



AGENDA
CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
December 3, 2014
Meridian Township Municipal Building
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI
Administrative Conference Room

- A. Call Meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m.
- B. Public Remarks
- C. Approval of Agenda
- D. Approval of Minutes – October 8, 2014
- E. Communications/Announcements
- F. Old Business
 - 1. Audit Updates and Possible Discussion-Mike Watza
 - a. Comcast Franchise Fee
 - b. AT&T Review Franchise Fee
 - c. Technical Review
 - d. Transfer of Control
- G. New Business / Discussion Items
 - 1. Reappointment of Commissioner Kiyak and Commissioner Seipel
 - 2. Recommendation to have alternative Commissioner to serve on the Commission
 - 3. Web advertising
 - 4. Telecommunication companies in Meridian Township
 - 5. 2015 goals discussion
 - a. HOMTV 5 Year equipment plan
 - b. Meridian Township 2015 Goals and Objectives draft
 - 6. 2015 Cable Communication Commission proposed meeting schedule
- H. Reports
 - 1. Complaints/Compliments: Deborah Guthrie
 - 2. Video Service Provider(s):
 - 3. Communications Director Report: Deborah Guthrie
 - 4. Chair's Report: Walter Benenson
 - 5. Township Information: Ron Styka
 - 6. Programming: Deborah Guthrie
 - 7. Viewership/Promotions: Deborah Guthrie
 - 8. Finance: Deborah Guthrie
- I. Other Business & Announcements
- J. Public Remarks
- K. Adjournment

Cable Communications Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

Planning Conference Room, Second Floor
Meridian Municipal Building, Okemos, MI
October 8, 2014

Present: Commissioners: Chair, Walter Benenson, Tunga Kiyak, and Patrick Crowley
Staff: Deborah Guthrie, Mike Watza, Esq., Penney Stephen
Township: Ron Styka
Comcast: John Gardner
AT&T: None
Haslett Schools: None
Okemos Schools: None

Call Meeting to Order: Commissioner Benenson called the meeting to order at **6:05 pm**.

Public Remarks:

No Public Present

Introductions: Michael J. Watza, head of the governmental litigation and affairs practice at the Kitch, Drutchas, Wagner et al. law firm, introduced himself to the commission as legal counsel for Meridian Township cable communications issues.

Approval of Agenda:

Chair Benenson moved TO MODIFY THE AGENDA. Seconded by Commissioner Crowley. Agreed to move the Granicus presentation on iLegislate to the December meeting, as the presenter had to cancel.

Voice vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Crowley moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF July 30, 2014 AS SUBMITTED. Seconded by Commissioner Kiyak.

Voice vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Communications/Announcements:

- Director Guthrie started discussion by explaining the inclusion of the first communication item as part of a previous discussion of new revenue sources through having ad space on the HOMTV website. This email was included as a suggested reminder for the Commission to possibly review this as part of the 2015 goal setting.
- Chair Benenson wanted clarification as to what should be included in this section of the packet, as to whether or not any action is required on these items. It was clarified that it

is a section where communications with the township are shared, discussions could be had but no action needed to be taken.

- Commissioner Kiyak asked if there was a Township wide policy regarding advertising on the website. Director Guthrie clarified that the HOMTV website is not a township website and that she would look into it. Chair Benenson reminded the commission that Director Guthrie looked into it about three years ago and that we should review the minutes from that meeting.

Commissioner Kiyak moved TO ADD THE OLD MINUTES TO A FUTURE AGENDA for review and discussion. Seconded by Commissioner Crowley.

Voice vote: Motion carried unanimously

- Before Old Business was reviewed, Commissioner Kiyak wanted a clarification regarding iLegislate. Director Guthrie explained that in order to use this Granicus feature; our future 2015 meetings will need to be moved to a night that there are no other televised meetings. Commissioners unanimously agreed that adjusting the calendar would be appropriate for 2015.

Old Business:

1. Audits

a. Comcast Franchise Fee Audit: The audit is now underway, Mr. Gardner explained that the information for the audit from Comcast will be sent to Ashpaugh and Sculco (the audit company Meridian Township has hired) in the next day or two so that our auditors can review how the franchise fees are being calculated.

b. AT&T Review Franchise Fee Audit:

This audit is further underway and as of now, Director Guthrie explained that there have been some discrepancies found in the Grand Rapids model. Commissioner Kiyak asked where the process was at; Guthrie stated it is nearing the middle of the process. Chair Benenson asked for clarification as to why these audits are happening, Guthrie explained that pursuant to the franchise agreement and the cable act for the refranchising process, the township undergoes the federal process for refranchising as established by Comcast in their letter which includes a technical review, franchise fee audit and communications needs assessment. Guthrie explained, in regards to the AT&T audit that began last year, when AT&T sent a letter stating that they overpaid the franchises (13 communities) by \$5000 and that they took those funds back. However, during this audit process it has been found that they are calculating the fees incorrectly and that Meridian will probably get the \$5000 returned to us and the other communities will see a return as well.

c. Technical review audit: Director Guthrie explained that we are in discussions with Comcast and Mr. Gardner as to when we can perform the technical audit; who can

attend the audit and then what will be tested and reviewed. Hoping that by October 21, 2014 they can come to an agreement as to what the next step will be in the process.

Transfer of Control Update:

Chair Benenson turned over the discussion of the new transfer of control from Comcast to the new subsidiary GreatLands Connection to John Gardner so that he can explain where the transfer is at. Commissioner Kiyak asked about the naming of the transfer, Gardner explained that it will begin as Midwest Cable LCC, and then convert to Midwest Cable Inc. and sometime next year it will become GreatLands Connection. The reason it is considered a transfer of control is due to the fact that the legal entity that operates the system now will remain the legal entity after the transfer. The only difference is who owns the legal entity will be different. As of now, the process is being held in for Federal Regulatory Approval and by the FCC until the end of October.

Gardner explained that with a transaction of this size with this many consumers, it is normal that the Federal Regulatory Committee and the FCC it would put the transfer on hold. Commissioner Crowley asked what the ramifications of this transfer will have on PEG Channels, and Gardner explained that per the letter he has provided the Commissioners, there will be no modifications to current franchise agreements. Director Guthrie read aloud from page two of said letter:

- "A commitment that existing franchise obligations to the local community would not be affected by the pending transaction ("Transaction"). Midwest Cable's Application specifically sought no modifications to existing franchise agreements."

Chair Benenson asked for clarification regarding the equipment and it was stated by Gardner that the equipment provided by Spectrum (Charter's Subsidiary) will be compatible with what current Comcast customers are using. Guthrie pointed Commissioners to page two of the letter provided by Mr. Gardner and read:

- "The overriding objective of *this* transition process is to ensure that current Comcast customers experience a seamless transition"

She then stated that this thought process is pretty standard. She went on to explain that on page four of the same letter it states:

- "Marketing and Sales: Transition from Comcast / Xfinity branding to the Midwest Cable and Charter co-branded "Spectrum" product offering (as described more fully in the CSA discussion below)"

She then directed the Commissioners to the last sentence on page four that continues onto page 5 that reads:

- "The faster Midwest Cable is able to operate without dependency on Comcast, the faster it can implement its own product, pricing, packaging, technology, equipment, and service strategies without reliance on Comcast facilities, assets and platforms."

Commissioners also voiced concern about the ability of Charter and Spectrum to be able to keep up with Comcast as far as the technology is concerned. Mr. Watzka, attorney representing the Township in the refranchising as well as in the transfer of control, explained that Charter now mainly deals with rural areas and Comcast deals with more urban areas and there is concern with Charter being able to keep up with the urban demand. He explained that there are many moving parts of these deals and there are many aspects of these documents and there are more to come. He explained that in addition to the transfer conversation we are having with Comcast right now we all have the right to comment to the FCC and voice any concerns individuals or communities may have with the transfer, such as the equipment compatibility, the ability if the new company to keep up with the technology that is currently in place, etc.

Mr. Watzka further explained that filing a brief to reply would be costly, however, the Commission could draft a letter of support to those who have filed briefs and Director Guthrie suggested that the Commission could recommend staff to draft such a letter. The Township Board has the ultimate decision to either a. approve the transfer, b. approve the transfer with conditions, or c. deny the transfer, however, Mr. Styka, the Township Liaison made it clear that the Township . Commissioner Crowley expressed concerns regarding having Mr. Gardner, an associate of Comcast, in the room while consulting with legal counsel and the ramifications surrounding FOIA and attorney/client privilege as well as rules regarding open meeting. Mr. Watzka explained the process and that writing a letter would be of interest because the FCC at this point is trying to see if this transfer is in the best interest of the public. It is important for the public to weigh in so that the FCC realizes what if any concern the public has.

Commissioner Crowley moved to have staff, Deborah Guthrie, with the help of Chairman Benenson DRAFT A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR REPLY COMMENTS EXPRESSING CONCERN WITH THE TRANSACTION MERGER TO BE REVIEWED BY THE COMMISSION. Seconded by Commissioner Kiyak.

Voice Vote: Motion carried unanimously

Meeting Adjourned at: 6:52 pm due to loss of quorum: Commissioner Kiyak had to excuse himself from the meeting. At this time, the remaining individuals: Commissioner Crowley, Mr. Styka, Director Guthrie and Attorney Watzka decided to continue discussion of the remaining agenda items. No other action items remained.

Discussion Summary:

DAS (Distributed Antenna Systems): Mr. Watzka explained to the commission what these are and how they affect the Township; explained that they are basically poles installed in communities to boost cellular reliability. Other communities have allowed them to be installed without collecting revenue and once they are installed, co-locaters may build upon these already standing poles without informing the community. Important to commission and Meridian Township because they are in the Rights of Way and we can gain revenue from these and it is something that Director Guthrie feels the commission should be aware of.

Licensing and Copyright: Staff have recently had requests for HOMTV footage from outside sources and Mr. Watzka and director Guthrie quickly put together an agreement and would like commission at next meeting to assist in tightening up the language in this agreement and in putting together a fee schedule.

2015 Goals Discussion: Township liaison Ron Styka informed commission and staff that the next budget meeting for the Township board will take place on November 13th at 10:00 am and if the commission wanted to provide feedback or input they would need to draft information before that time.

Reports:

- Cable Compliments/Complaints: No discussion.
- Video Service Provider(s): Comcast Representative John Gardner reported that there are many back-to-school events planned to promote the Internet Essentials program.
- Communications Director's Report: No discussion
- Chair's Report: Chair Walter Benenson did not have anything to add.
- Township Information: Township Liaison Ron Styka reported that the next Township Board meeting will be held on November 13th at 10 am.
- Programming: Tabled until the next meeting.
- Viewership/Promotions: No discussion
- Finance: No discussion

Other Business & Announcements:

Chairman Benenson asked about the possibility of moving the next meeting to a date other than November 5, 2014 so that all commissioners could be present due to the major agenda items that need to be discussed. Per Mike Watzka and Ron Styka this was a possibility as Chairman Benenson could request this change as long as public has at least 18 hours' notice. Secretary will send out email to ask for a change in date.

Future Agenda Items:

Nothing to Report.

Public Remarks:

John Gardner informed commission and staff of charity event being hosted at Izzo residence. Could provide more information about ticket prices and other details after meeting to whoever was interested.

Discussion period adjourned: 7:48 pm

NEXT MEETING:

The next scheduled meeting is **Monday, November 3, 2014 in the Administrative Conference Room.**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

COMMUNICATIONS



September 30, 2014

Deborah Guthrie, Cable Coordinator
Meridian Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Ms. Guthrie:

As part of Comcast's commitment to keep you informed about important developments that affect our customers in your community, I am writing to notify you of some channel changes. Customers are being notified of these changes via bill messages.

Effective October 28, 2014, Univision Deportes (channel 626) will be available with Digital Preferred TV and XFINITY Latino TV services.

Also, effective December 18, 2014, XFINITY 3D HD (channels 333 & 1803) will no longer be available.

Additionally, pursuant to P.A. 480 of 2006, Section 9 (4), Comcast Cable's local operating entity hereby reports that Comcast does not deny access to services to any group of potential residential subscribers because of the race or income of the residents in the local area. A similar report will be filed with the Michigan Public Service Commission.

As always, feel free to contact me directly at 517-334-5686 with any questions you may have

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John P. Gardner".

John P. Gardner
Senior Manager, External Affairs
Comcast, Heartland Region
1401 E. Miller Rd.
Lansing, MI 48911

**BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of:)
)
Application of Comcast Corporation and) MB Docket No. 14-57
Time Warner Cable Inc. for Consent to)
Assign for Transfer of Control)
of Licenses and Applications)
_____)

**REPLY COMMENTS OF THE
MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

On April 8, 2014, Comcast Corp. (“Comcast”) and Time Warner Cable Inc. (“Time Warner Cable”) filed applications seeking Federal Communications Commission (“FCC” or “the Commission”) approval to transfer control of the licenses and authorizations held by Time Warner Cable, and its wholly-owned and controlled subsidiaries, to Comcast. On July 10, 2014, the FCC issued a Public Notice seeking comment on the applications of Comcast, Time Warner Cable, Charter Communications, Inc. (Charter Communications), and SpinCo to assign and transfer control of FCC licenses and other authorizations. The FCC requested comments from interested persons to assist the Commission in its independent review of all proposed transfers of licenses and other authorizations referred to in the Public Notice. Interested persons were instructed to file comments or petitions to deny the applications no later than August 25, 2014. Responses to comments or oppositions to petitions are to be filed no later than September 23, 2014. In

accordance to this schedule, the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) provides its reply comments in this case.

DISCUSSION

In today's environment, the lines between video/cable and telecommunications services are blurred as video/cable providers are now also providing voice services and broadband. The MPSC does not have statutory authority over mergers and acquisitions of video/cable and telecommunications providers, and lacks authority over customer service standards, certain rates, and quality of service in the video/cable area. Therefore, the MPSC believes that it is important to raise the following concerns with the FCC as it deliberates the proposed merger of Comcast and Time Warner Cable.

Customer Service

Michigan currently does not have service quality rules for telecommunications and video/cable services. Deregulation laws passed in Michigan within the last few years have removed some of the MPSC's authority over telecommunications service quality matters, and the Michigan video franchise law does not provide for oversight in this area. Given the regulatory limitations at the state level, the MPSC believes that it is necessary to impress upon the FCC its concerns as it relates to this potential merger.

Last year, there were a total of 2,338,067 video/cable customers in Michigan (excluding satellite customers).¹ According to the 2012 Michigan Status of Video/Cable Competition Report, Comcast and Charter Communications were two of the three top providers in terms of the number of customers in Michigan.² If the FCC were to approve this merger, it could have a significant impact on the video/cable/telecommunication landscape in Michigan, since the vast majority of Comcast's customers will likely end up as Charter Communications customers or as a spinoff company operated by Charter Communications.

Rates

Since video/cable rates are not regulated, the MPSC is concerned of the potential for rate increases for customers as a result of the proposed merger. Our concerns are not just limited to the monthly rate for these video/cable services, but with other rates such as equipment rental, trip charges, additional services, etc. that may also increase. Though initial representations by the companies involved in the merger are that there will not be initial rate increases, the MPSC is concerned about the potential implications 2-3 years after the merger has been finalized and the potential rate impact at that time. An increase in rates would obviously have a negative impact on the low-income and elderly populations, especially those who are also dependent upon these video/cable companies for voice telecommunications and broadband services. This situation could potentially be

¹ Page 13,

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mpsc/status_competition_video_446269_7.pdf

² Page 13,

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mpsc/video_franchise_report_2012_410151_7.pdf

exacerbated by the incumbent carriers' desire to not be the carrier of last resort and exit a market especially in the voice and broadband services. If the FCC were to approve the merger, the MPSC suggests that the FCC consider imposing rate cap language as a condition on the merger's approval to protect customers from unexpected rate increases.

Another related concern is the rebranding costs for equipment and equipment changes. Many customers in Michigan currently have Comcast-branded equipment. If the merger is allowed, the new company may require customers to return equipment for new branded equipment which may not necessarily be an upgrade, this could result in an unexpected expense to the customer as well as an unnecessary disruption to the customer's service. The low-income and elderly populations would again be burdened with such actions. These issues should be considered by the FCC.

Quality of Service

Of the video/cable complaints that were filed with the MPSC in 2013, seventy (70) percent of those complaints involved Comcast and Charter Communications, 57% and 13% respectively.³ At a minimum, customers expect the same quality of service, including service offerings and customer service after the merger. Similarly, customers expect that the type of service offerings already being provided will be maintained and/or improved. The MPSC requests that the FCC ensure that the quality of service for customers will not be degraded if the merger is approved.

³ Page 7, http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mpsc/status_competition_video_446269_7.pdf

Franchise Agreements

Overall in Michigan, there are approximately 1,969 franchise agreements between municipalities and providers for video/cable service.⁴ Time Warner Cable, Comcast, and Charter Communications possess a substantial number of these franchise agreements. If the merger is approved, the MPSC requests that the FCC impose conditions and direct the providers to adhere to their existing franchise agreement requirements in the affected states and require the providers to work with their respective municipalities and customers during the merger transition. Many communities in Michigan could be impacted by this merger, and it is important that the communities involved are educated and updated by the providers on the changes.

Competition

Comcast has a large customer base in Michigan. If the merger is approved, and if Comcast's customers are transitioned to Charter Communications or another entity under Charter Communications' control,⁵ it could potentially create a company with a very large footprint in Michigan which could have an adverse effect on competition, in particular with satellite and Internet Protocol (IP) video providers. This new provider could potentially undercut competition by offering services and rates at a level that competitors will not be able to match, and may cause those competitors to lose customers. The MPSC requests that the FCC

⁴ Page 15,
http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mpsc/status_competition_video_446269_7.pdf

⁵ Midwest Cable Phone of Michigan LLC license application with the MPSC,
<http://efile.mpvc.state.mi.us/efile/viewcase.php?casenum=17654>

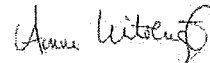
consider imposing conditions on the merger to ensure that there are no adverse effects on video/cable competition as a result of this merger.

CONCLUSION

The MPSC appreciates the opportunity to express its concerns regarding the proposed merger between Comcast and Time Warner Cable. As the FCC is aware, it is important to not only look at the current proposed merger, but also be cognizant of the potential impacts that the merger may have on service, communities, and customers immediately after and in the years to come. Similarly to Michigan, many states have had certain aspects of their regulatory authority reduced or eliminated in both the video/cable and telecommunications areas. Accordingly, it is important that the FCC consider the impact of the proposed merger between Comcast and Time Warner Cable on customers across the board who reside in states that do have statutory authority as well as in those states that do not have statutory authority when deciding any approvals or conditions for this proposed merger.

