

Town of Ayer

Town Accountant

Town Hall ♦ One Main Street ♦ Ayer, MA 01432 ♦ 978-772-8220 ♦ 978-772-3017 (fax)



Ayer Cable Advisory Committee
1 Main Street
Ayer, MA 01432

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TOWN OF AYER
TOWN CLERK

To Whom It may concern:

I want to share why public access TV is so important to the residents of Ayer. Town governments and school districts make so many decisions that impact our day-to-day lives. Here in Ayer, Public Access TV is a portal for residents to connect with our town government and school boards by watching public meetings on TV. They can also express their own views, interests, and creative selves with their own original TV programming. Public Access TV takes it a step further with online video-on-demand services as well.

It's a source of raw information that is highly pertinent to people's lives, accessible for anyone who has a TV and the most basic of cable plans. In every single state, a portion of the population doesn't have access to broadband, and some have no access to the internet at all. A 2015 American Community Survey said that only 77 percent of U.S. households had internet access. That number has probably changed since then, but it still underscores a problem with equal access. Not everyone can afford high-speed internet, and a lot of people mainly get their news from TV.

Public Access TV is really a community-based operation. Every meeting is taped, and it keeps people informed. You can be in your home watching what the elected officials are doing. The government and school meetings are a way for the community to really reveal themselves and talk about themselves. There are so many things to give. History, context, election coverage, there's so much that keeps your local community abreast of what's happening.

Ayer Public Access TV has really stepped up for the Town of Ayer and continues to be an important partner in helping us to keep our residents informed.

Sincerely

Kerry A Cooper
Town Accountant