

PUBLIC ACCESS FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

June 21, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

Conference Room A

Municipal Complex

Portsmouth NH

Present: Vincent Lombardi, City Council appointee; Karen Conard, City Manager; Andrew Purgiel, Deputy Finance Director, City Manager appointee; Ash Chicooree, Cable and Broadband Internet Commission appointee; PPMtv representatives, Alexis Mason, Board President-PPMtv; Peter Bielagus, Treasurer-PPMtv; Karen Butz Webb-Board Member-PPMtv; Chad Cordner, Executive Director-PPMtv and; Jake Webb-Studio Operations-PPMtv

Mr. Purgiel opened the meeting at 10:07 am by having participants introduce themselves.

A motion was made by Councilor Lombardi and seconded by Mr. Chicooree to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2023, Committee meeting. Motion passed.

Mr. Purgiel gave a brief presentation of the history of the distribution of the Trust and Cable Franchise Fees. Mr. Purgiel stated all funds have been received from Comcast. Mr. Purgiel pointed out that the trend in Cable Franchise Fees is going down, stating that in FY17 the City received a total of \$533,407 in franchise fees and this year \$445,164 - a reduction over 7 years of \$88,243 or 16.5%. Mr. Purgiel noted that last year the Committee authorized the release of \$175,500 from the trust to assist PPMtv with their move from their Marcy Street location to the Fox Run Mall location leaving a balance in the Trust of about \$2,000. Mr. Purgiel stated that this year the trust received \$85,164 from Cable Franchise Fees leaving a Trust balance of \$86,936.

Mr. Bielagus presented the PPMtv budget for FY25 with estimated revenue of \$87,000. He stated that they have not only spent the year moving but trying to cut expenses as much as possible. He went on to explain that if the revenue for FY25 is \$87,000, the organization would be looking to raise at least \$130,000 from donations which would transform the organization into a fundraising machine. He said it would change everyone on the board and staff to what they committed to when joining the organization. He said if the budget stays at \$87,000 it basically turns into a shutdown budget. A general discussion ensued with all members participating.

Mr. Purgiel made a motion to authorize the distribution of funds from the Trust to be transferred to PPMtv in the amount of \$86,000. Seconded by Councilor Lombardi. Motion passed.

It was decided that there would be a working group meeting in the near future, with a follow up public meeting to discuss what the working group learned and discussed as a group.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.