Respectfully submitted,

**MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION**



Anne M. Uitvlugt (P71641)
Assistant Attorney General
Public Service Division
6520 Mercantile Way, Ste. 1
Lansing, MI 48911
(517) 241-6680

DATED: September 23, 2014

FCC/14-7/Reply Comments

Deborah Guthrie

From: Watza, Michael J. <mike.watza@kitch.com>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2014 12:14 PM
To: Deborah Guthrie
Subject: ✱ Your boss made a very public statement at MML, extolling my virtues as his cable/telecom Attorney

Then he sped out of the room before I could thank him. To say I don't get that a lot is an understatement of some magnitude. I am most appreciative of the expression and the location as well.
Please thank him for me in person.



Michael J. Watza
Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti & Sherbrook
1 Woodward 24th Floor
Detroit, MI 48226
General Counsel PROTEC
Adjunct Professor of Law @ MSU College of Law
Michigan Gaming Control Board Member
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October 24, 2014

Deborah Guthrie, Cable Coordinator
Meridian Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Ms. Guthrie:

As part of Comcast's commitment to keep you informed about important developments that affect our customers in your community, I am writing to notify you of a channel change. Customers are being notified of this change via bill message.

Effective December 15, 2014, WGN America/WGN America HD (channels 95/187/1216) will no longer be available on the Limited Basic service. WGN Cable Network/WGN America HD (channels 95/187/1216) will be available to customers with our Digital Starter or higher levels of XFINITY TV service.

As always, feel free to contact me directly at 517-334-5686 with any questions you may have

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John P. Gardner".

John P. Gardner
Senior Manager, External Affairs
Comcast, Heartland Region
1401 E. Miller Rd.
Lansing, MI 48911

In Memoriam

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Chief Executive Officer

Deborah M. Orloff,
RN, BSN, MPH



November 12, 2014

Andrea Mantakounis
HOM TV / CAM TV
5151 Marsh
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Andrea,

ON BEHALF OF THE MICHIGAN Parkinson Foundation (MPF), we thank you for supporting the 5th Annual **"I Gave My Sole for Parkinson's"** Walkathon & 5K Run as a Media Sponsor. We are so grateful for your continued support. This event, held on October 11, 2014 at Okemos High School, attracted more than 500 participants, raising over \$46,000 and donations are still coming in! Our Walk-a-thons and 5K Runs continue to grow and generate a powerful sense of camaraderie for participants. We had a beautiful day filled with sunshine and surrounded by wonderful fall colors.

The funds raised will help to insure MPF's ability to conduct programs developed to address the critical needs of people who have Parkinson's, their families and health professionals who treat them, within the State of Michigan. There are now 60 affiliated support groups in Michigan. We conduct educational programs, provide information and referral to neurologists and local resources, and have medication and day care financial assistance programs. We serve as a place to go for those needing help with Parkinson's. Our motto is: EVERY PERSON WITH PD WILL HAVE COMPASSIONATE, COMPETENT CARE AND SUPPORT.

As you know, Parkinson's disease is a chronic, degenerative neurological movement disorder which gradually robs people of their independence. Treatment is complicated, requiring a delicate balancing of medication and other therapies. Progression of the disease is slow and takes its toll on the person with PD and the entire family. Although there is no cure, help and support is available through the programs provided by Michigan Parkinson Foundation.

It is through your support of the "I Gave My Sole for Parkinson's Walk-a-Thon and 5K Run" as well as individual fundraising efforts that MPF can continue to provide these valuable programs and services. These times are particularly challenging and individual and company support, such as what you have offered, is invaluable.

Please visit our website at www.parkinsonsmi.org to view photos and more information about this event, as well as other information concerning Parkinson's disease.

Again, thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you in 2015, if not before!

Most sincerely,

Edwin B. George, MD, PhD
Chairman, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah M. Orloff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Deborah M. Orloff
Chief Executive Officer

Founded 1983

Dedicated to People Living with Parkinson's

30400 Telegraph Road • Suite 150 • Bingham Farms, MI 48025
www.parkinsonsmi.org • 248-433-1011 • Fax: 248-433-1150 • 800-852-9781



November 20, 2014

Deborah Guthrie, Cable Coordinator
Meridian Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

RE: Important Information—Price Changes

Dear Ms. Guthrie:

We are committed to constantly improving our customers' entertainment and communications experience in Meridian, and we continue to invest in making their services even better. As we make these and other investments, we periodically need to adjust prices due to increases we incur in programming and other business costs. Starting January 1, 2015, new prices will apply to select XFINITY TV services and equipment as reflected in the enclosed schedule.

Among these price changes, we have itemized a Regional Sports fee for customers receiving Digital Starter service tiers and above to offset the rising costs of delivering regional sports networks.

We are committed to providing our customers with a consistently superior experience, including 24/7 customer service and on-time arrival—or we'll credit the customer \$20 or provide a free premium channel for three months. We back up our services with the Comcast Customer Guarantee (visit www.comcast.com/guarantee for details).

We know you may have questions about these changes. If I can be of any further assistance, please contact me at 517-334-5686.

Sincerely,

John P. Gardner
Senior Manager, External Affairs
Comcast, Heartland Region
1401 E. Miller Rd.
Lansing, MI 48911

Enclosure

Schedule of video-related price changes; effective January 1, 2015

<u>VIDEO & OTHER FEES (Monthly unless noted otherwise)</u>	<u>CURRENT PRICE</u>	<u>NEW PRICE</u>
Broadcast TV Fee	\$1.50	\$3.25
Regional Sports Network Fee	-	\$1.00
Service Protection Plan	\$3.95	\$4.95
Limited Basic Only Converter	\$0.99	\$1.00
Digital Adapter Additional Outlet Service	\$1.99	\$2.99
HD DVR Service	\$8.00	\$10.00
Hourly Service Charge	\$60.00	\$70.00
In-Home Service Visit (Xfinity TV)	\$60.00	\$70.00
Change of Service (No in-home visit required)	\$2.99	-

Certain services available separately or as a part of other levels of service. Comcast service is subject to Comcast's standard terms and conditions of service. Unless otherwise specified, prices shown are the monthly charge for the corresponding service, equipment or package. Prices shown do not include applicable taxes, franchise fees, FCC fees, Regulatory Recovery Fee, Public Access fees, other state or local fees or other applicable charges (e.g., per-call toll or international charges). Prices, services and features are subject to change. If you are a video service customer and you own a compatible digital converter or CableCARD device, please call 1-800-XFINITY for pricing information or visit www.comcast.com/equipmentpolicy. ©2015 Comcast. All rights reserved.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

**OLD
BUSINESS**



ASHPAUGH & SCULCO, CPAs, PLC
 Certified Public Accountants and Consultants

INVOICE NO. 14110
 October 15, 2014
 AS1096-03

Deborah Guthrie
 Communications Director
 Charter Township of Meridian
 5151 Marsh Rd
 Okemos MI 48864-1198
 For Professional Services

Project: Financial Review of the transfer of the cable television franchise from Comcast to Time Warner and associated transactions with Charter and SpinCo

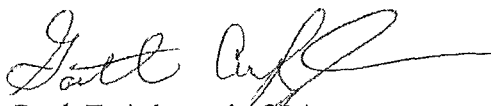
Fee

This is a fixed fee contract regarding the financial analyses of the transfers of the cable television franchises associated with the proposed acquisition of Time Warner by Comcast and proposed swaps and transfers with Charter and SpinCo (the "Transactions") for number of local government authorities. The review of the Transactions is a joint project of local franchise authorities in many states made up of cities, townships and commissions (the "Participants").

Participant:

Charter Township of Meridian	\$5,800.00
One-half of the fee is due at the start of the project. The remaining will be billed at the conclusion of the project.	\$2,900.00
Amount due with this invoice	\$2,900.00

If you have any questions regarding this invoice, please call me at (407) 645-2020 x1.

Very truly yours,
ASHPAUGH & SCULCO, CPAs, PLC

 Garth T. Ashpaugh, CPA
 President & Member

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff Supervisor
Brett Dreyfus Clerk
Julie Brixie Treasurer
Frank L. Walsh Manager



Milton L. Scales Trustee
Ronald J. Styka Trustee
John Veenstra Trustee
Angela Wilson Trustee

October 20, 2014

John P. Gardner, Senior Manager
Government Affairs
Comcast Heartland Region
1401 East Miller Road
Lansing, MI 48911

Dear Mr. Gardner:

We received your letter regarding the Tech Audit of the Comcast system in Meridian Township on October 3, 2014. After you sent your letter, we spoke on a few separate occasions and we have not come to an agreement on the inspection of the system.

Just to be clear, we are undertaking the inspection because Comcast activated the formal renewal processes of the Cable Act. Under those processes, we must review past performance and future needs, and the inspection is part of that effort. If you are refusing the inspection because you are abandoning any federal renewal rights you may have, please let us know, and we can consider whether the inspection is necessary. But if you are not, then you are interfering with the renewal process, and intentionally so. That action is not justified by your current franchise. That franchise, in Sections 9(e) and 11, give us clear rights to inspect the system.

You may be asserting that the franchise has been modified by Michigan's Uniform Act. But Comcast has already argued the point before two judges in the federal district court and lost both times (including in a case involving us). We understand you are appealing one of those cases, but your refusal to cooperate after activating the formal renewal process simply underlines why the uniform act can't be squared with the federal cable law. As far as we are concerned, this places you out of compliance with your obligations under local law, and is inconsistent with federal law. It is especially serious given your statements to the FCC in connection with the merger proceeding. This is your notice – unless you are abandoning any renewal rights you may have - that we consider this a substantial failure to comply with your franchise and with applicable law. Please let us know within five business days how you wish to proceed.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at 517-853-4380 should you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,


Deborah Guthrie
Communications Director
Meridian Charter Township

CC: Michael J. Watza, Esq. Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti & Sherbrook
Joseph Van Eaton, Esq. Best Best & Kreiger, L.L.P.

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 (517) 853-4000

www.meridian.mi.us



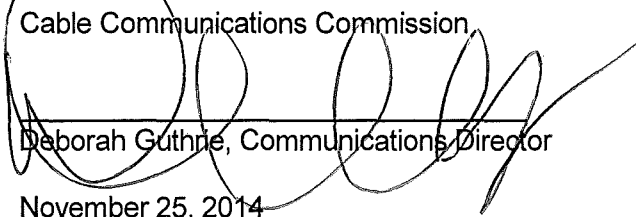
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

**NEW
BUSINESS**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cable Communications Commission

FROM: 
Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director

DATE: November 25, 2014

RE: Term Expiration and Application for Public Service

The following terms are due to expire in 2014 for current Cable Commission members:

Brian Seipel – Term Expires – 12-31-2014
Tunga Kiyak – Term Expires – 12-31-2014

Per the Cable Communication Commission (CCC) Rules and Procedures:

3.1 Terms of Service. Terms of service for Commission members shall be three (3) years or until a successor is appointed.

3.2 Vacancies. A successor shall be recommended to the Township Board for appointment not more than thirty (30) days after the term of the previous member has expired.

Staff recommends the Commission discuss seeking alternate member(s) to serve on the Cable Commission. An alternate could serve the purpose of substituting for a Cable Commissioner when he/she cannot attend a meeting, thus reducing the amount of meetings canceled due to lack of quorum. In 2014, two meetings were canceled due to lack of quorum.

According to the Cable Communications Commission Rules and Procedures, an alternate could serve the following functions:

2.2 Alternate Members.

A. An alternate member shall be called to serve in place of a regular member by the chairperson or vice chairperson if:

- 1) a regular member is absent from or will be unable to attend two or more consecutive meetings of the Commission; or,
- 2) a regular member is absent from or will be unable to attend meetings for a period of more than thirty (30) consecutive days; or,
- 3) a regular member will be abstaining from participating in consideration of a case in which the regular member has a conflict of interest.

B. When called to serve, an alternate member has the same voting rights as a regular member.

C. Alternate members may be called in any order.

The Cable Communications Commission moves to recommend the reappointment of Commissioners Kiyak and Seipel to the CCC.

Attachment

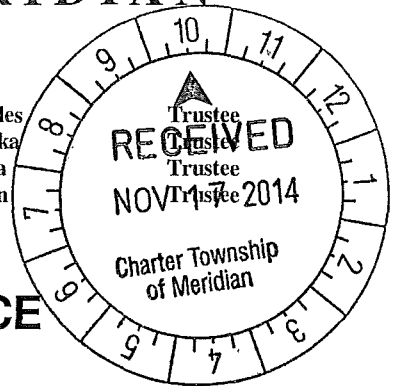
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff
Brett Dreyfus
Julie Brixle
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor
Clerk
Treasurer
Manager



Milton L. Scales
Ronald J. Styka
John Veenstra
Angela Wilson



APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

I am interested in service on one or more of the following public bodies as checked below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assessing Board of Review* | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building and/or Fire Board of Appeals and Building Hearing Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Preservation Advisory Board |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cable Communications Commission* | <input type="checkbox"/> Park Commission (elected/appointed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Area Transportation Authority (C.A.T.A.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pension Trustees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Resources Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Downtown Development Authority* | <input type="checkbox"/> Township Board (elected/appointed) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Lansing-Meridian Water & Sewer Authority | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Board of Appeals |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development Corporation | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Lansing Watershed Advisory Committee* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elected Officials Compensation Commission* | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

(*Special conditions restrict eligibility for appointment)

Indicate areas not included above which may warrant special attention or study that are of interest to you:

Township Internet presence and e-government initiatives

Summarize your reasons for applying for this type of public service:

I have been a Meridian Township resident for nearly 15 years and would like to continue serving the community. My interests in technology and business provide a good fit with the charter of the Cable Communications Commission.

Describe education, experience or training which will assist you if appointed. (Attach resume if available)

Currently serving first term on the Cable Communications Commission. Professor at Michigan State University, with an MBA in Marketing and Finance, and a PhD in International Business. Managing Director for a nonprofit professional association.

Name: Tunga Kiyak

Occupation: Adjunct Professor/Academic Specialist Place of Employment: Michigan State University

Home Address: 2185 Burcham Dr, East Lansing, MI 48823

Phone: (days) 517-303-3725 (evenings) 517-347-8744 E-mail kiyaktun@broad.msu.edu

Signature Digitally signed by Tunga Kiyak Date: 2014.11.12 17:18:01 -05'00' Date November 12, 2014

Other than the Downtown Development Authority Board, persons appointed to Meridian Township boards and commissions must be a resident and elector (if of voting age) of the Township during the term of office. Excessive absences may be cause for review of appointment.

(PLEASE USE BACK IF NEEDED)

The policy for appointment of candidates to the various public service positions is based on the following criteria: desire to serve, experience, expertise, availability of time to serve, and maintenance of equitable geographic representation. In most instances it will be desirable to develop further information through a personal interview. This application will be retained in township files for two years. Please return this form to the Office of the Clerk, Charter Township of Meridian.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
Date Received	<u>11.17.14</u>	Distro: <u>EL DG</u>	Application # <u>CCC1401</u>
Registered Voter:	<u>(Y)/N</u>	<u>FW</u>	
Date Appointed:		<u>RD MEMBERS</u>	

Revised: May 29, 2013

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 (517) 853-4000

www.meridian.mi.us



Deborah Guthrie

From: Brian Seipel <brian@farmersseipelandassociates.onmicrosoft.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 19, 2014 9:20 AM
To: Deborah Guthrie
Subject: Re: Your term as cable commissioner

Debra,

Yes, please count me in and thank you for your consideration!
I am pleased to have the opportunity to serve. I will complete the application.

Brian Seipel

From: Deborah Guthrie <Guthrie@meridian.mi.us>
Sent: Wednesday, November 12, 2014 4:30 PM
To: Tunga Kiyak; Brian Seipel
Cc: Penney Stephen
Subject: Your term as cable commissioner

Tunga and Brian,

Your term expires on 12/31/2014. We would love to have you apply to serve an additional term. If you wish to do so, please fill out the [Public Service Form application](#) and email to Penney and myself. We will need to have cable commission reappointments at the next meeting and submit this to the Township Board. Thank you and let me know if you have any questions.

These are two year terms. Brian, you filled someone else's vacant term that had one year left which is why it expires at the end of 2014.

Deborah Guthrie
Communications Director, Meridian Township
Executive Producer, HOMTV and CAMTV
www.linkedin.com/in/deborahguthrie
Guthrie@meridian.mi.us
O: 517.853.4680
www.meridian.mi.us

www.facebook.com/MeridianTownship
www.twitter.com/Meridiantwp
<http://pinterest.com/meridiantwp/>
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/meridiantownship/>

www.homtv.net
www.facebook.com/HOMTV
www.twitter.com/HOMTV
www.pinterest.com/HOMTV
www.instagram.com/HOMTV

www.facebook.com/CAMtvCapitalAreaMedia

MEMORANDUM

To: Cable Communications Commission

From: 
Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director

Date: November 26, 2014

Re: Web Advertising

In 2010, the Cable Communications Commission held a discussion surrounding advertising revenue through websites. At the time, Commissioner Crowley stated he did not foresee any legal issues with advertising on the website, and the Commission agreed to have Director Guthrie continue to research the subject. The subject has been tabled up until this point.

At the last Cable Commission meeting, it was requested that the old minutes be pulled to review what was originally discussed as an additional source of revenue for the operations of HOMTV. Those minutes are attached for your discussion.

Attached

AGENDA

CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

August 4, 2010 – Meeting Agenda

Meridian Township Municipal Center –

Administrative Conference Room

5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI

Call Meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes – April 7, 2010

Public Remarks

Communications

Old Business

New Business / Discussion Items

- CAMTV

Reports

Cable Complaints/Compliments: Dawn Pier/Deborah Guthrie

Comcast: Dawn Pier

Township Information: Brett Dreyfus

Chair's Report: Chair, Walter Benenson

Cable Coordinator Report: Deborah Guthrie

Viewership/Promotions: Deborah Guthrie

Programming: Deborah Guthrie

Other Business & Announcements

Future Agenda Items

Public Remarks

Adjournment

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Meridian Township by writing or calling the following:
Gerald Richards, Township Manager, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198 (517-349-1200, Ext. 308). Ten days notice
required.

Cable Communications Commission Regular Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Administrative Conference Room
Meridian Municipal Building, Okemos, MI
August 4, 2010

Present: Commissioners: Walter Benenson, Donna Ullrich, Nancy Freeman
and Mike Lewis
Staff: Deborah Guthrie/ Kristi Schaeding
Township: Brett Dreyfus
Comcast: Dawn Pier
Haslett Schools: None
Okemos Schools: None

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Benenson called the meeting to order at **6:03 pm**

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Lewis moved TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED.
Seconded by Commissioner Ullrich.

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Ullrich moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF April 7, 2010 AS SUBMITTED.
Seconded by Commissioner Freeman.

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Remarks:

No public present.

Communications:

Commissioner Lewis asked Cable Coordinator Deborah Guthrie to give an overview on the background and relationship of Ben Stark (who represents the CMC workgroup) as related to HOMTV and CAMTV.

Cable Coordinator Guthrie reported that she met with the East Lansing Cable Internet & Technology Commission and they are in support of the regional channel and the commission made a recommendation to the East Lansing City Council to support CAMTV.

