.OCATonline.com

Robotic Camera Project

- Review T-W refranchising and capital grant. Priority- install robotic camera systems (prime first-use of T-W PEG Access Capital grant monies) No tax dollars are being used to purchase these systems.
- Goal to install robotic cameras in Council chambers, Room 404, School Board and County Board chambers.
- Each room will have 3-4 wall or ceiling mounted cameras connected to a central control desk operated by one director.
- Set ups will improve meeting coverage with additional camera angles and will be more efficient with preset camera framing.
- Systems will allow for more televised coverage of Room 404 meetings (Transit, Traffic Review, Parks, Plan Commission, etc.)
- Helps to set stage for a larger municipal programming role on channel, eventual goal to separate channels into government, public and educational programming.

- Systems will allow station to reduce part-time labor budget in 2003. City/County/Schools will provide personnel to pull cables through their sites; vendors will connect on either end and supervise (cost-savings).
- Projected Project timeframes: RFP's back from vendors by early June, seek council approval by late June, installation by summer, operational perhaps by fall. Deadline for fully operational set for November 30, 2002.

Awards

- OCAT Received 2 national Telly Awards (OSO Holiday Concert, Osh. Today Holiday Special)
- OCAT received 10 awards from the WAPC (Wisconsin Association of PEG Access Channels) 2002 Video Festival
- Awards included: Excellence (North/West Football), Achievement (OSO Holiday Concert), Achievement (OCAT Card PSA), Merit (Holiday Parade), Merit (OT Holiday Special), Merit (Hmong Oshkosh Community News), Merit (YCAW), Merit (Mind, Body & Health), Merit (OASD Partners in Learning), Merit (ICH)

Value of OCAT Services 2001 Chart

Moving onto the Report of the Friends of OCAT, Mr. Urben invited the cable commission to attend the Friends Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 30 at noon at Robbin's Restaurant. The meeting will feature the 2001 Friends of OCAT Annual Report, recognition of Friends underwriters and volunteers. The cost to attend the luncheon is \$8 per person.

There being no Unfinished Business Chairman Witte then asked for any New Business. It was noted that at the July meeting the cable commission would elect officers for Chair and Vice-Chair. It was also noted that Chairman Witte and Nadine Sieber's terms were both up in June and that they would indicate to Mr. Urben within the week their intentions to either renew for another term (should the City re-appoint them) or resign. Chairman Witte then asked for the commission's next meeting date. After some discussion it was agreed the commission would meet next on Wednesday, July 10 at 4:00 p.m. in Room 404 of City Hall. Upon motion by Mr. McCormick, seconded by Mr. Williams, the Commission adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon G. Urben
Executive Director, Oshkosh Community Access Television

cc: Oshkosh Cable Television Advisory Commission Members
Mr. Richard Wollangk
Mrs. Barb Pandolfo