

Cable Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting of  
May 1, 2018

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

Present: Michael Hill, Ellie Villano, Thomas Ghazil, Richard Moskal.

Meeting called to order at 2 p.m. in the Selectmen's Conference Room

Mr. Hill showed the committee the one scholarship application he received this year. Ryan Goncalves was the only applicant and he has volunteered at LCTV, but he is not going into a communications or media program in college. His college major at this time is general studies. Mr. Ghazil and Mr. Moskal questioned if the applicant meets the requirements. Ms. Villano said the requirements state he needs to be in a program that could lead to employment in the field. He has volunteered at LCTV in the past and will put in more volunteer hours if he receives the scholarship.

Ms. Villano **moved** to award the Karyn Kernan scholarship to Ryan Goncalves. Second by Mr. Ghazil. Motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Hill said as part of the contract renewal process the committee will be negotiating the funding for LCTV. The current contract started at 3.5% and moved up to 4% in 2012. They also received capital payments of \$333,000. Mr. Hill presented a rough estimate of what he is expecting to spend over the next 10-year contract. Some of the biggest expenses are replacing the broadcast server, equipment at town hall, studio equipment and computers.

Ms. Villano asked if there are any plans to expand beyond the high school and put equipment in any of the other schools. Specifically, the new elementary school will have a community area with a stage and it may be beneficial to install equipment to film events. Mr. Hill said he is looking to make an investment in the high school auditorium before the current contract is over. Ms. Villano thinks events in the future would be split between the high school and the community area in the new elementary school.

Mr. Moskal asked if the town IT manager or the school IT manager have any influence on the spending of LCTV's money. Mr. Hill said they have no say in how the money is spent, but some equipment overlaps. Nothing is purchased with LCTV funds if it doesn't benefit LCTV.

Mr. Ghazil asked about the technical quality of the system and how pursuing high def would impact the budget. Mr. Hill said it would be no cost to LCTV to broadcast in HD. LCTV has the equipment to broadcast in HD, it would rely on Charter giving LCTV the capability. Ms. Villano wants to negotiate this as part of the new contract. Mr. Hill said they would have to discuss it with Anna Lucey.

Mr. Hill shared his 10-year projected operating budget. Ms. Villano asked if he plans to expand the staff, she recommends adding another part-time position. If Charter doesn't see

any growth, they won't want to continue giving LCTV four percent. Mr. Hill said he will take a look and add a full-time or part-time position.

Ms. Villano noticed there was not an increase in dues and memberships or conferences and travel. Mr. Hill said the numbers for conferences are already high and he didn't need to increase them over time. He will increase the budget for dues and memberships.

The committee discussed if they should try to negotiate a higher percentage and discussed the pros and cons.




Mr. Hill explained that he worked in a three percent cost of living increase every year for personnel.

Mr. Hill will make some changes to the budget and email it to the committee before sending it to Atty. August.

Ms. Villano suggested Mr. Hill get a credit card for LCTV. Mr. Hill will discuss it with the town accountant.

Mr. Ghazil **moved** to adjourn. Second by Ms. Villano. Motioned passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

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