The City of East Lansing is in a contractual 10 year agreement with a third party to produce council meetings and create and update their bulletin board system. Guthrie and the City of East Lansing are discussing the possibility of having HOMTV providing video production services at a later date.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

CAMTV - Cable Coordinator Guthrie supplied CAMTV press kits to the commissioners and talked about the success of the CAMTV Launch Party on June 22. Guthrie requested the Commission recommend the Township Board approving the CAMTV Operating Policies and Procedures.

Chair Benenson moved TO SEND CAMTV POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD FOR APPROVAL, AS WRITTEN.
Seconded by Commissioner Lewis.

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

- Cable Compliments/Complaints: Nothing to report.
- Comcast: Dawn Pier explained that the digital network enhancement project is finished in the area with over 100 HD channels included.
- Township Information: Nothing to report.
- Chair's Report: Chair Benenson said that he and his wife attended the CAMTV Launch Party and they were impressed with the event.
- Cable Coordinator Report: Cable Coordinator Guthrie explained she was looking to hire someone on a commission basis only to find sponsors for municipal contracts, sponsorships and additional grant opportunities for CAMTV.
- Viewership/Promotions: Cable Coordinator Guthrie reported that three promotion interns are each producing one promo per week on various subjects or issues in the Township.
- Programming: Cable Coordinator Guthrie led the discussion on an unidentified 3rd party who has an interest in placing an ad on the HOMTV website for monetary gain. The conversation moved to the differences between program sponsorships versus underwriting the website and the benefits of each. Guthrie said she will contact NATOA and the ACM and ask for their opinions and feedback on the issue.

Other Business & Announcements:

Cable Coordinator Guthrie reported that she had a conference call with the National Alliance for Community Media (ACM) regarding the CAP Act and they are looking to make a push to have the legislation supported in Michigan.

Future Agenda Items:

Cable Coordinator Guthrie asked that the next Cable Commission Work Group Session in August focus on the CAP Act. Commission supported.

Public Remarks:

None

Adjournment:

Commissioner Lewis moved TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
Seconded by Commissioner Freeman.

Hearing no objections, Chair Benenson ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 7:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, December 1, 2010 in the Administrative Conference Room.

AGENDA

CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

December 1, 2010 – Meeting Agenda

Meridian Township Municipal Building –
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI

Administrative Conference Room

Call Meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes – August 4, 2010

Public Remarks

Communications

Old Business

- Web Advertising

New Business / Discussion Items

- 2011 Cable Commission Meeting Schedule
- Walter Benenson Reappointment Memo
- CAMTV Contributions

Reports

Cable Complaints/Compliments:	Dawn Pier/Deborah Guthrie
Comcast:	Dawn Pier
Township Information:	Brett Dreyfus
Chair's Report:	Chair, Walter Benenson
Cable Coordinator Report:	Deborah Guthrie
Viewership/Promotions:	Deborah Guthrie
Programming:	Deborah Guthrie

Other Business & Announcements

Future Agenda Items

- 5 year Plan
- Cable Re-Engineering Project

Public Remarks

Adjournment

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Meridian Township by writing or calling the following:
Gerald Richards, Township Manager, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198 (517-349-1200, Ext. 308). Ten days notice
required.

Cable Communications Commission Regular Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Administrative Conference Room
Meridian Municipal Building, Okemos, MI
December 1, 2010

Present: Commissioners: Walter Benenson, Nancy Freeman, Patrick Crowley
and Mike Lewis
Staff: Deborah Guthrie/ Kristi Schaeding
Township: None
Comcast: John Gardener
Haslett Schools: None
Okemos Schools: None

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Benenson called the meeting to order at **6:06 pm**

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Lewis moved TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED.
Seconded by Commissioner Freeman.

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Crowley moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF August 4, 2010 AS
SUBMITTED.
Seconded by Commissioner Freeman.

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Remarks:

No public present.

Communications:

None.

Old Business:

- Web Advertising – The Commission revisited the discussion on whether or not placing an ad on the HOMTV website for monetary gain is legal. Cable Coordinator Deborah Guthrie contacted and reported the opinions and feedback of NATOA and ACM members on the issue. Commissioner Crowley explained that he could not foresee any legal problem and felt that advertising is advertising and we should continue to pursue it. The Commission strongly agreed to move forward with this issue.

Chair Benenson moved TO HAVE CABLE COORDINATOR DEBORAH GUTHRIE CONTINUE RESEARCHING THE PARAMETERS, GUIDELINES AND ANY TOWNSHIP ORDINANCES FOR ADVERTISING ON THE HOMTV WEBSITE.
Seconded by Commissioner Freeman.

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

- 2011 Cable Commission Meeting Schedule: The Commission discussed the tentative schedule and Chair Benenson moved TO APPROVE THE 2011 MEETING SCHEDULE AS IS.
Seconded by Commissioner Lewis.

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

- Walter Benenson Reappointment Memo: The Commission discussed the reappointment of Chair Benenson and Commissioner Crowley moved TO RECOMMEND WALTER BENENSON BE REAPPOINTED TO THE COMMISSION BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD.
Seconded by Commissioner Freeman.

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

- CAMTV Contributions: Cable Coordinator Guthrie recommended the Commission approve the revised CAMTV Contribution Opportunities document and memo that would make it more accessible for people to contribute to CAMTV.

Chair Benenson moved TO SUPPORT THE CAMTV CONTRIBUTIONS MEMO AS IS.
Seconded by Commissioner Crowley.

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

- Cable Compliments/Complaints: Nothing to report.
- Comcast: John Gardener announced and described a new service for Comcast customers called xfinity.com and encouraged the commission to check it out.
- Township Information: Brett Dreyfus not present.
- Chair's Report: Nothing to report.
- Cable Coordinator Report: Nothing to report.

- Viewership/Promotions: Cable Coordinator Guthrie reported that she and Communications Specialist Brandie Hansen attended the MSU School of Journalism Centennial Celebration. Two alumni members in the Detroit News market represented HOMTV and encouraged students to gain experience at HOMTV. Local News media as well as MSU faculty also encouraged students to gain hands on experience at HOMTV.

Cable Coordinator Guthrie and Senior Production Manager/Internship Coordinator Brian Dumont conducted 44 interviews with prospective interns from November 15-17. Twenty-one candidates were offered an internship for the upcoming semester starting on January 10, 2011.

- Programming: Nothing to report.

Other Business & Announcements:

- Cable Coordinator Guthrie announced that current HOMTV Special Assignment intern Jazmin Bailey was hired as News Assistant at WILX Channel 10.

Future Agenda Items:

- Five Year Plan and Cable Re-Engineering Project - Cable Coordinator Guthrie proposed adding the agenda items under "New Business" at the next Commission meeting to discuss future plans to streamline the equipment and flow in the control room.

Public Remarks:

No public present

Adjournment:

Commissioner Lewis moved TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
Seconded by Commissioner Freeman.

Hearing no objections, Chair Benenson ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 7:05 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, January 5, 2011 in the Administrative Conference Room.

AGENDA

CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

January 5, 2011 – Meeting Agenda

Meridian Township Municipal Building –

5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI

Administrative Conference Room

Call Meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes – December 1, 2010

Public Remarks

Communications

Old Business

- Web Advertising

New Business / Discussion Items

- Patrick Crowley Reappointment Memo
- 5 year Plan
- Cable Re-Engineering Project

Reports

Cable Complaints/Compliments: Dawn Pier/Deborah Guthrie

Comcast: Dawn Pier

Township Information: Brett Dreyfus

Chair's Report: Chair, Walter Benenson

Cable Coordinator Report: Deborah Guthrie

Viewership/Promotions: Deborah Guthrie

Programming: Deborah Guthrie

Other Business & Announcements

Future Agenda Items

- Internship Introduction Packet

Public Remarks

Adjournment

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Meridian Township by writing or calling the following: Gerald Richards, Township Manager, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198 (517-349-1200, Ext. 308). Ten days notice required.

Cable Communications Commission Regular Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Administrative Conference Room
Meridian Municipal Building, Okemos, MI
January 5, 2011

Present: Commissioners: Walter Benenson, Nancy Freeman, Patrick Crowley,
Donna Ullrich and Mike Lewis
Staff: Deborah Guthrie, Kristi Schaeding and Lynn Meikle
Township: Brett Dreyfus
Comcast: John Gardner and Kyle Mazurek
Haslett Schools: None
Okemos Schools: None

Call Meeting to Order: Chair Benenson called the meeting to order at **6:07 pm**

Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Crowley moved TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED.
Seconded by Commissioner Ullrich.

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Lewis moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF December 1, 2010 AS
SUBMITTED.
Seconded by Commissioner Crowley.

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Remarks:

No public remarks.

Communications:

MSU Grant Application - Cable Coordinator Deborah Guthrie explained that a MSU Journalism professor contacted HOMTV regarding a letter of support for a "New Media and Journalism Bootcamp" grant they are applying for. The University will host International students and has asked for HOMTV to provide placement of 1-3 students in a job shadow capacity. Cable Coordinator Guthrie asked the commission to support the grant because it is considered outside the normal scope of the internship program.

Commissioner Lewis moved TO RECOMMEND SUPPORTING THE MSU GRANT
THROUGH A LETTER OF SUPPORT.

Seconded by Commissioner Ullrich. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Web Advertising – Cable Coordinator Guthrie requested this discussion be tabled until the April 6, 2011 meeting. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

- Patrick Crowley Reappointment Memo - The Commission discussed the reappointment of Chair Benenson and Commissioner Crowley moved TO RECOMMEND WALTER BENENSON BE REAPPOINTED TO THE COMMISSION BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD.
Seconded by Commissioner Freeman.

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5 Year Plan – Cable Coordinator Guthrie requested this discussion be tabled until the April 6, 2011 meeting. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.
- Cable Re-Engineering Project – Cable Coordinator Guthrie led the discussion by introducing Engineers Richard Tibbals and Brian Kusch from Convergent Media Designs, LLC. They described their services they have provided to the Cable division toward the upgrading of the current television production systems. The streamlining and integration of the new system was explained and broken down into four phases:
 1. Consulting
 2. System Design
 3. Bid Preparation, Analysis and Award
 4. Integration

Cable Coordinator Guthrie explained to the commissioners that one of the goals of the cable division is to stay current with trends and technologies and to continue excellence in programming and training of interns and staff. To fund the endeavor, the cable division proposes to apply for a loan from the Township General Fund, which would be paid back with interest to the Township. The terms of the loan would be finalized through the township's Finance Director and approved by the Township Board.

Commissioner Lewis moved THE CABLE DIVISION PROCEED WITH REENGINEERING THE HOMTV CONTROL ROOM IN 2011. AND TO FINALIZE LOAN OPTIONS WITH THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE.

Seconded by Commissioner Ullrich.

Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

- Cable Compliments/Complaints: Nothing to report.
- Comcast: John Gardner described the process of the program channel lineup and interactive guide.
- Township Information: Nothing to report.
- Chair's Report: Nothing to report.
- Cable Coordinator Report: Nothing to report.
- Viewership/Promotions: Cable Coordinator Guthrie reported that she and Communications Specialist Brandie Hansen are developing a communications action plan for the township.
- Programming: Cable Coordinator Guthrie reported staff will be working with returning interns on re-developing retired HOMTV programs and bringing them back with a new look. Returning programs include All Access, Community Connection, HOM Entertainment and Healthy Lifestyles.

Other Business & Announcements:

Nothing to report.

Future Agenda Items:

Internship Introduction Packet – Cable Coordinator Guthrie requested this discussion be moved to New Business on the agenda at the April 6, 2011 meeting. Voice vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Remarks:

No public present

Adjournment:

Commissioner Lewis moved TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
Seconded by Commissioner Crowley.

Hearing no objections, Chair Benenson ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 7:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 6, 2011 in the Administrative Conference Room.

MEMORANDUM

To: Cable Communication Commission

From:  Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director

Date: November 26, 2014

Re: Telecommunication Companies in Meridian Township

Several companies have requested permits to provide fiber optic systems in Meridian Township. These companies include: ACD.net, Lightspeed, Spectrum, Zayo, and Spartan Net. Spartan Net has received both an application and a metro permit from Meridian Township, but staff have not received it back.

Both Zayo and Spectrum received letters regarding providing telecommunication services in Meridian Township and conversations have gone back and forth on the subject. Those letters are attached.

ACD.net has requested a Metro agreement to build Digital Antenna Systems (DAS) in the public rights of way. Discussions have gone back and forth regarding the matter. ACD has been permitted to work in the rights of way but are prohibited from building DAS poles as these are not included in the Metro agreements.

Staff recommends that the Cable Commission appoint a Commissioner to work with the Planning Commission on a 5 year master plan addressing DAS and fiber optic placement in the Right of Way in Meridian Township.

Attached

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff Supervisor
Brett Dreyfus Clerk
Julie Brixie Treasurer
Frank L. Walsh Manager



Milton L. Scales Trustee
Ronald J. Styka Trustee
John Veenstra Trustee
Angela Wilson Trustee

October 20, 2014

Tim Lebel
Spectrum Broadband, LLC
4942 Dawn Ave
East Lansing, MI 48823

Dear Mr. Lebel:

It has come to the attention of Meridian Township officials that Spectrum Broadband, LLC is providing video services (Cable) as defined by 2006 PA 480 and the Federal Cable Act to Meridian Township residents in Meridian Township.

Please be advised that providing such services without a franchise agreement is a violation of both State and Federal law and you are instructed to cease and desist doing so or, in the alternative, execute a franchise agreement with the Township, provide a full accounting of all services and revenues so provided and render past payments due thereunder forthwith. Attached is a copy of the current Comcast franchise agreement with the Township for your consideration.

Please contact the undersigned immediately upon receipt of this letter to discuss Spectrum's plans for compliance.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at 517-853-4380 should you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Guthrie", is written over a circular stamp that contains the word "Sincerely,".

Deborah Guthrie
Communications Director
Meridian Charter Township

CC: Frank Walsh, Meridian Township Manager
 Michael J. Watza, Esq. Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti & Sherbrook
 Andria Ditschman, The Hubbard Law Firm, P.C.



Penney Stephen

From: Brandie Yates
Sent: Friday, October 24, 2014 12:01 PM
To: Penney Stephen
Subject: Fw: Letter in the Mail - Important!

From: Brandie Yates
Sent: Thursday, October 23, 2014 2:56 PM
To: Jason Schreiber
Cc: Tim Lebel; Deborah Guthrie
Subject: RE: Letter in the Mail - Important!

Jason,

Thank you for sending this to me, I have forwarded your response to the appropriate people in Communications Director Deborah Guthrie's absence.

She will be back in the office late next week.

Thank you,

Brandie Yates
Internship Coordinator, HOMTV
Communications Specialist, Meridian Township
517-853-4208
yates@meridian.mi.us

www.meridian.mi.us
www.facebook.com/MeridianTownship
www.twitter.com/MeridianTwp
www.pinterest.com/MeridianTwp

www.HOMTV.net
www.facebook.com/HOMTV
www.twitter.com/HOMTV
www.pinterest.com/HOMTV
www.instagram.com/HOMTV

www.facebook.com/CAMtvCapitalAreaMedia
www.twitter.com/CAMtv30and99

From: Jason Schreiber [<mailto:jason@golightspeed.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, October 22, 2014 10:00 PM
To: Brandie Yates

Cc: Tim Lebel
Subject: FW: Letter in the Mail - Important!
Importance: High

Ms. Guthrie requested that I respond immediately to the attached letter upon receipt. She appears to be out of the office, so I am forwarding to you instead as instructed.

Thank you,

Jason Schreiber

From: Jason Schreiber <jason@golightspeed.com>
Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 9:38 PM
To: "guthrie@meridian.mi.us" <guthrie@meridian.mi.us>
Cc: Tim Lebel <tim@milightspeed.com>
Subject: FW: Letter in the Mail - Important!

Deborah,

The claims in your letter are baseless. I have responded to each of your inquiries in the past although your notices have persisted without basis. Please provide the specific factual information that leads you to believe my company is violating PA 480 and/or "The Federal Cable Act" and I will respond. Until then, please rest assured I will cease and desist all further rollout of our 1 Gig fiber to the home service in Meridian Township.

Regards,

Jason Schreiber

LightSpeed

Jason Schreiber
Founder & CEO
jason@golightspeed.com

Voice/Text: 517-455-6755

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff Supervisor
Brett Dreyfus Clerk
Julie Brixie Treasurer
Frank L. Walsh Manager



Milton L. Scales Trustee
Ronald J. Styka Trustee
John Veenstra Trustee
Angela Wilson Trustee

October 20, 2014

Mitchell Merryman
Zayo Group
1805 29th Street
Boulder, CO 80301

Dear Mr. Merryman:

It has come to the attention of Meridian Township officials that Zayo Group is providing video services (Cable) as defined by 2006 PA 480 and the Federal Cable Act to Meridian Township residents in Meridian Township.

Please be advised that providing such services without a franchise agreement is a violation of both State and Federal law and you are instructed to cease and desist doing so or, in the alternative, execute a franchise agreement with the Township, provide a full accounting of all services and revenues so provided and render past payments due thereunder forthwith. Attached is a copy of the current Comcast franchise agreement with the Township for your consideration.

Please contact the undersigned immediately upon receipt of this letter to discuss Spectrum's plans for compliance.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at 517-853-4380 should you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,


Deborah Guthrie
Communications Director
Meridian Charter Township

CC: Frank Walsh, Meridian Township Manager
 Michael J. Watza, Esq. Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti & Sherbrook
 Andria Ditschman, The Hubbard Law Firm, P.C.



Penney Stephen

From: Deborah Guthrie
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2014 6:55 PM
To: Brandie Yates; Darkus Beasley; Lia Davis; Lynn Meikle; Penney Stephen; Robert Gingerich-Jones
Subject: Update: DAS request in Meridian ROW by ACD

Long story short, I spoke with our attorney Mike Watza tonight regarding ACD's application. He stated:

1. He doesn't does not think that Meridian needs an ordinance as of yet.
2. He stated we will know Friday when the FCC makes a report and order on wireless infrastructures. Once we know that, we can draft language for the ordinance unless you would like it done beforehand. Let me know.
3. ACD can put cables underground and attach to Consumers' poles if they have Consumers permit approvals to do so (which I still do not have). I've spoken to ACD about this several times. They stated to me that once they receive approval for the metro application, they will assume that means they can put up their poles. Several times I told them that was not the case. I reminded them of that today.
4. I will contact ACD tomorrow restating our position, letting them know we are waiting for the FCC order Friday and I will send a written note in that regard as well.

Deborah

For the placement of fiber optic cable and ACD owned utility poles:

Route Description:

Southeast Corner of Haslett Rd. & Marsh Rd.

See Map No. 16-791-7893

We propose to bore from a Consumers Energy pole (labeled pole no. 1) at the Southeast corner of Haslett Rd. & Marsh Rd. North approx. 110' along the East side of Marsh Rd. then East approx. 290' along the South side of Haslett Rd. then South on to Shop Town property to a Cell Tower located South of the shopping center at 1581 Haslett Rd. All cable will be buried within the road right of way and at a depth of 48"

Intersection of Marsh Rd. & Central Park Dr.

