



Minutes 230303 - PEG Access Advisory Committee Concord, MA

Meeting - Date, Time, Location. Friday, March 3, 2023 In-Person and Zoom
3:30-5:00 PM

Email: paac@concordma.gov.

YouTube MMN video at [PEG Access Advisory Committee March 3, 2023](#)

Clerk's Note: This is a test format utilizing OtterAI. OtterAI partnered with Zoom in 2018 to provide transcripts and live captions. This was motivated partly by ADA compliance requirements. It was also a business opportunity to offer a more accurate and less costly alternative to manual transcription services. The full transcript and a Beta version of an automated summary follow these "human" minutes. This does not utilize the recent OpenAI and Stable Diffusion work directly. However, the OtterAI staff reportedly comes from Google and other west coast tech giants. Program code and research findings are still being shared - for now - on an open source basis

Committee attendees: Present were Karlen Reed, Vince Carlson, Cynthia Rainey (School Representative), Terri Ackerman (Select Board Liaison), Mark Pauley (MMN Production Manager), Jason Bulger (CTO/MMN liaison)

Other attendees: Nancy Pierce, Carlisle, Sue Buske - consultant (via Zoom)

1. **Roll Call.** Chair Karlen Reed declared that a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM
2. **MMN update FY 24 Financials - operations and capital spending** - Jason Bulger presented the FY 2024 MMN Budget that will be presented at the April Town Meeting (see handout and FinCom 2024 Budget Book)
 - Revenue for FY24 is projected to be \$334,745. This is a drop from \$372,023 in FY23
 - Overall, revenue has been declining gradually since 2018 due to increased "cord cutting" by Comcast customers. Cord cutting is now slowing down. Netflix and other streaming services are raising prices.
 - Expenses are projected to be \$402,557 a substantial increase, mainly due to personnel costs
 - The total projected loss is \$67,812.
 - FY24 Capital spending is projected to be \$84,000, and total \$232,500 FY24-FY28
 - The ensuing discussion raised several possible follow-up / action items.
 - The MMN studio location at CCHS is seriously limited if public access (PE)G is restricted
 - The capital budget for FY24-FY28 is too small, particularly as a starting point for Comcast negotiations.
 - The PEG special fund reserve of ~ \$1.4 Million may cause an issue in negotiations if Comcast complains that MMN is not spending existing funds.
 - The issue can possibly be mitigated with a 10-year capital forecast.
3. **Comcast franchise renewal updates.** Prep for focus groups, draft press releases, sample post cards, sample survey questions room set-up, branding, budget and staff help
 - Wed May 10 Goodwin Room 2:30-4PM Main Library
 - Thurs May 11 Select Board Room 10:30 AM - Noon Townhouse
 - Thurs May 11 7-8:30 PM Harvey Wheeler Clock Tower room
 - Zoom Coffee May 17 and 31 (tentative)
 - On-line survey May 10 - June 9
 - Prepared materials - post cards, press releases, etc. - Available for review early April?
4. **2023 meetings - ,April 6, May 4, June 1 (PAAC Awards) 3:30-5:00 PM - in person?**
5. **Minutes (Vince)**

6. Liaison and Public Comments

- **Having no additional business Karlen Reed declared the meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.**

Submitted by Vincent Carlson, Clerk
March 3, 2023

Summary (generated by OtterAI) This is a Feb 2023 Beta It is sketchy but looks promising.

March 3 reading of the Take Access Advisor Committee.

0:05

An overview of the 2024 budget.

3:27

How many FTEs are taking benefits from the group?

8:05

What are the changes in the operations budget?

13:27

What is the new station manager position?

17:14

What's in the report.

23:14

Sue's reaction on these dollar amounts.

28:59

How much should the capital request be raised?

34:18

Working storage for videos and projects.

40:25

Why is a fiscal 22 audit still going on?

46:59

What about the payment-to-purchase franchise?

51:28

What happens if Comcast finds out that you're not spending enough?

57:29

What's the franchise fee for the cable non-profit?

1:04:22

Is the portable PA system a higher priority for the committee?

From <https://otter.ai/u/udE7-WUL1dSRAi8Pkl_-X0Ipd9A?tab=summary>