

Town of Chester – PACT Committee Meeting – January 24, 2020

APPROVED Minutes

**Town of Chester
PACT Committee Meeting
Friday, January 24, 2020
Cable Access Center**

I Preliminaries

1.1 Call to Order

Bob Grimm, Chairman, called this meeting of the PACT Committee to order at 6:08 pm.

1.2 Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Grimm led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.3 Roll Call

Members Present:

Bob Grimm, Chair
Jack Cannon, Vice Chair
Stephen D'Angelo, Selectman Liaison
Karl Knudsen, Secretary
Royal Richardson, School District Liaison
Briana Demers, PACT Coordinator

Public Present:

None

1.4 Approval of Minutes October 14, 2019.

Secretary Knudsen made a motion to approve the minutes from October 14, 2019 as presented. Motion second by Mr. Richardson. NO Discussion. Chair Grimm called for a vote on the motion. The vote was 4-0 in the affirmative, with Mr. Cannon abstaining.

II. REPORTS

- a. Producer's Report Chair Grimm
Recently Produced shows and recorded shows – Christmas season shows.
Chair Grimm pointed out that we are coming up on election season and annual meetings and expects to have candidate shows hosted by Mr. Knudsen, Shows regarding the School district amendments and live broadcasting of the school district meeting and Town Meeting in March.
- b. PACT Coordinator Report – Ms. Demers spoke on the update on the new Tightrope for Channel 20 and the Livestream server being a learning curve but the system is working out very well. The new cameras that were ordered in June 2019 have finally arrived and one has been install in Main meeting room.

Vice Chair Cannon asked how things are going with the system and if Ms. Demers feels the need for help. Ms. Demers said she is holding her own and if needs help, she will ask.

- c. Treasurer Report Chair Grimm
 1. Reviewed data from the Finance department reporting a fund balance as of December 31, 2020 for \$43,345.81.
 2. Current budget is within line of what has been requested.

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III. OLD BUSINESS –

1. Review of CIP submission – Chair Grimm met with Board of Selectmen and agreed on the final amount request from the CIP to be \$24,590 where these funds would be used to purchase the upgrade for Channel 21.
2. Review of Line item in Town Budget – Chair Grimm said the BOS and he agreed on an amount of \$6,000 in the town budget to cover live streaming
3. PACT Budget for Warrant and change to PACT funding – Chair Grimm said there are three warrant articles this year for PACT. First is a request to have the PACT fund be set up as a revolving Fund as per the suggestion of Budget Committee Chairman Mike Weider over the summer. The second warrant if the revolving fund is passed would be to eliminate the yearly request of PACT funding by warrant. The third warrant would be the standard PACT warrant requesting a specific amount of money to be removed from the PACT fund. The warrant is asking for \$36,925
4. The \$36,925 would cover annual expenses and the upgrade of Channel 22 and its broadcast delivery from Chester Academy to the Studio.
5. Update on Franchise Fee Increase- Chair Grimm said that Comcast approved the increase and it will take effect as of January 2020, where we would not see the new amount until May 2020.
6. FCC ruling for Franchises Fees – Chair Grimm said that nothing has changed as of this moment regarding the franchise fees. There has been a lawsuit filed by Cable access groups and municipalities. Also, the US House and US Senate have bills being presented next week to have the FCC ruling hold franchises fees to 5% and do away with the “in kind” contribution language. Of which the first one may have an impact upon the amount of franchise dollars Chester may receive. Until Comcast defines “In-Kind Contribution” it is any one’s guess. It also is not known if the charges Comcast may ask will be retro-active to the FCC ruling date. Chair Grimm said he is waiting to get more information from the State Cable Association as well as the Northeast Association. NH will be holding a webinar in December to discuss the ruling.

IV. NEW BUSINESS – covered above regarding upcoming School and Annual Town meeting

V. POLICIES and PROCEDURES - none

VI. ROUNDTABLE - None

VII. NON-PUBLIC - none

VIII. Anticipation of Next Meeting – TBD

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Liaison D’Angelo to adjourn the meeting. Second by Mr. Knudsen. No Discussion. Chair Grimm called for a vote on the motion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted January 25, 2020
Robert Grimm
PACT Chair

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