See Map No. 16-790-7889

We propose to bore from a Consumers Energy pole (labeled pole no. 14) located South of the intersection of Marsh Rd. & Central Park Dr. Northeast for approx. 247' to a Consumers Energy Pole (labeled pole no. 16). All cable will be buried within the road right of way and at a depth of 48".

Northeast corner of Marsh Rd. & Central Park Dr.

See Map No. 16-790-7889

We propose to bore from a surface mounted vault which will be located at the West corner of Marsh Rd. & Central Park Dr., Northeast, along and within the road right of way, of Marsh Rd. for approx. 470', then bore Northwest to an existing Cell tower located behind 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, MI. which is the Meridian Twp. Public Safety Bldg. All cable will be buried within the road right of way and at a depth of 48".

South side of Central Park Dr. btwn. Okemos rd. & Columbus Rd.

See Map No. 16-790-7889 & 16-791-7889

We plan to bore from a proposed ACD pole location (pole no. 436/11053) located approx. 1868' Northwest of the intersection of Marsh Rd. & Central Park Dr. along the South & West sides of Central Park Dr. to the Southwest corner of Central Park Dr. & Columbus Ave. Also, we plan to bore under Central Park Dr. from the Southwest corner to the Southeast corner, to a proposed ACD pole location (ACD pole no. 484/11050). All cable will be buried within the road right of way and at a depth of 48".

Southeast corner of Central Park Dr. & Columbus Ave.

See Map No. 16-791-7889

We propose to place an ACD owned pole (pole no. 484/11050) located at the Southeast corner of Central Park Dr & Columbus Ave. ACD pole will be placed within the road right of way.

South of the intersection of Marsh Rd. & Central Park Dr.

See Map No. 16-790-7889

We propose to place an ACD owned pole (pole no. 484/11051) approx. 28' Southeast of a Consumers Energy pole (labeled pole no. 10) which is located approx. 850' Southwest of the intersection of Marsh Rd. & Central Park Dr. (5 poles Southeast of intersection). Also, we propose to attach a fiber optic cable btwn, the two poles. ACD pole will be placed within the road right of way.

North of the intersection of Marsh Rd. & W. Grand River Ave.

See Map No. 16-790-7888

We propose to place an ACD owned pole (pole no. 436/11052) approx. 75' Southwest of Consumers Energy pole (labeled pole no. 3) which is located approx. 200' Northeast of the intersection of Marsh Rd. & W. Grand River Ave. (2 poles Northeast of intersection). Also, we propose to attach a fiber optic cable btwn. the two poles. ACD pole will be placed within the road right of way.

South side of Central Park Dr. approx. 1868' Northwest of Marsh Rd.

See Map No. 16-790-7889

We propose to place an ACD owned pole (pole no.436/11053) approx. 1868' Northwest of Marsh Rd. on the South side of and within the road right of way of Central Park Dr.

Southeast corner of W. Grand River Ave. & Washington Heights Ave.

See Map No. 16-790-7888

We propose to place an ACD owned pole (pole no. 484/11054) approx. 131' South of the centerline of W. Grand River Ave. & 30' East of the centerline of Washington Heights Ave. Also, we propose to bore for the placement of a fiber optic cable placed in 1 1/4" conduit from said ACD pole to a Consumers Energy pole located approx. 124' East of the intersection of W, Grand River Ave. & 52' South of the intersection of Washington Heights Ave. ACD pole and underground cable will be placed within the road right of way. Cable depth will be 48".

Southeast corner of W, Grand River Ave. & Okemos Rd.

We propose to place an ACD pole (pole no. 436/11055) approx. 95' South of the centerline of W. Grand River Ave. & approx. 40' East of the centerline of Okemos Rd. Also, we propose to bore for the placement of a fiber optic cable in 1 ¼" conduit from said ACD pole to a Consumers Energy pole located approx. 207' East of the centerline of Okemos Rd. & approx. 57' South of the centerline of W. Grand River Ave. Pole and underground cable will be placed within the road right of way. Cable depth will be 48".

East side of Marsh Rd. btwn. W, Grand River Ave. & Lake Dr.

See Map No. 16-790-7888, 16-790-7889, 16-790-7890, 16-791-7890, 16-791-7891, 16-791-7893

We propose to attach a fiber optic cable to existing Consumers Energy poles which are located on the East side of, and within the road right of way, of Marsh Rd. From a pole located at the South corner of Marsh Rd & W. Grand river Ave. (labeled pole 1) to a pole (labeled pole 37) located in front of Haslett High School at 5450 Marsh Rd., Haslett, MI. Also, we propose to overlash six spans of new fiber optic cable to existing fiber optic cable, which are attached to existing Consumers Energy poles located btwn. Haslett Rd. & Lake Dr. (labeled pole nos. 1-6 on map no. 16-791-7893). We shall maintain proper clearances following Consumers Energy & Ingham county guidelines.

Proposed ACD owned poles will be Class 4 - 35' wood poles for the placement of a Distributed Antenna System (DAS) for a wireless provider.

MEMORANDUM

To: Cable Communications Commission

From:  Communications Director Deborah Guthrie

Date: November 26, 2014

Re: 5 Year Plan for HOMTV Equipment Discussion

Equipment:

During the previous 5 year equipment plan from 2011-2016, we budgeted monies for contractual services, software and equipment to include replacements and upgrades, and additional equipment. However, during that time we were unable to purchase the following:

- 2012: 3D graphic system and music library
- 2013: Multimedia lectern
- 2014: Phone call system replacement, GoPro body mountable camera kit and accessories, iMac editing system replacement, and remote broadcast system. Additionally, Final Cut and Adobe Suite updates will not be completed this year.

Some of the reasons we are unable to purchase equipment include: the temporary salaries line item being higher than anticipated in 2012 & 2014 due to elections; legal fees line item being higher than anticipated related to the transfer of control and AT&T financial audit in 2013 and 2014; and the increased costs in contractual services due to upgrades of the video network and storage systems. As the lines between the video production world and the information technology world become more blurred, we have incurred increased costs for contractual warranty services and software upgrades. This year we are unable to purchase the 8th editing system for the intern edit suite, which is a hindrance as our intern staff and production levels continue to average 600 programs per year and 30 interns per semester.

In 2015, the proposed video production equipment line item includes a High Definition playback system that would replace the 10 year old Standard

Definition system, an additional camera support system, and town hall microphones and bases, totaling \$21,000. The limited funds to purchase equipment in 2015 are due to an increase in legal fees needed for refranchising.

Because of these unforeseen expenses, staff recommends that the final phases of the conversion for HOMTV facilities to fully HD be implemented into the 5 year Communications Department Equipment and Software Master Plan, including HD studio cameras and HD playback systems. Furthermore, the 5 year plan should also consider emerging technologies such as 4K video and a video storage management solution.

Therefore, staff proposes the Commission discuss adopting the proposed 2015-2020 five year Master Plan for equipment purchases.

Communication Department

Draft Working Document 5 Year Equipment/Software/Streaming Services Purchase Plan

2015 Budget

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Cost	status
Video Server- HOMTV Playback system	replacement	1	\$14,000	
Townhall mics and bases	replacement	12	\$2,000	
MultiMedia Lecturn	new	1	\$5,000	
Total Field/Editing Equipment			\$21,000	
Final Cut X	upgrades		\$3,000	
Adobe Creative Suite	additional	2	\$3,500	
Total Production/Software			\$6,500	
Adobe Software Contract			\$2,400	
Communcations Needs Assessment			\$20,000	
Granicus Video web hosting service			\$8,700	
*Granicus Open Platform - Mobile programming			\$3,900	
Comcast HOMTV Studio Access			\$156	
Comcast Fire Station 1			\$900	
Comcast Fire Station 2			\$600	
Comcast HOMTV Internet			\$840	
Annual HOMTV webpage hosting service			\$2,300	
Broadcast Pix Annual Warranty - video switcher			\$3,900	
QLogic Switch Maintenance VSAN - video network			\$800	
Scale Logic - Video Server Hardware Maintenance Warranty			\$2,500	
Scale Logic - Video Server Software Maintenance Warranty			\$3,200	
EZNews - Annual Maintenance Agreement			\$1,343	
Total Info - annual bulletin board service, CAMTV			\$995	
Total Contractual Services Budget			\$30,134	
Total Equipment/Software/Services Budget			\$57,634	

2016 Budget

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Cost	status
Small P2 Camera	replacement	2	\$12,000	
imac editing computer	replacement	2	\$10,000	
laptop graphic computer	replacement	1	\$5,000	
Remote Editing/Switcher System	new	1	\$25,000	
live remote streaming device	new	1	\$20,000	
Incodex encoder for live broadcasting	new		\$5,000	
Total Field/Editing Equipment			\$77,000	
Final Cut X	upgrades		\$3,000	
Total Production/Software			\$3,000	
Adobe Software Contract			\$2,400	
New Media Monitoring			\$12,000	
Granicus Video web hosting service			\$8,700	
*Granicus Open Platform - Mobile programming			\$3,900	
Comcast HOMTV Studio Access			\$156	
Comcast Fire Station 1			\$900	
Comcast Fire Station 2			\$600	
Comcast HOMTV Internet			\$840	
Annual HOMTV webpage hosting service			\$2,300	
Broadcast Pix Annual Warranty - video switcher			\$3,900	
QLogic Switch Maintenance VSAN - video network			\$800	
Scale Logic - Video Server Hardware Maintenance Warranty			\$2,500	
Scale Logic - Video Server Software Maintenance Warranty			\$3,200	
EZNews - Annual Maintenance Agreement			\$1,343	
Total Info - annual bulletin board service, CAMTV			\$995	
Total Contractual Services Budget			\$30,134	
Total Equipment/Software/Services Budget			\$110,134	

2017 Budget

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Cost	status
HD Studio Cameras	replacement	1	\$100,000	
mac tower editing computer includes fiber jet seat	additional	1	\$10,000	
imac editing computer	replacement	2	\$10,000	
small p2 camera	replacement	2	\$12,000	
Total Field/Editing Equipment			\$132,000	
Final Cut X	upgrades		\$3,000	
Total Production/Software			\$3,000	
Adobe Software Contract			\$2,400	
New Media Monitoring			\$12,000	
Granicus Video web hosting service			\$8,700	
*Granicus Open Platform - Mobile programming			\$3,900	
Comcast HOMTV Studio Access			\$156	
Comcast Fire Station 1			\$900	
Comcast Fire Station 2			\$600	
Comcast HOMTV Internet			\$840	
Annual HOMTV webpage hosting service			\$2,300	
Broadcast Pix Annual Warranty - video switcher			\$3,900	
QLogic Switch Maintenance VSAN - video network			\$800	
Scale Logic - Video Server Hardware Maintenance Warranty			\$2,500	
Scale Logic - Video Server Software Maintenance Warranty			\$3,200	
EZNews - Annual Maintenance Agreement			\$1,343	
Total Info - annual bulletin board service, CAMTV			\$995	
Total Contractual Services Budget			\$30,134	
Total Equipment/Software/Services Budget			\$165,134	

2018 Budget

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Cost	status
teleprompter	additional	1	\$7,000	
mac tower editing computer	replacement	2	\$10,000	
small p2 cameras	replacement	2	\$12,000	
large camera	replacement	1	\$25,000	
Career Fair Display	replacement	1	\$1,500	
remote prompter system	new	1	\$2,000	
multiscreen touchscreen townhall display	new	2	\$20,000	
Total Field/Editing Equipment			\$77,500	
Final Cut X	upgrades		\$3,000	
Fiber jet	upgrade	2	\$7,000	
Total Production/Software			\$10,000	
Adobe Software Contract			\$2,400	
New Media Monitoring			\$12,000	
Granicus Video web hosting service			\$8,700	
*Granicus Open Platform - Mobile programming			\$3,900	
Comcast HOMTV Studio Access			\$156	
Comcast Fire Station 1			\$900	
Comcast Fire Station 2			\$600	
Comcast HOMTV Internet			\$840	
Annual HOMTV webpage hosting service			\$2,300	
Broadcast Pix Annual Warranty - video switcher			\$3,900	
QLogic Switch Maintenance VSAN - video network			\$800	
Scale Logic - Video Server Hardware Maintenance Warranty			\$2,500	
Scale Logic - Video Server Software Maintenance Warranty			\$3,200	
EZNews - Annual Maintenance Agreement			\$1,343	
Total Info - annual bulletin board service, CAMTV			\$995	
Total Contractual Services Budget			\$30,134	
Total Equipment/Software/Services Budget			\$117,634	

2019 Budget

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Cost	status
small p2 camera	replacement	2	\$12,000	
mac tower editing computer	replacement	2	\$10,000	
small p2 camera	additional	1	\$6,000	
audio booth & equipment	additional		\$1,000	
Camera Jib	new	1	\$5,000	
Interactive Training White Boards	new	4	\$25,000	
Phone Call System Production	new	1	\$10,000	
3D graphic system and music library	replacement		\$10,000	
Total Field/Editing Equipment			\$79,000	
Final Cut X	upgrades		\$3,000	
Total Production/Software			\$3,000	
Adobe Software Contract			\$2,400	
New Media Monitoring			\$12,000	
Granicus Video web hosting service			\$8,700	
*Granicus Open Platform - Mobile programming			\$3,900	
Comcast HOMTV Studio Access			\$156	
Comcast Fire Station 1			\$900	
Comcast Fire Station 2			\$600	
Comcast HOMTV Internet			\$840	
Annual HOMTV webpage hosting service			\$2,300	
Broadcast Pix Annual Warranty - video switcher			\$3,900	
QLogic Switch Maintenance VSAN - video network			\$800	
Scale Logic - Video Server Hardware Maintenance Warranty			\$2,500	
Scale Logic - Video Server Software Maintenance Warranty			\$3,200	
EZNews - Annual Maintenance Agreement			\$1,343	
Total Info - annual bulletin board service, CAMTV			\$995	
Total Contractual Services Budget			\$30,134	
Total Equipment/Software/Services Budget			\$112,134	

2020 Budget

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Cost	status
small p2 camera	replacement	2	\$12,000	
mac tower editing computer	replacement	2	\$10,000	
mobile video app	new		\$10,000	
remote townhall camera system	replacement		\$50,000	
Total Field/Editing Equipment			\$82,000	
Final Cut X	upgrades		\$3,000	
Fiber jet	upgrade	2	\$7,000	
Total Production/Software			\$10,000	
Adobe Software Contract			\$2,400	
New Media Monitoring			\$12,000	
Granicus Video web hosting service			\$8,700	
*Granicus Open Platform - Mobile programming			\$3,900	
Comcast HOMTV Studio Access			\$156	
Comcast Fire Station 1			\$900	
Comcast Fire Station 2			\$600	
Comcast HOMTV Internet			\$840	
Annual HOMTV webpage hosting service			\$2,300	
Broadcast Pix Annual Warranty - video switcher			\$3,900	
QLogic Switch Maintenance VSAN - video network			\$800	
Scale Logic - Video Server Hardware Maintenance Warranty			\$2,500	
Scale Logic - Video Server Software Maintenance Warranty			\$3,200	
EZNews - Annual Maintenance Agreement			\$1,343	
Total Info - annual bulletin board service, CAMTV			\$995	
Total Contractual Services Budget			\$30,134	
Total Equipment/Software/Services Budget			\$122,134	

MEMORANDUM

To: Cable Communication Commission

From:  Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director

Date: November 26, 2014

Re: 2015 Township Goal Setting

The Meridian Township 2015 draft Goals and Objectives include 116 goals, 29 of which pertain to the Communications Department. They are circled in the attached document. These goals and objectives will be approved by the Township Board at the December 9, 2014 meeting and are open for discussion. Commissioners are invited to attend the meeting to make any changes or additional suggestions.

Attached

Meridian Township 2015 Goal Setting

DRAFT 2015 Goals & Objectives

Meridian Township exists to create a sustainable community through the most effective use of available resources that achieve the highest quality of life.

1. Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance the environment

- a. Update the street tree ordinance **and adopt a tree protection ordinance**
- b. Prepare, update, and enforce ordinances that protect natural features such as woodlands, wetlands, and floodplain areas
- c. **Utilize** use the Township's Greenspace Plan as part of the review for land development projects
- d. **Apply** Use the best planning practices to encourage the preservation of green and open spaces
- e. Build a new *green* Central Fire Station
- f. Continue the Deer Management Program to reduce the deer population in our community
- g. **Manage** invasive species ~~management~~ in the parks and land preserves (removing garlic mustard, buckthorn, autumn olive, Japanese knotweed, Japanese hedge parsley, and phragmites)
- h. Administer and enforce the Soil Erosion Sedimentation Control Program
- i. Maintain the sewer system to minimize sewage backups
- j. Develop an Urban Management Service area
- k. Maintain robust recycling initiatives including the Meridian Recycling Center, community events, educational programs, **and work to enhance recycling opportunities in apartment complexes**
- l. Continue energy, water, and waste reduction efforts in Township buildings and other facilities
- m. **Adopt an ordinance prohibiting or regulating, as the law allows, fracking within the Township**
- n. **Review and update open space requirements**

2. Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance public safety

- (a) **Increase** ~~Share~~ information **shared with the public through social media regarding public safety** tips, PSAs (Public Service Announcements), **emergency communications**, and **police and fire services** ~~through social media~~
- (b) Provide Beyond the Badge police and fire programs and stories ~~for subscribers~~
- c. Strengthen communication and educate developers/builders, business owners, and neighborhood associations regarding the planning process in an effort to minimize violations and negative impacts
- d. Continue **implementation** ~~to implement~~ of the Grand River Corridor Access Management Ordinance
- e. Provide police coverage for Williamstown Township
- f. **Implement the** Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) Traffic Grant ~~implementation~~
- g. **Purchase** ~~Implement~~ new mobile phone forensics software

- h. Upgrade the booking area camera
- i. **Evaluate conversion to the State Records Management System** ~~a new Records Management System (RMS)~~ in the Police Department, **and implement if determined to be feasible**
- j. ~~Implement~~ **Update in-car mobile software to communicate with new** Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) ~~software and Mobile Client~~
- k. Construct the new Fire Station at Okemos Road and Central Park Drive
- l. Purchase 1 replacement ambulance for the Fire Department
- m. Purchase 3 replacement police patrol vehicles **for the Police Department**
- n. Complete the Okemos Road Pathway Bridge crossing the Red Cedar River
- o. Continue fire service to Alaiedon Township
- p. Continue the yearly Police Citizens' and Youth Academies
- q. ~~Continue~~ **Participate** in the Lansing Regional Shared Fire Services
- r. Process monthly police and fire citizen surveys
- s. **Monitor legislative actions relative to medical marihuana and prepare to act accordingly with local ordinances**
- t. **Explore revision and/or modification of Township ordinances for the purpose of reducing penalties for possession or use of small amounts of marihuana**

