

Minutes
Communications Committee
September 23, 2004

Please note: Minutes are unofficial until approved by the Communications Committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Members Present: Alderman Hopkins and Citizen members Dave Broker and Michael Passineau.

Others Present: Mayor Wysocki, Mike Holzinger, Director of Finance and Administration and Sue Schaefer, Information Technology Director.

Excused: Alderman Harenda

Absent: Alderman Gallagher

Minutes

Minutes of the August 26, 2004 were read and approved.

New Business:

Presentation by Mary Shanahan-Spanic:

Mary Shanahan-Spanic, the West Allis Community Media Center Director gave a lengthy presentation regarding the West Allis Public Access Channel. They are located at 7210 W. Greenfield Ave. She indicated that prior to 1996, New Berlin and West Allis programs worked together to produce programs. She said things failed at that time due to poor training, poor equipment and a lack of funding.

At the present time, they have about 175 members, 11 of whom serve on the non-profit board. Volunteers do much of the work and take leadership roles in the organization. The organization produces video and audio programming including parades and the Community Bulletin Board.

Mary indicated that New Berlin could possibly work in a partnership with them or set up our own program.

At the present time, they receive \$150,000 a year from the City of West Allis, over and above a 5% franchise fee.

There are approximately 16,000 cable subscribers in West Allis.

Mary indicated that in the future, there would need to be financial support from New Berlin plus an OK from the governing boards of both cities, and she was asked to come up with some idea of the costs we would be talking about.

Presentation by Scott Leonard:

Scott Leonard of Professional Audio Design gave a presentation on the Audio Visual recommendation for the sound system in the Council Chambers.

Scott indicated that the speaker system was not adequate in its present state. He did a walkthrough of the present system indicating that he recommends removing the present mixer. This would be replaced by one with no knobs to fool around with. He would like the new system to be pretty much automatic. Many of the microphone/speakers would be replaced by up-to-date equipment. Some of our old equipment might be sold on Ebay.

According to Scott, what he is recommending is a fairly basic system, one that is the least expensive but most robust. He said we would have state of the art equipment. He also said that some things could be put off till later but that it would be more expensive to do then.

Scott indicated that Option 1, in his evaluation, would give us the highest quality with the ability to burn CD's. It is a basic system with a lot of features. Option 2 is a power point to camera (TV) option, and Option 3 is the Voting Board. It might be better to wait on this as LCD, or Flat Screen prices continue to come down.

Alderman Hopkins indicated that no vote would be taken at this meeting, as he wanted Aldermen Harenda and Gallagher to have a chance to view the presentations, which were recorded.

Mayor Wysocki announced that Time Warner Cable sent a letter indicating that they want to commence renewal proceeding of their contract, which expires on April 25, 2007.

The last two items on the agenda were held over to the next meeting.

Motion by Dave Broker, seconded by Michael Passineau to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.