

TV 79 Advisory Board
Tuesday, February 22, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by Chair Lynn Hamlen. Minutes from the September 29, 2010 meeting were approved.

The first item on the agenda – an update on the Programming Survey – was tabled for later discussion.

Mr. Cameron spoke about “gavel to gavel” coverage in light of recent live coverage of an RTM meeting which began before the meeting was officially called to order. He emphasized that as we cover meetings start to finish, he will reach out to committee/board chairs to be very specific about announcing when a meeting is called to order, and when it adjourns. This coverage sometimes makes for what might appear to be dead air time; we will work to have slides available letting viewers know we are waiting for something to happen.

A discussion then followed regarding coverage of Board of Selectmen meetings. A proposal has been made by the Selectmen that their minutes be simplified and that they rely on TV79 instead for gavel to gavel/word for word coverage. Mr. Cameron and Mr. Dever reported that we are technically prepared to take this on. It is a three month experiment; we will revisit then.

Mrs. Hamlen asked about a recent Board of Education budget meeting shown on TV79 where the audio was very low. Mr. Cameron said it is BoE equipment and recording and that he has spoken to Mrs. Westcott, BoE Chair about the problem. Mr. Coyle said he has noticed this before but usually only meetings in Rm206. Meetings in Rm 119 can be a problem because there is only one mic. Mr. Dever reported that we have more inputs now so we can use more mics. We will continue to work on it.

Mrs. Hamlen asked about the Community Matters programming and whether we have a master list to ensure we get everyone. Mr. Cameron said he keeps a list and with turnover there would be some new programs forthcoming.

Mr. Cameron reported that we are under budget this year, that we have spent approximately 40% of our allotted funds. In addition, an Area 9 grant of \$1,000, which was formerly restricted to technology, was this year available for expanded programming. We have used it for non-traditional coverage such as the Christmas tree lighting. Mr. Dever reported that an initial review found the grant money was being spent correctly and that it may be renewed or doubled next year.

A budget discussion followed. Mr. Baker asked whether we are stretched too thin with staffing; Mr. Cameron said perhaps some staff needed remedial training. As we now have more portable cameras to use in rooms that are not hardwired, there is a greater margin for error given the sophistication of their technology. Our budget request for next year is the same.

Discussion followed on technology. Mr. Dever reported that RTM, BoS, Boe meetings are now on the town's website. TV79's ability to stream live is almost ready, perhaps a few more weeks. Our equipment is adequate, we will use some budget money to replace mics and smaller technical equipment.

The board discussed the programming survey. Mr. Wheeler read from proposed survey questions. He will work on updating the questions and we will discuss at the May meeting, once TV79 is available live online. Suggestions should be sent to Mr. Wheeler.

A suggestion was made that we publish our programming schedule on Darien Patch as well as in the town newspapers. Mr. Cameron will look into doing that.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 24, 7:30 p.m., Room 119.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Hart