3. Meridian Township shall provide an unparalleled parks system

- a. **Develop** Phase I development of Towner Road Park
- b. **Complete** Legg Park **projects** - parking area, dog park, and stewardship
- c. Construct roof structures over the dugouts at Hartrick Park
- d. **Install** new siding on the pavilion at Nancy Moore Park
- e. **Install** new safety fencing around the ball diamonds at Nancy Moore Park
- f. **Rebuild** ~~Engineer and rebuild~~ the drainage **system** ~~in parking island at~~ **for** Harris Nature Center **parking island**
- g. Improve the parking lot surfaces at Harris Nature Center, Ferguson Park, and Wonch Park
- h. **Construct** the Wonch Park Pavilion with grant support
- i. Install new play equipment at Orlando Park and Hillbrook Park
- j. Develop a new Master Plan for Central Park
- k. Replace the footbridge at Legg Park
- l. Provide support for Eagle Scout Projects
- m. Build an 18 hole disc golf course
- n. Improve directional signage on trails
- o. **Construct** a youth environmental exploration area at Harris Nature Center
- p. **Establish a plan for development of a smart-phone application (App) that provides information of Township Parks and Trails** ~~Create a park and trail app for smart phones~~
- q. Develop the Water Trail Access Program
- r. **Investigate purchasing the five (5) acres to the east of Wardcliff School which borders Park Lake Road for recreational uses**

4. Meridian Township shall provide exemplary public services and facilities

- a. Conduct an annual assessment/reinspection program **of taxable properties within Meridian Township**

- b. Finalize the Comcast franchise agreement to include high definition (HD) PEG (Public, Education & Government) channels, VOD (Video on Demand), and PEG on the program guide system
- c. **Develop a 5-year equipment purchase plan to be adopted** by the Cable Communications Commission (CCC) ~~to develop a 5-year equipment purchase plan that~~ includes HD studio cameras and playback
- d. Improve communication and educate the public on the Rental Housing Program and continue to improve the process for rental housing inspections
- e. Revise the sign and parking regulations
- f. Continue support of and membership in regional organizations (i.e. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission)
- g. Strengthen cooperative planning efforts with the Ingham County Road Department, Ingham County Drain Commission, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, and surrounding jurisdictions
- h. Promote good design standards through the site plan review process
- i. Utilize a health impact assessment guide, created in conjunction with the Ingham County Health Department and Tri-County Regional Planning, in the review of development projects
- j. **Streamline** ~~The Geographic Information Staff will work with all Township departments to streamline~~ field survey work **procedures so that** information **will** flow directly into the Geographic Information System
- k. Participate with Tri-County regional partners to contract for flight services to provide orthographic photography ~~with data current from the spring of 2015~~ for the entire Township and surrounding areas
- l. ~~Team members will work with BS&A Software to~~ **Bring** the Township's payroll back in-house and incorporate the human resources module software
- m. Update the patrol car **graphic** design
- n. **Evaluate options for upgrades to in-building camera systems within the** ~~Replace facilities video surveillance system for Public Safety Building and potential expansion to include other facilities, town hall, and impound lot~~
- o. Upgrade or replace lift station SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) system communications and software
- p. Complete the first year of 3-year SAW (Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater) Grant project to develop sanitary sewer system asset management plan
- q. Replace control panel at Woodhill lift station
- r. Replace pumps at Shoals lift station and Sundance lift station
- s. Complete Pathway Bridge on Okemos Road crossing Red Cedar River
- t. Construct **a new pathway on the** south side of Haslett Road (east of Okemos Road to west of Bayonne)
- u. Replace **the** retaining wall on Mt. Hope Road at Glendale Cemetery
- v. Replace **the** pathway retaining wall at 2322 Mt. Hope Road
- w. Construct a pathway **on the** south side of Mt. Hope Road (Okemos Road to Maumee)
- x. **Reroof** ~~replace the roof at the~~ Service Center
- y. Pursue Ingham County Trail Millage funding to implement the Lake Lansing to River Trail connector pathway
- z. **Investigate options for establishing Meridian Township as a smart community and explore viable plans for expanding municipal fiber, broadband, and public Wi-Fi in Meridian Township**
- aa. **Investigate providing a leaf pickup program in Meridian Township**
- bb. **Fill in pathway gaps**

5. Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance our economic prosperity for all residents

- a. Defend assessment appeals made to the Michigan Tax Tribunal
- ⓑ Develop a branding campaign and marketing strategy and propose a 2016 budget to the Township Board to include branding campaign, imaging, print, design, and marketing
- c. Enhance and encourage the retention of existing businesses and establishment of new businesses
- d. Promote Township resources to prospective businesses and industries
- e. Formulate and adopt an Economic Development Plan
- f. Encourage infill and/or redevelopment of existing commercial sites
- g. Promote mixed-use development in commercial areas
- h. Facilitate the objectives of the **Downtown Development Authority** by eliminating the causes of property value deterioration and promoting economic growth
- i. Continue streetscape improvements to define downtown areas and promote a sense of place
- j. Assist with the redevelopment of the former Central Fire Station/MARC property
- k. Continue our economic focus on Haslett, Carriage Hills, Grand River, and Okemos
- l. Continue our focus on the Douglas J project
- m. Continue to conduct monthly business visits with a focus on customer service
- n. Complete the 2005 Master Plan update
- ⓐ Sustain and enhance our positive working relationship with Michigan State University
- p. Complete the Consolidated Annual Financial Report (CAFR) receiving an unmodified audit opinion and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting
- q. Complete the annual budget process focusing on how the budget mirrors our annual goal setting process
- r. **Maintain, per the Board's direction**, a minimum fund balance in the General Fund of \$5,250,000
- s. Increase enrollment of online bill pay and explore options for new platforms to accept these payments (including BS&A's AccessMyGov-Internet Services)
- t. Support all types of transportation modes in the Township including the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
- u. Encourage the use of complete streets practices as a routine part of operations
- v. **Investigate the pension liability funding plan**
- w. **Investigate reaching out and expanding the Celebrate Downtown Okemos event to include other areas of the Township, including Haslett and East Lansing**

6. Meridian Township shall promote and enhance diversity across the Township

- ⓐ ~~Promote~~ Continue to cultural diversity with our community programs and celebrations
- ⓑ ~~Explore~~ Investigate closed captioning costs for **HOM-TV programs** and possibility
- c. Investigate and possibly launch a Chinese version of HOM-TV news programs
- d. Continue to encourage the use of the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development and Commercial Planned Unit Development Ordinances
- e. Encourage developers to provide affordable housing
- f. Encourage a wide range of housing types
- g. Strengthen community pride through such activities as downtown events and expanded outdoor sculpture displays

- h. Seek diversity in hiring **and promoting**
- i. Update the Personnel Policy Manual, along with having the Human Relations Ordinance statement prominently displayed in the introduction, and continuous outreach to special agencies and networks for recruitment of new hires, volunteers, interns, etc.
- j. Host Chinese New Year and Heritage Festival events
- k.** Promote Nokomis Learning Center activities
- l. Consider implementing the Language First Program **(In an effort to aid our Township staff with communicating with visitors from all over the world)**
- m. **Utilize additional recruiting outlets and resources such as on-line job boards, advertisements, and professional organizations to attract qualified minorities to apply for job openings**
- n. **Provide professional training and development to staff**

7. Meridian Township shall provide outstanding recreational and cultural programs

- a. Provide sports and fitness programs for youths and adults
- b. ~~Provide~~ Administer environmental programs and events for all ages at Harris Nature Center
- c. ~~Offer Provide~~ educational, fitness, and social opportunities for senior citizens at the Meridian Senior Center and Meridian Mall
- d. **Coordinate** the Farmers' Market outdoors (May-October) and indoors (December-April)
- e. Develop a Farmers' Market Relocation Plan (location, size, and funding)
- f. Support activities of the Friends of Historic Meridian
- g. Support activities of the Meridian Garden Club
- h. Conduct special events: Chinese New Year, Celebrate Downtown Okemos, July 4th Fireworks Celebration, Meridian Heritage Festival, Halloween Adventures, Drive-thru Santa, Christmas in the Village, Free Family Winter Sports Weekends, Polar Bear 5K Race, Music in the Park program
- i. Continue the Arts and Crafts Marketplace each month during the summer
- j. Continue Recreation Services Agreement with the City of Williamston

8. Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance constituent communications

- a.** Continue to respond to all citizen inquiries in a timely, professional, and efficient manner
- b. Provide assessment information ~~and make assessment information available~~ to property owners and their representatives (e.g., real estate agents, title company employees, private real estate appraisers, etc.)
- c. Replace the Town Hall microphones and bases
- d. Investigate replacement of Township hall video imager
- e.** **Increases encouragement of public** ~~Encourage~~ engagement and **participation** sharing through multimedia and **other** ways to connect
- f. Create a monthly **Township Manager** blog **and increase its outreach**
- g. Conduct ~~and complete~~ a communications needs assessment
- h. Investigate costs of new Township website ~~for 2016 proposal to the Township Board~~
- i. Audit social media outlets and develop a social media strategy campaign
- j.** ~~Continue to place~~ **Upload** packet information on the Township website **that is in a searchable format for ease of use by the public**
- k.** Publish the Meridian Monitor twice-yearly to all residents
- l. Reach out to residential and business groups regarding potential development impacts

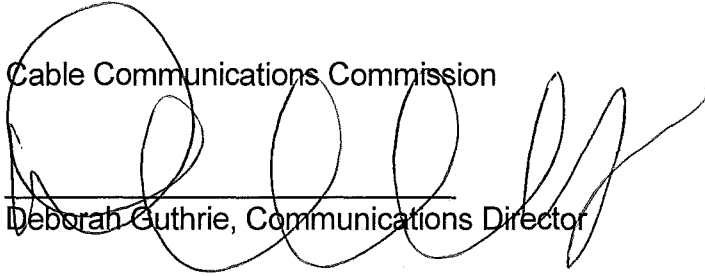
- m. **Increase staff engagement and participation with** ~~Speak to~~ neighborhood groups using social media, fire safety programs, HOM-TV interviews, and Beyond the Badge
- n. ~~Information Technology Staff will~~ **Add** a new disk appliance to our ~~the~~ network to increase storage space and reliability
- o. ~~IT, Police, and Fire staff will work with Ingham County Dispatch to replace the central server software at the dispatch center and the connecting software in any of our vehicles with Mobile Software~~ **Update in-car mobile software to communicate with new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software**
- p. ~~Produce~~ **Print** and distribute one issue of the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Family Fun Guide (distribution in January)
- q. ~~Continue~~ **Increase communication** with constituents through email and multi-media sources
- r. **Rename** Renaming select Land Preserves
- s. **Conduct the citizen survey through ICMA with the same process or method as was used in 2012**
- t. **Begin the process of overhauling the Township website and branding up to an amount of \$30,000**

9. Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance neighborhoods and eliminate blight

- a. **Possibly Create** DAS (Distributed Antenna System) ordinance with the Public Works & Engineering and Planning Departments
- b. Promote Neighborhood Watch
- c. **Develop a method to increase compliance of communications companies using the rights of way in the Township** ~~Work with Engineering Department on boxes, cables, and non-compliance issues in rights-of-way~~
- d. Continue to work with homeowners associations to strengthen code enforcement in residential neighborhoods
- e. Promote and encourage the preservation of older neighborhoods
- f. **Enforce** ~~ment of~~ the Property Maintenance Code
- g. Continue the Code Enforcement Committee with neighborhood associations
- h. Continue pavement preservation program on local roads
- i. Continue sidewalk repair program (order to maintain)
- j. Maintain and improve the water and sewer systems
- k. Hire a part-time code enforcement officer
- l. ~~Continue~~ **Support** for the community gardens in the Township
- m. **Inspect Township owned properties annually to ensure appropriate maintenance**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cable Communications Commission

FROM: 
Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director

DATE: November 25, 2014

RE: 2015 Cable Communications Commission Regular Meeting Schedule

The Cable Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian recommends the adoption of the 2015 regular meeting schedule as follows:

Wednesday, January 7, 2015	6:00 pm	Administrative Conference Room
Wednesday, February 4, 2015	6:00 pm	Administrative Conference Room
Wednesday, March 4, 2015	6:00 pm	Administrative Conference Room
Wednesday, April 1, 2015	6:00 pm	Administrative Conference Room
Wednesday, May 6, 2015	6:00 pm	Administrative Conference Room
Wednesday, June 3, 2015	6:00 pm	Administrative Conference Room
Wednesday, July 1, 2015	6:00 pm	Administrative Conference Room
Wednesday, August 5, 2015	6:00 pm	Administrative Conference Room
Wednesday, September 2, 2015	6:00 pm	Administrative Conference Room
Wednesday, October 7, 2015	6:00 pm	Administrative Conference Room
Wednesday, November 4, 2015	6:00 pm	Administrative Conference Room
Wednesday, December 2, 2015	6:00 pm	Administrative Conference Room

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

**COMPLAINTS/
COMPLIMENTS**

Individual Video Provider Customer Intakes

Complaint Number 2014-167

Date 10/8/2014

Name Julie Hausserman

Street Address 1132 Woodwind Trail

City / Zip Haslett 48840-

Work Phone **Ext**

Cell Phone 6164603229

Home Phone (517) 339-1335

Email juliehausserman@gmail.com

Best Time to Call Any

Best Time to Service

Service Provider Comcast

Reason for Calling Complaint

Unburied Cable **Waiting for Service** **Missed Service Call** **Cable Box**
Bad Reception **Cable Out** **Cannot Phone** **Other**
Bad Treatment **Bad Information** **No Response to Request**

Problem Description Julie Hausserman, 1132 Woodwind Trail in Haslett, MI 48840, came into the office with a complaint about Comcast not allowing her to have internet service without cable. She called Comcast and stated that she wanted an unbundled service where she could just get internet, no television channels, and she was told repeatedly by Comcast reps over the phone that she could not do it, it had to be bundled.

She wants to switch from at&t internet to Comcast internet but not if that means she has cable service. I told her that I would have someone from Comcast contact her and help her with this issue.

H: 517-339-1335
C: 616-460-3229
E: Juliehausserman@gmail.com

Problem Before? No **Ongoing** **MPSC Information**
Assigned Staff Deborah Guthrie **Given**

Staff Response Deborah spoke with the resident for some time in her office and explained that she would contact John Gardner at Comcast and hopefully he can assist us in getting this resolved. Resident will await call from Comcast.

Resolution

Penney Stephen

From: Frank Walsh
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2014 1:37 PM
To: Deborah Guthrie; Brandie Yates; Darkus Beasley; Lia Davis; Lynn Meikle; Penney Stephen; Robert Gingerich-Jones
Subject: RE: Thank You!

Nice job by our Communications Team!

Frank

Frank L. Walsh
Township Manager
Charter Township of Meridian
P: (517) 853-4254
F: (517) 853-4251

www.meridian.mi.us
www.facebook.com/MeridianTownship
www.twitter.com/Meridiantwp
www.myMeridian.net

-----Original Message-----

From: Deborah Guthrie
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2014 1:04 PM
To: Brandie Yates; Darkus Beasley; Lia Davis; Lynn Meikle; Penney Stephen; Robert Gingerich-Jones
Cc: Frank Walsh
Subject: FW: Thank You!

I was honored to be able to present in front of the Planning Commission on the ways in which the Communications Dept. engages with the community and provides information to the public. It is only through the many efforts of our team that we are able to do so and thus, this message is for everyone and I thank you for being able to represent your hard work to the commission. -Deborah

-----Original Message-----

From: Pat Herring Jackson [<mailto:jacksonp@comcast.net>]
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2014 12:51 PM
To: Deborah Guthrie
Subject: Thank You!

Ms. Guthrie,

Your presentation to the Planning Commission on October 6 was excellent and achieved just what I hoped it would. Your concise description of all the ways your department serves Meridian township, both it's government and it's citizens, was somewhat awe inspiring, You offer so many opportunities to facilitate communications and engagement through your Department.

In addition, by offering the principles that drive effective two-way communications to the PC you provided valuable information on what is needed to develop an effective strategy promoting vibrant community engagement in the Planning process.

Presentations like yours can go a very long way towards helping to inform, focus and manage the energies and enthusiasm of a dedicated, volunteer entity like the Planning Commission.

Your offer to work with the PC, once we are clear on what we want to achieve and how we want to do it, is welcomed and we look forward to working with you.

I hope you get a chance to review the tape of the Work Session particularly near the end where the two members of the public noted their disappointment in not being able to engage with us in our discussions and exchanges. They too had questions and suggestions you may want to answer or address using one of the many platforms you have available to you.

Thank you very much for meeting with us and sharing your expertise and skills, as well as those of the unit you lead.

Pat Jackson
Chair,
Planning Commission
Charter Township of Meridian

Sent from my iPad
PAT on the go!!

Penney Stephen

From: east-karen <east-karen@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, October 20, 2014 9:30 AM
To: Penney Stephen
Subject: RE: HOMTV Interview

Thank you Penney for your very prompt reply, your communications have been very courteous and helpful,
Karen

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Penney Stephen
Date: 10/20/2014 8:32 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: east-karen
Cc: Robert Gingerich-Jones
Subject: RE: HOMTV Interview

Hi Karen,

I have copied our Program Manager, Rob, on this email as he will know when it will be available online. It will be airing on HOMTV, Channel 21, beginning today. Attached is the program schedule for this week.

I will let you know about the website as soon as I know. Rob is usually here in the afternoons and evenings.

Thank you so much again for your participation!

Penney

Penney Stephen

Administrative Assistant II, Meridian Township

5151 Marsh Rd

Deborah Guthrie

From: Frank Walsh
Sent: Wednesday, November 05, 2014 8:34 AM
To: Deborah Guthrie
Cc: Brandie Yates; Penney Stephen; Darkus Beasley; Robert Gingerich-Jones
Subject: Election Coverage

HOMTV Team,

I want to thank you for the time and energy you put into the November 2014 Election coverage. I realize just how much work goes into putting on live coverage and your broadcast was excellent. You provided our constituents with up-to-date local coverage that was not available anywhere else.

Please know your efforts do not go unappreciated. I would appreciate it if you would share this email with your outstanding interns.

Frank

Frank L. Walsh
Township Manager
Charter Township of Meridian
P: (517) 853-4254
F: (517) 853-4251

www.meridian.mi.us

www.facebook.com/MeridianTownship

www.twitter.com/Meridiantwp

www.myMeridian.net

Deborah Guthrie

From: Milton Scales
Sent: Wednesday, November 05, 2014 11:00 AM
To: Frank Walsh
Cc: Deborah Guthrie
Subject: Re: Election Coverage

I concur with Manager Walsh's assessment of the excellent service delivery. I was a witness to the HOMtv trio working at The Pizza House for several long hours interviewing the various candidates commiserating, celebrating or rehashing campaign events.

Each member of the HOMtv team onsite acted and performed with the utmost of professionalism. I was proud to say they are part of Meridians finest.

Several people in attendance commented that they were unaware that our beloved Township was so far advanced technologically. Of course I made sure at least one TV was permanently locked on HOMtv for the entire evening.

