



### Comcast Update

- our September board meeting (held on 10/4/07) was attended by Comcast's Community Affairs & Gov. Regulations Mgr. Christina Degraff-Murphy - a summary of the discussion with Christina follows;
  - \* Christina reported that Comcast is denying our request to amend the structure of capital funding in our contract, from what is currently 2 "spike" (or lump sum) payments per contract term (based on our request & subject to cable company approval) to a smaller annual payment- she stated that no other access organization has annual capital funding, which contradicts what I understood to be true
    - I researched this further to find out that several other access orgs. in Vermont due, in fact, receive annual capital funding from the cable co.
    - Our contract is not up for renewal until 2013
  - \* Christina gave us an update on the line build out in Mount Holly, stating that some of the work has already been completed and that a small portion of new customers should be "online", eligible to subscribe by the end of this year - the remainder of the line build is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2008
    - Christina sent a follow-up email to me about the idea we proposed, re: Comcast & LPCTV partnering on a print ad or press release to "market" LPCTV as a "selling point" for cable - she would prefer to wait until later in 2008 as the work is nearing completion
    - she has also stated that Comcast would be open to the idea of LPCTV drafting the ad / release, which would be most effective for us
    - she also said Comcast sales reps would be willing to use LPCTV brochures, fliers, handouts in their mass mailings - this could be an option, but I would caution against further blurring the distinction between LPCTV and the cable company - this should be up for discussion among the board
  - \* The board had inquired about live origination points ("live drops") in Mount Holly - Christina confirmed that Comcast was required to provide drops as per its Certificate of Public Good ("CPG") at the Town Office bldg., the school, and library, provided that each is within 500 feet from the fiber line
    - each of these buildings is within 500 feet, so we should expect to be provided with drops, but only if we formally request them, as outlined in the CPG, (Condition 22)
  - \* The board had also inquired about live origination points identified in the original 2002 agreement ("contract") that have not yet been completed (CTES and the Plymouth Buildings) - we also discussed the difficulty we've had in the past getting the other sites installed (BRHS, Ludlow Town Hall, Cavendish Town Office)
    - Christina has asked me to follow-up with her on this matter with her and she will see to it that these concerns are addressed & that any pending work will be completed

### Vermont Access Network (VAN) & Vermont Media Exchange (VMX) Update

- VAN will be holding a meeting on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> in Rutland to discuss further implementation & governance of the statewide network, the Vermont Media Exchange (VMX) - I will be presenting at this meeting on how LPCTV has used the network to-date
  - \* LPCTV is 1 of 5 organizations who are currently on the network - we had been experimenting with downloading & uploading video programs during a Beta test period, which ended last month
  - \* VMX is now in the process of upgrades & improvements, so its usage has come to a halt - for now - and will resume sometime next month, when the next tier of stations join on

### Administrative Update

- during the 10/4/07 meeting, I described a payroll services error that resulted in my overpayment of 1872.00 from July 1 2006 - June 30 2007- I stated that I had brought this to the attention of our payroll rep. at Chittenden and that the company had worked out a solution
  - \* Chittenden had proposed to deduct the overpayment from my paychecks over a period of time, so that LPCTV would be fully re-imbursed
- days following the meeting, Brigid Sullivan contacted Chittenden Payroll and argued on my behalf, claiming that bc it was Chittenden's mistake, the company should pay for at least half - and they agreed to this!

(thank you, Brigid!!)

- Beginning with pay date 10/19/07 and over the course of 6 pay periods, 156.00 is being deducted from each of my paychecks, for a total of 936.00 (half of the overpayment) fixed payroll issue -
- Chittenden Payroll Services has made a deposit for the remainder of the balance (936.00) into LPCTV's checking account

### **Video Club**

- we began our second session of the youth video club 2 weeks ago- there were 6 participants who showed up for the initial session
  - \* we began by shooting some video & interviews of an after school program on rattlemaking
  - \* for anyone interested- we meet here at LPCTV on Tuesdays from 4 - 5:30 PM - the target group is between ages 11 - 14, but it's open to all youth
  - \* if we get interest from younger or older kids, we will form multiple groups

### **Outreach / Fundraising**

- I am sending out our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual business underwriter solicitation - we are using an old mailing list from the Rotary Club with a few updates
  - \* would like to do a follow-up via email in the coming weeks
  - \* would anyone who has email address lists for the local business community be willing to share?
- we were offered a good deal on an Ad placement in the Okemo Valley Regional winter guide, which I accepted
  - \* the ad highlights our business underwriting & video production services, in addition to the access TV channels & services

### **Space**

- Sharon, Norm, Jay, & I toured the former Sotheby's condo units in the Hammond Block building in Ludlow; prior to leaving, Terri DiNapoli mentioned that Sotheby's owners would most likely be flexible on price (it is listed at \$219K (with an additional \$3K / yr. in condo common fees)
- John Filipowicz's building on the Proctorsville Green will not be officially on the market until sometime after Feb. 15
- I have an appointment to look at a space in the Black River Associates' building on the corner of Main St. & High St. in Ludlow (formerly Ted Stryhas Builders) - appointment is THIS THURSDAY at 4:30 PM, immediately before the board meeting - any interested board members are welcome to join