

Attached is the results of the research I have done on this matter. Mac has not yet heard from his contact so you would have to factor those costs into all this in addition.

Linda

10/30/2012

Results of research regarding PEG access for the Town of Carroll (October 2012)

Attached is a cost sheet for a PEG access center for the Town of Carroll. In conversation with the Time Warner engineer, Mike Leonard, he gave me an all or nothing approach to my questions. He would only consider a full-blown PEG access center which would be much too costly for the Town to set up and to operate. I was unsuccessful in persuading him to consider anything less. Using Mr. Leonard's estimates for equipment set up and the installation of the fiber optic cable to Town Hall, the cost was over \$24,000.00. This would not include the physical building of the control room, materials and labor or anything that Bretton Woods might require. Even if the Town were to take on that cost, the operation of such a center would necessitate people trained in audio/video, a technical director and a coordinator or general manager. The Town would have to hire someone.

This is not at all what I envisioned. I feel this kind of operation is far beyond what the Town needs or can manage. My vision was a very simple set-up basically having a cable "drop" which could be accessed by camera (live) or a player (recorded) of government and the occasional community events. This kind of set up could be run by non-professional volunteers. However, Time Warner seems very unlikely to cooperate in this kind of arrangement.

As an alternative – I have found a website called Town Hall Streams. I have been communicating with Eric Spenlinhauer who has given me the following information:

Option 1 - requires an old laptop or NetBook computer. They will put their software on the system and connect the camera to the computer with cable. This will allow the Town to take the computer and camera anywhere as long as there is Internet and broadcast.

Option 2 – is a bit simpler and requires no computer. They supply a video encoder box that will get the video and audio feed from the camera and the encoder is hardwired to the Internet. This is not mobile but has less human interaction.

Regarding putting announcements on such a system – the computer (option 1) will need a video output. If the computer can send out a video signal they can stream it.

Both systems will run \$250.00 per month (\$3000.00 / year). That includes installation and equipment, except for the computer in option 1, unlimited meetings and playback, storage for 1 year for video on demand playback. Also the equipment is warranted for the life of their contract.

If the Town chooses to pursue this type of community communication, the Internet option would be the best fit for Carroll (in my opinion) both financially and management-wise. The Internet

option would take this out of the Cable Committee's area of over-site (unless that is expanded by the Board) and would be more appropriate for a Computer and Technology group which would (hopefully) have the expertise and interest.

Pricing for PEG access set-up 2012

Twin Mt System

External

Fiber-optic run to Town Hall (Time Warner)	\$5,000.00
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Recording equipment

Minimum of 4 mics with mixer and cables	\$2,000.00
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If 8 needed (add another \$2,000.00)

Lighting – SP 35 bulbs in meeting room

Control Room

UPS system

Laser (sending/receiving)	\$4,000.00
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Audio leveler	\$600.00
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Character Generator/Computer	\$2,500.00
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Leightronix Nexus	\$10,000.00
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Western Digital Monitor Device	\$200.00
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Return signal monitor	\$200.00
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Assorted Cables and connectors	\$300.00
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Total	\$24,800.00
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Additional considerations

Construction of physical control room

Labor & materials

Air conditioning

Security

Designated phone line

Electrical wiring

Sub-panel & 3 30 amp breakers

9 4-plug outlets

lighting

After operational

Audio contractor or trained person

Technical director

Coordinator

Camera operators

General manager