Sincerely,
Milt

"Moving Meridian Forward"

Our vision is to achieve and maintain the highest quality of life for our residents.

Milton L. Scales, Trustee
Meridian Township Board
P.O. Box 1552
Okemos, Michigan 48805

Our mission is to create a sustainable community through the most effective use of available resources in order to achieve the highest quality of life for our residents.

On Nov 5, 2014, at 8:33 AM, Frank Walsh <walsh@meridian.mi.us> wrote:

HOMTV Team,

I want to thank you for the time and energy you put into the November 2014 Election coverage. I realize just how much work goes into putting on live coverage and your broadcast was excellent. You provided our constituents with up-to-date local coverage that was not available anywhere else.

Please know your efforts do not go unappreciated. I would appreciate it if you would share this email with your outstanding interns.

Frank

Frank L. Walsh
Township Manager
Charter Township of Meridian

Deborah Guthrie

To: Gardner, John
Cc: Frank Walsh; Full CCC Group
Subject: Thank you

John,

Thank you so much for having our audio issue fixed on election night. I received a text message from a subscriber during the beginning of our live election broadcast that there was an audio issue. Penney contacted you about it immediately and within short notice she told me it was an isolated issue in that particular area and that it was resolved.

On behalf of our 33 person crew that evening, and our viewers, we are so grateful. Thank you, Deborah

Deborah Guthrie
Communications Director, Meridian Township
Executive Producer, HOMTV and CAMTV
www.linkedin.com/in/deborahguthrie
Guthrie@meridian.mi.us
O: 517.853.4680
www.meridian.mi.us

www.facebook.com/MeridianTownship
www.twitter.com/Meridiantwp
<http://pinterest.com/meridiantwp/>
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/meridiantownship/>

www.homtv.net
www.facebook.com/HOMTV
www.twitter.com/HOMTV
www.pinterest.com/HOMTV
www.instagram.com/HOMTV

www.facebook.com/CAMtvCapitalAreaMedia
www.twitter.com/CAMtv30and99

Individual Video Provider Customer Intakes

Complaint Number 2014-168

Date 11/11/2014

Name Sean Mirate

Street Address 2026 Cameron Oaks Dr

City / Zip Haslett 48840-

Work Phone **Ext**

Cell Phone 5176430182

Home Phone

Email

Best Time to Call Any

Best Time to Service

Service Provider Comcast

Reason for Calling Complaint

- Unburied Cable** **Waiting for Service** **Missed Service Call** **Cable Box**
Bad Reception **Cable Out** **Cannot Phone** **Other**
Bad Treatment **Bad Information** **No Response to Request**

Problem Description We received a voicemail from a resident named Sean Mirate (phone: 517-643-0182) and he is a new resident in Okemos and his complaint is that he cannot get any cable service at his new home. They live at the end of a cul-de-sac and he was told by Comcast that the line is about 450 feet away from his house and that it will cost around \$4,000 to have the work done and they will only assist with half of it, leaving his family with a cost of around \$2,200 to get it extended to his home. He has two other neighbors with the same issue, they have resorted to satellite and before he does the same, he just wanted to know if there was anything we would do to help out with this. I called and spoke with him and his address is: 2026 Cameron Oaks Dr. Haslett 48840. He is very interested in having Comcast service and I told him that someone would be in contact with him soon.

Problem Before? No **Ongoing** **MPSC Information**
Assigned Staff Deborah Guthrie **Given**

Staff Response Penney forwarded John Gardner, Deborah Guthrie and Janet at the MPSC. Justin from the MPSC called and stated they have forwarded this on to the Comcast Corporate office and they have 10 days to respond. Once they do, they will contact the resident directly. I will check back with him next week to see if anything has been done.

Resolution

Individual Video Provider Customer Intakes

Complaint Number 2014-169

Date 11/17/2014

Name John Leary

Street Address 1463 Franklin St

City / Zip Haslett 48840-

Work Phone **Ext**

Cell Phone

Home Phone (517) 339-2165

Email

Best Time to Call Any

Best Time to Service

Service Provider Comcast

Reason for Calling Complaint

Unburied Cable **Waiting for Service** **Missed Service Call** **Cable Box**
Bad Reception **Cable Out** **Cannot Phone** **Other**
Bad Treatment **Bad Information** **No Response to Request**

Problem Description Mr. John Leary from 1463 Franklin St. Haslett MI 48840, called twice because he can't get through to Comcast over the phone to pay his bill. The first time he called, I gave him the contact number for Comcast that is available online 1-800-XFINITY (1-800-934-6489) and he called back and stated he can only get a busy signal. I told him that when there is a high call volume that can happen. He is disgruntled because he feels like it is always busy when he calls. I told him to sit tight and I would send on his information and hopefully someone from Comcast would call him back. He can be reached at 517-339-2165.

Problem Before? Yes **Ongoing** **MPSC Information**
Assigned Staff Penney Stephen **Given**

Staff Response Penney forwarded the above email to Deborah and John Gardner and will await a response from John about what can be done to get his bill paid.

Resolution

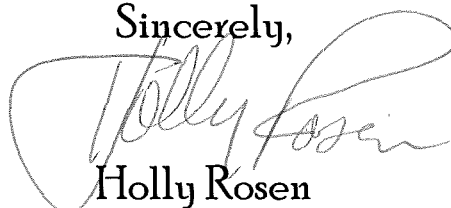
November 2014

Brandie, & others at HOMTV & CAMTV,

During this season of giving thanks, I would like to express my warmest thanks for your support of MSU Safe Place. We are grateful for your generosity, which allows us to continue in our mission to serve those who experience relationship violence and stalking within the MSU and greater Lansing communities.

Your support truly makes a difference in the lives that we have touched this year. We wish you and your family the best during this holiday season! Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Holly Rosen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Holly Rosen

MSU Safe Place Director

Deborah Guthrie

Subject: FW: Length of HOM TV video for last night's planning commission meeting

From: Deborah Guthrie
Sent: Tuesday, November 25, 2014 1:37 PM
To: 'bowlby@msu.edu'
Cc: Frank Walsh
Subject: RE: Length of HOM TV video for last night's planning commission meeting

Neil,

Thank you for informing me of this. We are a little understaffed at the moment and doing the best we can to get the information to the public and make any necessary program changes that are needed like trimming the meetings. This has been changed by our interim Senior Producer.

The process for recording meetings requires us to schedule a recording to which we typically schedule 6 hours for Planning Commission and Township Board meetings so that we don't miss the latter part of the meetings. Once the meeting is over, it is stopped through our live manager interface. Once the recording is stopped and depending on the length of the meeting, the program will take at least a couple of hours to upload to the internet. Trimming of a show or program cannot be done until it is uploaded completely. Staff can either wait for the upload to complete late into the evening or trim the upload the next day.

In regards to the servers, those are located offsite, maintained offsite, and paid for through a flat rate by franchise fees. The cost for the Granicus servers to host HOMTV and CAMTV videos is the same regardless of how many hours or how many programs are hosted on their servers.

Please let me know if you have any additional concerns or questions and I hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Deborah Guthrie
Communications Director
517.853.4380

From: bowlby@msu.edu [mailto:bowlby@msu.edu]
Sent: Tuesday, November 25, 2014 11:54 AM
To: Deborah Guthrie
Cc: Frank Walsh
Subject: Length of HOM TV video for last night's planning commission meeting

Hi Deborah,

I was just reviewing the HOM TV video from the PC meeting of last night and notice that while the meeting itself lasted only a little over 4 hours, the video on the HOM TV site is just over 6 hours in length. The last two

hours are devoted to regular HOM TV content. It seems a bit wasteful of storage space on your server to include superfluous content, especially if the Township pays for storage/bandwidth based on file size.

Thanks, and have a nice holiday weekend.

Neil

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

**COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR
REPORT**

October 2014 Monthly Report for the Communications Department

New Programs on HOMTV

Televised Meetings:

Environmental Commission	10-1-14
Planning Commission	10-27-14
Township Board	10-21-14
Zoning Board of Appeals	10-8-14

New Original Programming:

Beyond the Badge	10-15-14
InnerView: Deer Management	10-28-14
Jewels 'N General	10-20-14
Meridian Magazine	10-27-14
Meridian News Now	10-30-14
Senior Living	10-8-14
All Access Sports	10-22-14

Ballot Meridian Coverage:

- 16 Candidate Interviews
- 16 Candidate Statements
- 13 Live Call-In Debates and Special Features

Director's Statement:

HOMTV wrapped up Ballot Meridian 2014 election coverage with a live 5 hour broadcast of election results on general election day. Crews of 35 team members were in the field and studio bringing up to the minute results to the public. Primary election night was a 4 ½ hour broadcast. 14 candidate and ballot live call in debates were produced, 29 interviews and 11 special features on election issues, proposals and meet the candidates. Election night featured live victory speeches and interviews with Governor Synder and Lt. Governor Calley, 8th U.S Congressman Bishop, 23rd District State Senator Curtis Hertel Jr., 69th District State Representative Sam Singh, local School Board candidate Amy Crites, and County Commissioners Deb Nolan and Teri Banas. A minor glitch happened early on in the program when the digital switcher crashed but it was recovered quickly.

Facebook Page summary through 10-31-14:

	PEOPLE LIKE THIS	HIGHEST REACH
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	1,249	3,942
HOMTV	937	985
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT	460	480
DOWNTOWN OKEMOS	421	No new posts
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION	412	206

SENT/FINISHED PRESS RELEASES:

- Meridian Celebrates Halloween (10/20/14)
- Fall Recycling Event Results (10/20/14)
- Election Voting Information (10/20/14)
- HOMTV Continues General Election Night Coverage (10/20/14)
- HOMTV General Election Night Coverage (10/20/14)
- Halloween Safety Tips (10/27/14)
- Meridian Township Receives Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (10/27/14)
- Election Voting Information (10/27/14)
- HOMTV General Election Night Coverage (10/27/14)

Updates for the period ending October 31, 2014:

- Communications Department created and distributed **9 new** press releases
- Completed **1** of **1** Cable Complaints/Cable Inquiries
- Staff completed **5** intern examinations
- Staff had **1** job shadows in the month of October
- Interns have contributed approximately **2,425 hours** during the month of October
- Received **8 new** internship applications and resumes
- Completed/changed **4** Bulletin Board announcement requests on HOMTV
- Produced and aired **over 50 new** original programs on HOMTV
- Aired **7 new** official township meetings on HOMTV
- Aired **13** syndicated programs on CAMTV
- CAMTV received/filled **2 new** requests for program playback
- Staff toured PEG (public, education, & government) access centers in West Michigan on October 10th
- Staff attended the Alliance for Community Media Central States Philo Festival of Media Arts & awards ceremony on October 11th. HOMTV staff and interns received **6 first place awards, the George C. Stoney Community Activism Award, as well as 1 finalist certificate**
- Staff attended the Michigan State University Broad College of Business and Bagels on Infographics
- Brandie attended the seminar "What Makes People Tick?"
- HOMTV held their annual Studio Fun House on October 25th, nearly **40** people attended the event
- HOMTV interns attended the Michigan Parkinson Foundation's "I Gave My Sole for Parkinson's" walk-a-thon on October 11th as a media sponsor
- HOMTV's award winning Ballot Meridian General Election coverage continued with several candidate interviews, statements and debates and special features for the upcoming November election
- Uploaded **38 HOMTV** videos to YouTube



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

MIKE ZIMMER
ACTING DIRECTOR

GREG R. WHITE
COMMISSIONER

JOHN D. QUACKENBUSH
CHAIRMAN

SALLY A. TALBERG
COMMISSIONER

October 29, 2014

To Cities/Villages/Townships:

This letter is being sent to franchise entities (municipalities) within the state of Michigan. "Franchise Entity" means the local unit of government (city, village, or township) in which a provider offers video services. The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) has prepared an electronic survey to determine trends and to better understand if municipalities are experiencing positive or negative issues with cable providers, or if municipalities have concerns with Public Act 480 of 2006 (the Act). The information gathered will be included in the MPSC's annual report to the Governor and Legislature, which is filed pursuant to Section 12(2) of the Act. The survey is quick and should only take a few minutes of your time.

Beginning *October 31, 2014*, go to michigan.gov/mpsc and click on the Video/Cable link and look for the electronic survey in the Spotlight section. *Please submit your responses by November 26, 2014.* Please note that the survey will no longer be available on the website after December 1, 2014.

For your information, enclosed are two Consumer Tips that provide information regarding filing a complaint with the MPSC. One is relevant to customers, the other to a municipality.

The MPSC values your input and comments. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (517) 241-6100 or by email at foristc@michigan.gov.

Very truly yours,

Christina Forist, Manager
Service Quality Section

Enclosures



Status of Competition for Video Services in Michigan

Here is the information you have submitted.

Please print a copy for your records.

Franchise Entity:	Meridian Township
Address:	5151 Marsh Rd.
Address 2:	
City:	Okemos
County:	Ingham
State	Michigan
Zip:	48864
Contact Person:	Deborah Guthrie
Phone:	5178534380
Contact Email:	guthrie@meridian.mi.us
Providers Prior	1
Providers since 01/01/11	1
Total Agreements	2
Current Provider	comcast att uverse
Other	
Satellite Providers in your community	dish network direct tv other
Other	Zayo, Spectrum
Aware of Public Act 4?	Yes
Receive Complaints?	Yes
Number of Complaints	24
Resolve Attempts	Yes
Complaints to MPSC	24
Complaint Type	Customer Service Service/Equip
Other	
Awareness of MPSC	Yes

Informal Disputes	No
Dispute Regarding	
Other Disputes	
Contact MPSC about Disputes	
Impact on Community	Competition: Increase Franchise Fee Payments: Increase PEG Fee Payments: Increase Complaints: Increase Other: None
Other	
Quality of Service	Customer Service Quality: Decrease PEG Studios and Equipment: Decrease Services Offered Decrease Number of CSCs Decrease Other: None
Other	
PEG Channels	Yes
Complete survey before 2014?	Yes
E-mail Notifications?	guthrie@meridian.mi.us
E-mail Announcement	Yes
E-mail Contact Info	
Recommendations	Meridian Township is increasingly receiving permit requests for companies who want to provide satellite services in the public rights of way. We are also seeing increase in companies requesting to deliver video without a franchise agreement. They don't think they need one. This is increasingly becoming a problem.
Date Submitted	11.21.2014

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

**TOWNSHIP
REPORT**



MERIDIAN *Cares* EMERGENCY NEEDS FUNDRAISER

Contact:

Darla Jackson
Human Services Specialist
jackson@meridian.mi.us
517-853-4204

FACT SHEET

Meridian Cares: *Emergency Needs Fundraiser Raffle*

Purpose:

Replenish the depleted Meridian Township Emergency Needs Fund

Goal:

Raise \$3,000 through the sale of raffle tickets at \$10 each or 3 tickets for \$20 and present a check to the Community Resources Commission in that amount on December 17, 2014

About:

Through the Community Resources Commission, the Emergency Needs Fund helps Meridian Township residents in financial crises. Applicants may be eligible to receive help with Poverty Exemption applications, rent, utilities, mortgage, holiday food baskets, school supplies, prescriptions, general household needs, bus passes, medical equipment, or personal needs.

Facts:

- Raffle tickets can be purchased at participating area businesses and Meridian Township Office Buildings or by contacting Human Services Specialist Darla Jackson
- Donations are also being accepted for the cause.
Please make all checks payable to: **Meridian Township** (designating "Meridian Cares" in the memo line).
- Raffle tickets are available for purchase November 26, 2014 through December 16, 2014
- 20 gift baskets will be raffled off through a drawing being held December 17, 2014
- Raffle ticket winners will be announced on the Meridian Township Facebook page www.facebook.com/MeridianTownship
- Gift baskets are being donated by area businesses and the Meridian Cares Team

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff
Brett Dreyfus
Julie Brixie
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor
Clerk
Treasurer
Manager



Milton L. Scales
Ronald J. Styka
John Veenstra
Angela Wilson

Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee

November 26, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

The Meridian Cares Team is organizing its first **Meridian Cares Emergency Needs Fundraiser** for families in the Township in need of assistance. The Community Resources Commission Emergency Needs Fund is at an all-time low and the Township aims to raise \$3,000 by December 17th to help prevent anyone from children to seniors from going hungry, going cold, or losing their home this holiday season. The Meridian Cares Team is working closely with the Community Resources Commission to generate funds through raffle ticket sales.

We would like your community support for this cause. You, as a local Meridian Township business, can contribute by donating a \$50-\$100 gift basket to be raffled on December 17th at Meridian Township's annual holiday luncheon being held at Pizza House. Your gift basket donation will be greatly appreciated and will not go unnoticed.

A gift basket donation will not only help the Community Emergency Needs Fund, but it is a great opportunity to advertise your business to the community and show your support.

At the December 17th event, beginning at 3pm, we aim to present the Community Resources Commission with a ceremonial check for \$3,000 and we invite you to be part of this special occasion. We are asking for your commitment to donate by December 5th and that all donations are ready by Monday, December 15th.

We thank you for your support of the Meridian Cares Team initiative and the Community Emergency Needs Fund. Your generosity will not go unnoticed. If you have any questions, please contact Communications Director Deborah Guthrie at (517) 853-4380, or guthrie@meridian.mi.us.

Sincerely,

Frank Walsh
Meridian Township Manager
Meridian Cares Team Leader

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 (517) 853-4000

www.meridian.mi.us

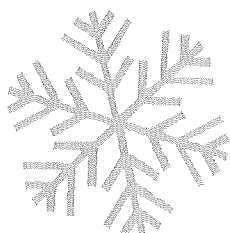





MERIDIAN *Cares*



EMERGENCY NEEDS FUNDRAISER



The **Community Resources Commission Emergency Needs Fund** is at an all-time low and the Township aims to raise \$3000 by December 17th to help prevent anyone from children to seniors from going hungry, going cold, or losing their home this holiday season.



**\$10/each or 3 for \$20
Raffle Tickets**

Enter the drawing to
WIN gift baskets from
local businesses and
help those in need!



Winners will be announced on the
Meridian Township Facebook Page on

December 17

Your donation is tax deductible

For more information call the Township Human Services Department
517.853.4200



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff
Brett Dreyfus
Julie Brixie
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor
Clerk
Treasurer
Manager



Milton L. Scales
Ronald J. Styka
John Veenstra
Angela Wilson

Trustee
Trustee
Trustee
Trustee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 26, 2014

Media Contact: Darla Jackson
Human Services Specialist
jackson@meridian.mi.us
(517) 853-4204

Meridian Cares Team Aims to Raise \$3,000 for Those in Need *Raffle Tickets Being Sold to Reach Goal*

Meridian Township, MI – The Meridian Cares Team is organizing its first “Meridian Cares Emergency Needs Fundraiser” for residents in the Township who are in need of assistance this holiday season.

According to the U.S. Census, about 13%, or 5,000 people in Meridian Township live below the poverty level, and almost 3,000 people live below 50% of the poverty level.

