August 3 Cable TV Committee Meeting Minutes

Present: Richard, Jim, Lou, Kathy, John, Danica, 1 Member of the Public

Excused: Pat

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.a. July 6, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Jim, seconded by Lou, to approve the July 6 minutes.

Vote: Unanimous.

3. New Business

3.a. Review of Director Qualifications

Danica and Richard shared an overview of the decision making process for the next Public Access Director. Barry Dodd has been selected from the three candidates that were brought back for second-round interviews. He will be starting in the role on August 11. Richard was impressed by the initiative he took to get the cable company to move the channels down to lower numbers, and to get the access channels into HD without agreeing to a full contract negotiation. Danica shared that he had glowing reviews from references.

Danica mentioned that adding origination points will be a priority for this position. Kathy asked if the School Department could be forced to put in an origination point. Danica said she didn't feel as if they could force it, but would hope the new director could persuade them of the value. Jim thinks the Superintendent would be open to merging the two streaming systems if the Public Access Channel is in a better position. Currently, the School Department streams their meetings through YouTube Live only. Members expressed concerns about the current ability to stream meetings that will draw larger audiences than the Council Chambers can accommodate, such as the recent Special City Council Meeting. Richard noted that

the franchise agreement specifically stipulates a number of different origination sites that are not currently active, including McArthur Library.

Jim asked if Barry will be attending these meetings moving forward. Danica said that he would and would likely take over as staff liaison in the long term, but in the short term, she will continue in the role.

The Committee discussed the importance of the new Director understanding the challenges they may face. Danica shared that she has been in contact with Barry to answer questions and share background information before he begins.

The Committee discussed options for hourly help for streaming meetings. John asked if we have talked to the high school about partnership, and it was noted that there is no longer a video class there. Danica shared that she had intended to try to hire a UNE student and ended up hiring UNE's AV person instead, so she never actually got the answer about if there was a relevant student program.

3.b. Website Streaming Update

Danica shared the website page where you can stream both Public Access Channels. While the page is publicly accessible, she has not publicized it since the channel is still not quite in a position to be "shown off".

3.c. Building Maintenance Status

Danica has an appointment with ServPro to give a quote for cleaning the building. She would like the focus to be on the hallway, restrooms and main offices.

Jim asked about status of chairs in the conference room. Danica said that they were supposed to go to the Police Department and she will check on the status of that.

4. Other Business

Richard is having trouble with email delivery to the group email address. Several committee members expressed that they did not realize there was a group email address to use. Danica sent out address to all: cabletvcommittee@biddefordmaine.org.

John said minutes should note if there are members of the public present. Danica will add that moving forward.

5. Adjourn

Motion by John, seconded by Kathy to adjourn the meeting. Vote: Unanimous.

Next meeting date: Thursday, September 3 at 4 PM.