

GATCom regular meeting

(Government Access Television Access Commission)

Minutes for September 22, 2020

This meeting was held by teleconference, but the WebEx recording may have failed.

Present: Theresa Bahner, Tobenna Nwangwu, Mary Hill, Aldon Hynes

Also present: Pua Ford (coordinator & clerk)

1. **Call to Order** – Bahner called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm.

2. **Approve May 19, 2020 minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes for May 19, 2020 (Hill/Nwangwu).

Discussion: none.

Vote to approve unanimous.

Motion approved.

3. **Coordinator Reports:** In general, with board & commission meetings conducted by teleconferences and with video as our means for government transparency—the budget line for the coordinator is tracking higher than in 2019-20. The line for other personnel expenses is lower at this time. If there are any restrictions on hiring new people during the pandemic, we have to talk to administration about it. The Cable Advisory Council grant gives us a cushion for partial personnel expenses.

Woodbridge Board of Ed meetings have been longer, more frequent, and visually impaired by high number of “faces” on screen. Coordinating recording of simultaneous meetings (Four overlapping meetings were scheduled for 9/21/20) is easier than presenting all meetings live on television or YouTube.

4. **Business**

a. *Expense reimbursements.* Live conferences last summer and this coming fall have been canceled. The national conference of the Alliance for Community Media was replaced by a series of workshops. The regional video festival (“Nor’easters”) held online submissions as usual; the celebration will probably also be virtual in mid-November.

Ford submitted a short piece (the announcement of town elections returns in May 2019) to the Nor’easters at the ACM membership fee of \$35. She also registered (\$60) for a national workshop on “Small Operations” with presentations from Pasco, WA and Janesville, WI. Ford would like to submit for reimbursement from our Conferences/Professional Development line.

General consensus of the commission agreed with the request for reimbursement.

b. *Use of resources and programming.* Ford asked whether business profiles are appropriate for our channel, and whether use of our budget and equipment for producing business profiles is appropriate.

An intern who produced short pieces for the town’s Facebook page now asks whether he can continue that work for pay. This work was done under the auspices of the Economic Development Commission (EDC). The intern has worked for us, and borrowed equipment to produce those videos. Ford spoke with Betsy Yagla, who had some questions about continuing that project.

After discussion, noting the good quality of the Facebook videos, the commission advised referring the question of business profiles to the EDC. All were enthusiastic about asking for profiles of town departments.

Ford reported plans for a virtual election debate by the Hamden/North Haven League of Women Voters and the Hamden Regional Chamber of Commerce for CT Senate District 17. As part of the Amity League of Women Voters, Ford hopes to be able to relay the debate live to Woodbridge's television and YouTube channels. This would be easier and more reliable from Town Hall equipment. She (or anyone else) working on this would not charge the town for the work. In past years, department cameras were used to record debates co-sponsored by the Beecher Road School PTO. In 2018, Ford obtained a debate recording by Citizen TV in New Haven for the same office and put it on channel 79. With those precedents, the commission agreed this project would be appropriate. The plans for the 2020 debate on Oct. 15 are still uncertain at this time.

- c. *Recruiting personnel during pandemic:* SCSU students have been valuable assistants in the past. Some likely need work, but whether any want to risk coming to a new environment, whether the town might have other requirements (Covid test?) has to be determined.

[Hynes was excused from the meeting around 8:28pm.]

- d. *FY22 budget goals:* At this time, the best idea is requesting the same funding as we asked for and received for the current fiscal year. The grants from Cable Advisory Council are still available for more help.

- 5. *Motion to adjourn at 8:30pm (Bahner/Hill)*
Approval unanimous; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Pua Ford

Next scheduled meetings:

Tuesday, October 27
Tuesday, November 24