The Emergency Needs Fund is at an all-time low and the Township aims to raise \$3,000 by December 17th to help replenish the fund. The Meridian Cares Team is working closely with the Meridian Township Community Resources Commission (CRC) to generate funds through raffle ticket sales.

“Many households will be lacking this holiday season and having to make choices between food, utilities, rent, or medication, and this is one way in which the community can reach out to our neighbors to help them enjoy what the rest of us often take for granted,” stated Suzanne Brouse, Chair of the Community Resources Commission.

The goal is to present a ceremonial check for \$3,000 to the Community Resources Commission at the December 17th annual holiday luncheon.

Raffle tickets are being sold for \$10 each or 3 tickets for \$20 and can be purchased at Meridian Township Office Buildings and participating businesses. Those who purchase raffle tickets will get the chance to win 1 of 20 gift baskets valued between \$50 and \$100 from local businesses and the Meridian Cares Team. Winners will be announced on the Meridian Township Facebook page on December 17th.

###

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 (517) 853-4000
www.meridian.mi.us





MERIDIAN *Cares* EMERGENCY NEEDS FUNDRAISER

Media Contact:

Darla Jackson
Human Services Specialist
jackson@meridian.mi.us
517-853-4204

Announcement Script for Meridian Cares Emergency Needs Fundraiser (30 seconds):

The Meridian Township Emergency Needs Fund is at an all-time low. The Meridian Cares Team announces that it is working closely with the Community Resources Commission to generate funds through a raffle drawing to raise \$3,000 which will assist those with emergency needs in Meridian Township. Raffle tickets are being sold now through December 16th at Meridian Township Office Buildings and participating businesses. A list of those locations can be found at meridian.mi.us.

Announcement Script for Meridian Cares Emergency Needs Fundraiser (15 seconds):

The Meridian Township Emergency Needs Fund is at an all-time low. The Meridian Cares Team announces a raffle drawing to raise \$3,000 which will assist those with emergency needs in Meridian Township. Raffle tickets are being sold now through December 16th at Meridian Township Office Buildings and participating businesses. Visit meridian.mi.us for more information.

###

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

PROGRAMMING



Programming Schedule for month of November, 2014

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday		
12:00 AM	Meridian Live - Township Board REPLAY	Meridian Live - Planning Commission REPLAY	Meridian Live - Township Board REPLAY	Meridian Live - Zoning Board of Appeals REPLAY	Meridian Live - Township Board REPLAY	Meridian Live - Township Board REPLAY	Meridian Live - Planning Commission REPLAY		
1:00 AM				Meridian Live - Environmental Commission REPLAY					
2:00 AM									
3:00 AM									
4:00 AM	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView		InnerView	Meridian Live - Environmental Commission REPLAY	Meridian Live - Environmental Commission REPLAY		
4:30 AM	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge				
5:00 AM	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports				
5:30 AM	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine				
6:00 AM	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW		
6:30 AM	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW		
7:00 AM	Open Line	Open Line	Open Line	Open Line	Open Line	Open Line	Open Line		
7:30 AM									
8:00 AM	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView		
8:30 AM	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge		
9:00 AM	Senior Living	Senior Living	Senior Living	Senior Living	Senior Living	Senior Living	Senior Living		
9:30 AM	Shared Fire Services Press Conference	Shared Fire Services Press Conference	Shared Fire Services Press Conference	Shared Fire Services Press Conference	Shared Fire Services Press Conference	Shared Fire Services Press Conference	Shared Fire Services Press Conference		
10:00 AM	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView		
10:30 AM	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports		
11:00 AM	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine		
11:30 AM	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW		
12:00 PM	Meridian Live - Park Commission REPLAY	Meridian Live - Planning Commission REPLAY	Meridian Live - Township Board REPLAY	Meridian Live Zoning Board of Appeals - REPLAY	Meridian Live - Park Commission REPLAY	Meridian Live - Township Board REPLAY	Meridian Live - Planning Commission REPLAY		
1:00 PM	Meridian Live - Environmental Commission REPLAY			Shared Fire Services Press Conference				Meridian Live - Environmental Commission REPLAY	
2:00 PM				Senior Living					Senior Living
2:30 PM									
3:00 PM									
3:30 PM									
4:00 PM	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView		
4:30 PM	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge		
5:00 PM	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports		
5:30 PM	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine		
6:00 PM	Meridian News NOW	Meridian Live - Township Board LIVE or REPLAY	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW		
6:30 PM	Meridian News NOW		Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW		
7:00 PM	Meridian Live - Planning Commission LIVE or REPLAY		Meridian Live - Zoning Board of Appeals LIVE or REPLAY	Open Line	Open Line	Open Line	Open Line		
8:00 PM			InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView			
8:30 PM		Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge			
9:00 PM		Senior Living	Senior Living	Senior Living	Senior Living	Senior Living			
9:30 PM		Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW		
10:00 PM	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView		
10:30 PM	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports		
11:00 PM	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine		
11:30 PM	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW	Meridian News NOW		

Meetings	Programs/Specials	Talk Shows	News
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All programs subject to change. LIVE meeting coverage may pre-empt other programs.

Programming Schedule for November, 2014

Capital Area Regional Television also available online WWW.HOMTV.NET



Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2:00 AM	Open for Faith Based Programming	Open for programming					
3:30 AM							
3:00 AM							
4:00 AM	Sustaining the Future: Energy Presentations	Sustaining the Future: Energy Presentations	Sustaining the Future: Energy Presentations	Sustaining the Future: Energy Presentations	Sustaining the Future: Energy Presentations	Sustaining the Future: Energy Presentations	Sustaining the Future: Energy Presentations
5:00 AM							
6:00 AM	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress
6:30 AM	In The Fight	In The Fight	In The Fight	In The Fight	In The Fight	In The Fight	In The Fight
7:00 AM	Special Feature: CATA BRT	Special Feature: CATA BRT	Special Feature: CATA BRT	Special Feature: CATA BRT	Special Feature: CATA BRT	Special Feature: CATA BRT	Special Feature: CATA BRT
7:30 AM							
8:00 AM							
8:30 AM	UM Wolverine Caucus	UM Wolverine Caucus	UM Wolverine Caucus	UM Wolverine Caucus	UM Wolverine Caucus	UM Wolverine Caucus	UM Wolverine Caucus
9:00 AM							
9:30 AM	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion
10:00 AM	A Sit Down with Shanacee	A Sit Down with Shanacee	A Sit Down with Shanacee	A Sit Down with Shanacee	A Sit Down with Shanacee	A Sit Down with Shanacee	A Sit Down with Shanacee
10:30 AM	Cooking with Cathy	Open Line: Call-In Show	Open Line: Call-In Show	Open Line: Call-In Show	Open Line: Call-In Show	Open Line: Call-In Show	Cooking with Cathy
11:00 AM	Cooking with Cathy						Cooking with Cathy
11:30 AM	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers
12:00 PM	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
12:30 PM	Open for Faith Based Programming	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories
1:00 PM		TEEN LOL Television	TEEN LOL Television	TEEN LOL Television	TEEN LOL Television	TEEN LOL Television	TEEN LOL Television
1:30 PM							
2:00 PM	Money Rules	Money Rules	Money Rules	Money Rules	Money Rules	Money Rules	Money Rules
2:30 PM	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress	Facts of Congress
3:00 PM	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView
3:30 PM	In The Fight	In The Fight	In The Fight	In The Fight	In The Fight	In The Fight	In The Fight
4:00 PM	Inspirational Corner	Inspirational Corner	Inspirational Corner	Inspirational Corner	Inspirational Corner	Inspirational Corner	Inspirational Corner
4:30 PM	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion	Poetree-n-Motion
5:00 PM	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!	Democracy Now!
5:30 PM							
6:00 PM	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories	Michigan Court Stories
6:30 PM	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break
7:00 PM	Open Line: Call-In Show	Open Line: Call-In Show	Open Line: Call-In Show	Open Line: Call-In Show	Open Line: Call-In Show	Open Line: Call-In Show	Open Line: Call-In Show
7:30 PM							
8:00 PM	TEEN LOL Television	TEEN LOL Television	TEEN LOL Television	TEEN LOL Television	TEEN LOL Television	TEEN LOL Television	TEEN LOL Television
8:30 PM							
9:00 PM		Battle of Ideas					
9:30 PM	UM Wolverine Caucus	UM Wolverine Caucus	UM Wolverine Caucus	UM Wolverine Caucus	UM Wolverine Caucus	UM Wolverine Caucus	UM Wolverine Caucus
10:00 PM							
10:30 PM	Cooking with Cathy	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	Cooking with Cathy
11:00 PM	Cooking with Cathy	Story of Hope	Story of Hope	Story of Hope	Story of Hope	Story of Hope	Cooking with Cathy
11:30 PM	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers	City Pulse Newsmakers

All programs are subject to change.

HOMTV-Produced Programming	Open for programming	Public Programming	MI Regional Programs	National Programs
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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

**VIEWERSHIP/
PROMOTIONS**

BALLOT MERIDIAN 2014



Tune in LIVE online at homv.net or Comcast Channel 21 and JOIN THE DEBATE!

Who will be the next 11th District Ingham County Commissioner?



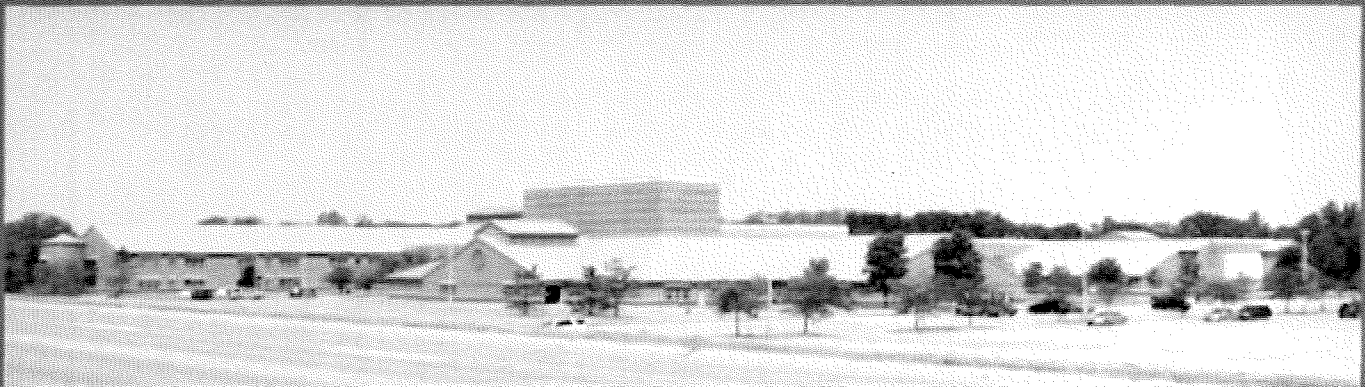
Ask Gerry Polverento (R) and Teri Banas (D) your questions on their run for office during the LIVE debate October 15 @ 7:00pm

Do you have the right to work?



Discuss the pros and cons with David Crim (MEA), Chris Holman (Gov. Granholm Small Business Advocate), Rich Studley (MI Chamber of Commerce) and Vincent Vernuccio (MCP) October 16 @ 5:00pm

Who will make the decisions on Okemos' School Board?



Of the 5 candidates appearing on the ballot, Dean Bolton, Amy Crites (I), Vincent Lyon-Callo (I) and Robert Tucker will answer your questions during the candidate forum LIVE on October 16 @ 8:00pm

Call in at (517) 349-1232 or Tweet @HOMTV using #BallotMeridian

BALLOT MERIDIAN 2014



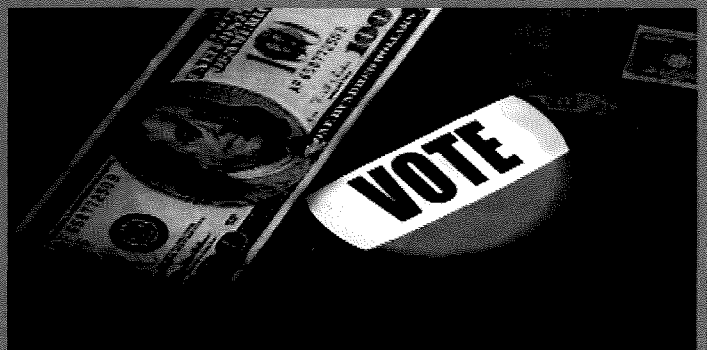
WATCH ONLINE AT HOMV.NET OR ON COMCAST CHANNEL 21 & ASK YOUR QUESTIONS!

Get an inside look:



Go behind the scenes of the Ingham County Courts with Honorable Rosemary Aquilina (30th Circuit), Janelle Lawless (30th Circuit) and Thomas Boyd (55th Circuit)! They will be taking your questions LIVE on Oct. 20 @ 8 pm

What goes into Michigan campaign financing?



Find out and ask your questions on a special LIVE call-in show with Rich Robinson (MCFN) and Eric Doster (Esq) on Oct. 23 @ 7 pm

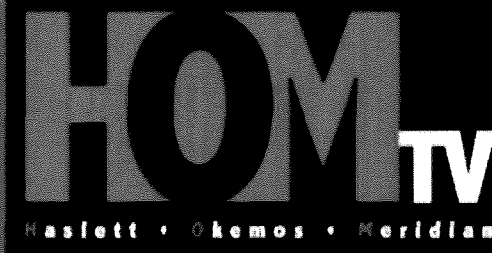
Watch LIVE on



Channel 21

Call in at (517) 349-1232 or Tweet @HOMTV using #BallotMeridian

BALLOT MERIDIAN 2014



WATCH ONLINE AT HOMV.NET OR ON COMCAST CHANNEL 21 & ASK YOUR QUESTIONS!

State Senator 23rd District Debate



Craig Whitehead (R) and Curtis Hertel Jr (D) answer your questions LIVE! Call in at (517) 349-1232 and ask on Oct. 28 @ 8pm

What are the effects of Political Campaigns on the American Public?



Find out and ask your questions on a special LIVE call-in show with Matt Grossmann (MSU Pol. Sci. Professor) & David Regan (MSU Advertising Instructor) on Oct. 29 @ 7pm

About the Michigan Political Leadership Program

Anne Merveene (Co-Director of the MSU Michigan Political Leadership Program) along with Peter Spadafore, Dichondra Johnson and Jesse Wortley Adler (graduates of MPLP) join HOMTV LIVE October 30 @ 7pm!

**LEARN
LEAD
SUCCEED**

Watch LIVE on



Channel 21

Call in at (517) 349-1232 or Tweet @HOMTV using #BallotMeridian

**BALLOT
MERIDIAN

2014**

**LIVE GENERAL ELECTION NIGHT
COVERAGE ON HOMTV
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH
BEGINNING AT 8:00 P.M.**

**WATCH LIVE ON COMCAST CHANNEL 21 &
ONLINE WWW.HOMTV.NET**



**CALL 517.349.1232 OR TWEET YOUR
COMMENTS @HOMTV**



**HOMTV PROVIDES VIEWERS WITH DETAILED ANALYSIS OF RACES AND BALLOT PROPOSALS
AS WELL AS LIVE UP TO THE MINUTE RESULTS AS BALLOTS ARE COUNTED.**

**A FULL COMPLEMENT OF REPORTERS WILL ALSO BE ON LOCATION IN THE FIELD BRINGING
REACTION FROM BOTH VOTERS AND CANDIDATES AS RESULTS BECOME AVAILABLE.**

HOMTV's Schedule

Find your favorites



Week of November 24th- November 28th

Meridian Magazine

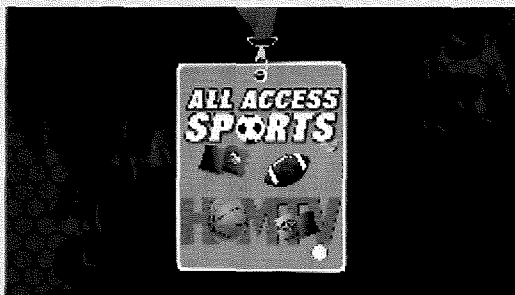
This week on Meridian Magazine, tune-in to see which stores will not open early for Black Friday, how one local business is giving back this Thanksgiving Holiday and how you can help make Small Business Saturday a success. Also, find out how a group of sixty children will be spending this holiday season.



[WATCH NOW ONLINE](#)

All Access Sports

Make sure to watch this week's episode of All Access for a preview into the basketball seasons of local high schools, how Okemos High School is dealing with sports related concussions and more on Haslett Hockey.



Top Stories:

[Find Out Why Some Stores Have Opted Out on Opening Early for Black Friday](#)



[Find Out Which Local Business is Hosting Another Free Thanksgiving Dinner This Year](#)



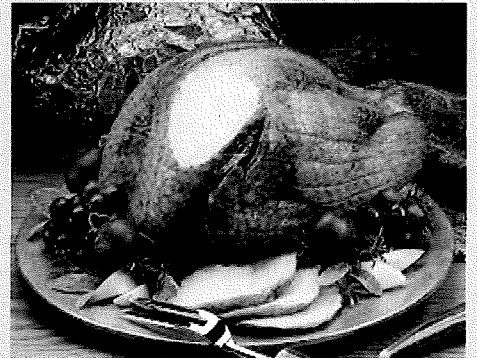
[Take a Look Behind the Scenes as Lansing Area Dancers Prepare to Perform "The Nutcracker" at Wharton Center](#)

WATCH NOW ONLINE**Meridian Live**

Meridian Live brings you gavel-to-gavel coverage of Meridian Township government in action. Tune in on Monday at 6:00 p.m. for the Planning Commission meeting covering one Special Use Permit request, a Rezoning request and a Commission Review. There are no scheduled meetings for the rest of the week due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.


WATCH NOW ONLINE

Find Out How Residents Can Reserve Thanksgiving Turkeys from Farmers' Market Vendors

**Connect With Us**

Like us on **Facebook**  Follow us on **twitter**

View our profile on **Linked in**  FOLLOW US ON **Pinterest**

View our videos on **You Tube** 

Contact Us

Deborah Guthrie
Director of Communications
guthrie@meridian.mi.us
(517) 853-4380

Coming up the week of December 1st:

New episodes of All Access Sports and Meridian News Now.

Golden Tape Awards will air on December 4, 2014.

On Meridian LIVE the Planning Commission Township Board will have their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday and the Environmental Commission meeting will be Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

Forward this email

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

FINANCE

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

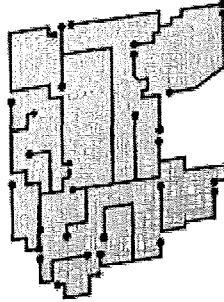
**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

FYI

The following materials are "for your information"
and do not necessarily relate to an agenda item

Extension Agreement Reached

At their October 9, 2014, meeting the directors of the North Suburban Communications Commission adopted a resolution that resolved a number of legal and franchise issues and agreed to recommend to the member cities that they extend the current cable franchise until December 31, 2016, and that they approve the transfer of their cable franchises from Comcast Corporation to Midwest Cable/GreatLand Connections, Inc. Funding for community media will continue for the duration of the extension, and the status quo will remain for the Institutional Network, although Comcast will not be required to extend it to new locations.



In addition, the formal renewal process will be suspended. At the time of the agreement, the NSCC and Comcast were preparing for an administrative hearing on the company's formal franchise renewal proposal before an administrative law judge. Comcast had requested the hearing after the ten member cities issued preliminary denials of the formal proposal earlier in the year. Either party may re-start the formal process after July 1, 2015, or the closing of the franchise transfer, whichever comes first.

To resolve the non-compliance order on the PEG capacity issue, Comcast will make available one HD channel for PEG programming and agrees that it will deliver the channel at a resolution comparable to that of the highest resolution used for the delivery of local broadcast signals. It will be assigned a number near the other HD local broadcast stations, if such a channel location is available. If not, it would be assigned a channel location near other HD news/public affairs programming or as reasonably close as available channel numbering will allow. Comcast will also permit CTV North Suburbs to place channel programming information on the electronic programming guide. NSCC agrees to withdraw the PEG Capacity notice of violation.

To settle the rate order violation, Comcast agreed to refund \$49,000 to cable subscribers in the NSCC area, and the NSCC agrees that the equipment cost disclosure method already implemented by the company will satisfy its obligations under the rate order. NSCC agrees to withdraw the rate order notice of violation.

The resolution recommending that the member cities approve the transfer of their cable franchise from Comcast to Midwest Cable/GreatLand Connections, GreatLand Connections will guarantee that the rates and charges for cable service in the ten cities will not increase as a result of the proposed transaction. As part of the proposed merger between Comcast and Time-Warner Cable, Comcast is divesting all of its franchises in the Twin Cities metropolitan area to the newly created company, Midwest Cable/GreatLand Connections. The transfer of these franchises must be approved by all of the local franchising authorities.

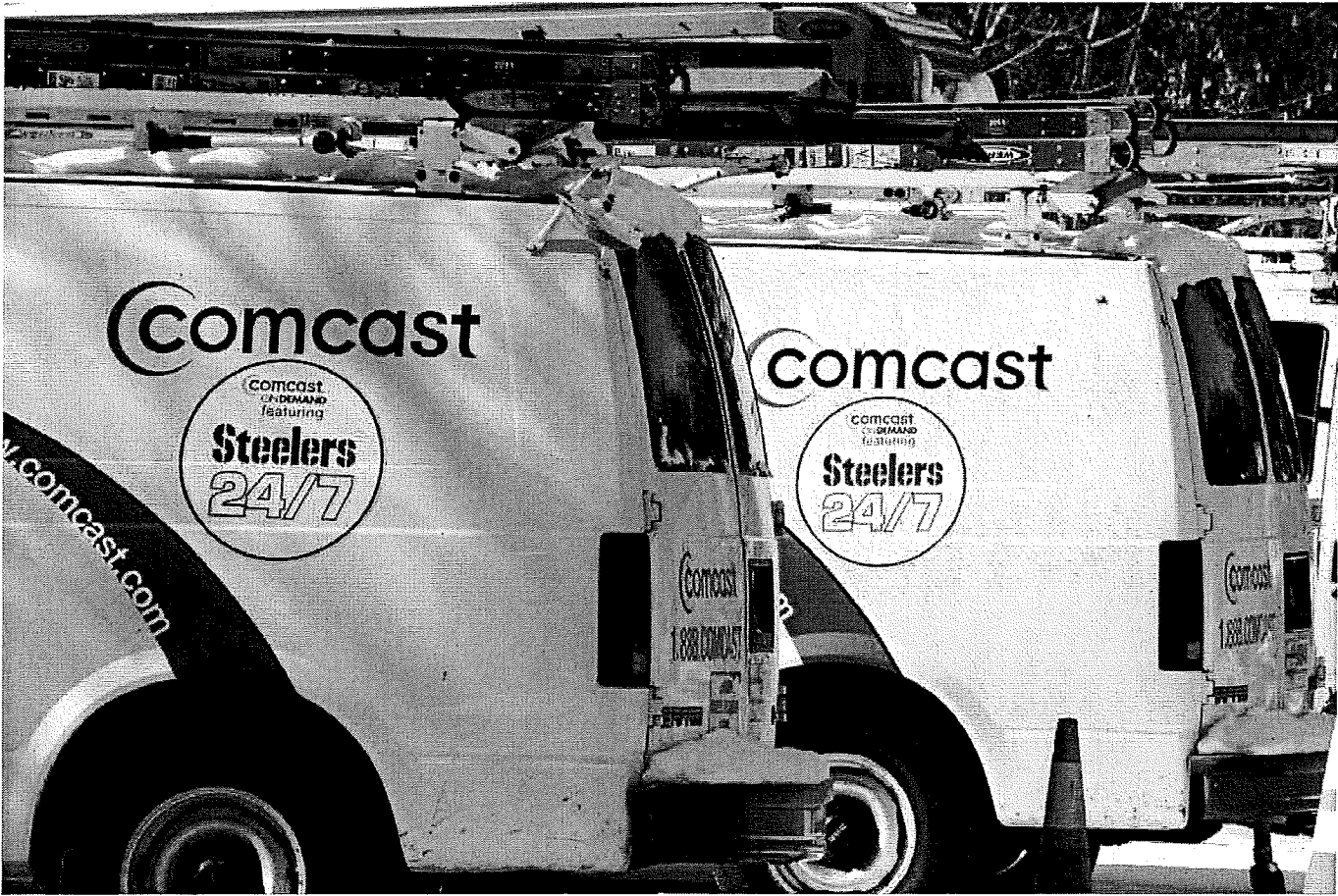
The member cities have scheduled votes on the ordinance extending the franchise and the resolution approving the transfer on the following dates:

October 22 - Little Canada

October 27 - Arden Hills & Mounds View (public hearing/first reading); vote on November 10

Kentucky vs. Comcast

Towns Want Promises Before Blessing Deals Involving Time-Warner Cable, Charter



ENLARGE

Some towns have won concessions from Comcast, Charter and Time Warner Cable in light of the merger. Gene J. Puskar/Associated Press

Shalini Ramachandran

Nov. 17, 2014 12:12 p.m. ET

26 COMMENTS

As mayor of Somerset, Ky., Eddie Girdler on a daily basis tackles issues ranging from opening new neighborhood

parks to stopping aggressive dogs from harassing mailmen.

Now he's got a new project: blocking the pending \$45 billion merger^[1] of cable giants Comcast^[2] Corp. and Time Warner Cable^[3] Inc.

Just in Somerset, that is.

Last week Somerset's city council voted against the deal, denying requests for Time Warner Cable's systems to be turned over to Comcast, and later to Charter Communications^[4] Inc., a third party involved in the transaction^[5].

At least two other Kentucky areas, including Campbell County and the city of Danville, have taken steps toward similar ends.

The decisions of a few towns are unlikely to have much bearing on the Comcast deal, since the merger agreement says it needs approval from localities representing only 85% of Time Warner Cable's 11 million subscribers. The deal's fate will be decided by Washington^[6] regulators. But these communities' passionate opposition, fueled by frustration with customer-service headaches, points to some of the challenges Comcast and Charter will inherit if they succeed in taking over Time Warner Cable systems.

Kentucky mayors and city managers say their constituents have been through a number of cable deals over the years as smaller operators have been gobbled up. In Danville, for example, the cable system has changed hands from FrontierVision to Adelphia Communications Corp. to Time Warner Cable. The result, officials in several cities say, has been higher cable rates and worse customer service, as the merging companies close regional offices and consolidate operations.

"We're very concerned that the bigger they get, the less likely they are to respond to any customer," Somerset's Mr. Girdler said.

Charter, Comcast and Time Warner Cable say they are working toward winning the necessary local approvals. "We look forward to good relationships" with all the acquired territories, a Charter spokesman said. Comcast said it expects to get the required approvals.

Local governments have the ability to approve or deny the transfer of a cable company, if that is stipulated in the "franchise" agreement between the parties. In about half of U.S. states, state-level bodies have that power, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. But in other states, including Kentucky, city governments get the final say.

It isn't high rocket science—it's pretty simple: Give us the Weather Channel, come on!

—Eddie Girdler, mayor, Somerset, Ky.

Tensions between cities and cable companies have a rich history. Cable companies are ripe political targets and local politicians have long used cable transactions as vehicles to negotiate improvements on service.

Indeed, even as they press their case against the deal, many of the Kentucky towns including Somerset are willing

to acquiesce if the companies promise concessions.

The requests, which can seem pedestrian, range from extending local store hours to getting public-access channels broadcast in high-definition. Among Somerset's biggest beefs is that Charter isn't guaranteeing that the Weather Channel will be part of the basic TV package if it acquires control.

Local officials aren't sure precisely what happens if towns go through with rejecting the deals. Some acknowledge they would likely face lawsuits.

Kentucky officials say that this merger could be the last opportunity to extract favorable terms for the foreseeable future, given the size of the companies involved and the small chance of another big deal happening in the near term.

Some towns have reached deals with Comcast, Charter and Time Warner Cable after threatening to reject the transaction. Lexington, Ky., struck a 10-year pact Thursday in which the cable companies all agreed to longer store hours and steeper, \$500-a-day penalties if they were to violate the contract. Charter also agreed to create a new, affordable broadband option for low-income residents.

Worcester, Mass., on Nov. 6 approved transfer of the local Charter system to Comcast—but only after Comcast agreed to keep the local call center open and continue backing the city's public news program.

Danville, Ky., is approaching a final decision in coming weeks. Among its demands: free cable-TV for all public schools and continued funding of a local office and studio where churches and residents can record public programming.

In Somerset, Mr. Girdler said people rely on weather TV coverage during tornado season. "It isn't high rocket science—it's pretty simple: Give us the Weather Channel, come on!" he said.

The roadblocks stem in part from negative consumer sentiment about cable-TV providers in general, and these three companies in particular. Cable executives acknowledge it is much harder to integrate systems when taking over a cable company whose reputation has suffered.

In a J.D. Power survey this year of more than 30,000 customers nationwide, TWC ranked last in customer service among TV providers in the South. Comcast and Charter rounded out the bottom three.

The companies all say they are working on it. "We've seen an increase in our customer satisfaction scores over the past year or two and look forward to continuing to improve," a Charter spokesman said. Comcast said improving customer experience is a "top priority."

Time Warner Cable noted that it has boosted Internet speeds and streamlined customer service in Kentucky.

Cable franchise lawyers say the Kentucky localities' actions are unusual.

"In my 23 years practicing telecommunications law, I have never had a community deny a transfer of control or have a resolution to deny a transfer of control placed on their agenda, up until this year," says Linda Ain, a lawyer who has worked on dozens of cable deals and represents close to a hundred Kentucky municipalities, including

several of the current holdouts.

Adds Jim Baller, a longtime telecom lawyer at Baller Herbst Law Group: Among local officials, "there's a widespread sense of unquiet about this merger."

Write to Shalini Ramachandran at shalini.ramachandran@wsj.com^[7]

1. <http://online.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052702303704304579379801986541412>

2. <http://quotes.wsj.com/CMCSA>

3. <http://quotes.wsj.com/TWC>

4. <http://quotes.wsj.com/CHTR>

5. <http://online.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052702304893404579529262655682706>

6. <http://online.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052702304819004579489331473528424>

7. <mailto:shalini.ramachandran@wsj.com>

Community Broadband Networks

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Small Town Volunteers in Massachusetts Begin Pole Inventory

Thu, November 06, 2014 | Posted by [lgonzalez \(/users/lgonzalez\)](#)



Volunteers in [Shutesbury \(http://shutesbury.org\)](http://shutesbury.org) will fan out this weekend to perform a "pole inventory blitz" reports the [GazetteNet.com \(http://www.gazettenet.com/news/townbytown/shutesbury/14132933-95/shutesbury-broadband-committee-plans-pole-inventory-blitz-as-first-step-in-improving-internet-access\)](http://www.gazettenet.com/news/townbytown/shutesbury/14132933-95/shutesbury-broadband-committee-plans-pole-inventory-blitz-as-first-step-in-improving-internet-access). The town of approximately 1,800 people sits near Leverett and faces many of the same difficulties with connectivity.

Shutesbury and Leverett were [working together a few years ago \(http://www.recorder.com/news/nation/world/5232169-95/leverett-bushwhacks-its-own-route\)](http://www.recorder.com/news/nation/world/5232169-95/leverett-bushwhacks-its-own-route) hoping to develop a solution to bring infrastructure to both communities. The two communities approached Verizon and Comcast asking for better connectivity, but their requests led to nothing. Eventually, Leverett became frustrated and broke out on their own. They are now deploying [their own fiber network \(http://www.muninetworks.org/content/leverett-track-fiber-network-massachusetts\)](http://www.muninetworks.org/content/leverett-track-fiber-network-massachusetts).

One of the first steps in determining the feasibility and costs to deploy a fiber network is accurately evaluating assets. Many local communities do not have an up-to-date inventory of utility poles or what entities own those poles. In Lake County, Minnesota, [Frontier Communications asserted ownership \(http://www.muninetworks.org/content/pole-issue-means-more-delay-lake-county-project\)](http://www.muninetworks.org/content/pole-issue-means-more-delay-lake-county-project) of utility poles in the town of Two Harbors after fiber had been strung on those poles. Unfortunately, the county's records had not been revisited in some time and Frontier was able to produce records put ownership in question. The project was significantly delayed; planners eventually moved more fiber underground to avoid many of those poles. Pole inventories and due diligence, as in Shutesbury, help avoid delays and unanticipated cost increases. (Read all about Lake County's project in our recent report, [All Hands on Deck: Minnesota Local Government Models For Expanding Fiber Internet Access \(http://www.ilsr.org/all-hands-on-deck-mn/\)](http://www.ilsr.org/all-hands-on-deck-mn/).)

Most Shutesbury residents use Verizon [DSL \(/glossary/1#term9\)](#), satellite, or dial-up and the community knows it needs better access. In an effort to obtain connectivity that will ensure fast, affordable, reliable services in the future, Shutesbury is taking inspiration from its neighbor. The city does not have any specific plans for a municipal network but is realistic about lack of interest from private investment.

The committee originally formed to work on the issue with Leverett began meeting again last April and has organized volunteers to get the process started. On November 8th, 60 volunteers will go out in teams of 3 in order to accurately collect information on utility poles in the 27.2 square-mile town. They will use a special iPad app developed by one of the [Shutesbury Broadband Committee \(http://shutesbury.org/broadband\)](http://shutesbury.org/broadband) Co-Chairwomen, Gayle Huntress.

Asha Strazzero-Wild, another co-chairwoman of the Broadband Committee told the GazetteNet that the community is painfully aware of the lack of connectivity in Shutesbury:

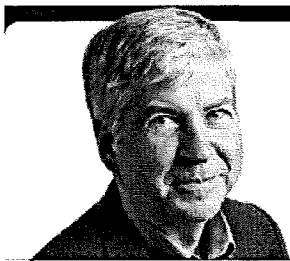
"Everyone who's involved in this is saying we need broadband and we need it yesterday."



Deborah Guthrie

From: Watza, Michael J. <mike.watza@kitch.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2014 1:09 PM
Subject: Snyder makes appointments to Local Community Stabilization Authority Council.htm

As the article notes, the Local Community Stabilization Authority replaces the Metro Authority effective October 1, 2014 as part of the Personal Property Deal which the voters approved in August. PROTEC congratulates each of the appointees and draws attention to Dearborn's Mayor Jack O'Reilly in particular. One of the 1st issues the Council may hear about is the festering DAS Antenna issue we have been discussing this year.



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Snyder makes appointments to Local Community Stabilization Authority Council

Monday, Sept. 8, 2014

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder today announced initial appointments to the Local Community Stabilization Authority Council.

The five-member council is the governing body of the Local Community Stabilization Authority. The new authority replaces the existing METRO Authority, which has been responsible for coordinating access to public rights-of-way and the payment of maintenance fees by telecommunications providers to municipalities since 2002. In addition to the METRO Authority functions, the new authority will be responsible for distributing personal property tax replacement revenue to municipalities throughout the state according to specific statutory formulas. The authority was created when Proposal 1 passed in August.

“This council will help local communities ensure continued economic growth while maintaining local government services. I thank these appointees for their willingness to serve,” Snyder said.

Scott Erbisch, of Marquette, is the Marquette County administrator and has more than 20 years of local government experience.

Erbisch earned a bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University and a master's in public administration from Northern Michigan University. He will serve a term expiring Sept. 3, 2015.

John O'Reilly, of Dearborn, is the Mayor of Dearborn, and has served on the City Council since 1990. He serves on the board of directors of the Michigan Municipal League and is chair of the Downriver Community Conference. O'Reilly participates in the United States Conference of Mayors, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Urban Core Mayors, the M-TEC Training Alliance Board, and the Wayne County Transit Authority. He served as the executive director of the Southeast Michigan Community Alliance. O'Reilly earned an associate degree from Oakland University and bachelor's and law degrees from the University of Detroit. He will serve a term expiring Sept.3, 2016.

Megan Crandall, of Traverse City, is the owner of Hatlem Churchill in Glen Arbor. She is a licensed pilot, and previously sold real estate in the Traverse City area for several years. She served on the Traverse City Area Public Schools Board of Education, is a member of the founding committee of the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce's TC Young Professionals group, and is an active member of the Traverse City Chamber of Commerce and the Glen Arbor Chamber of Commerce. She will serve a term expiring Sept. 3, 2017.

Donald Rogers, of Coldwater, is the treasurer for Coldwater Township and was elected to the Michigan Townships Association board of directors in 2013. He worked with the Michigan Department of Corrections for more than 20 years at the Lakeland Correctional Facility. Rogers earned his police officer certification through Lake Michigan College, and is a certified corrections specialist from the State of Michigan Corrections Academy. Rogers attended the Municipal Treasurers Institute at Central Michigan University. He will serve a term expiring Sept. 2, 2018.

Mary Anne Jones, of Rockford, is vice president, chief financial officer and treasurer at Priority Health. She served as chief financial officer for Spectrum Health United Memorial and as senior director at Ernest and Young and Arthur Anderson. Jones earned a bachelor's degree in accounting and computer information systems and a masters of accounting from Ferris State University. She will serve a term expiring Sept. 3, 2019. Jones is also appointed chair of the council, for a term expiring at the pleasure of the governor.

After the expiration of initial appointments, members will serve six-year terms that are not subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

FAST FEED

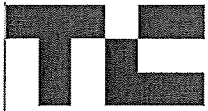
CBS ANNOUNCED A NEW PAID SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE: HERE'S WHY IT MATTERS

CBS'S NEW "CBS ALL ACCESS" IS THE FIRST ATTEMPT BY A BROADCAST TELEVISION NETWORK TO LAUNCH A PAID, NETFLIX-STYLE VIEW-ON-DEMAND SITE.

BY NEAL UNGERLEIDER

There's big news in the TV world: The old guard of broadcast and cable television has suddenly discovered subscription-based Internet streaming. CBS is now offering a paid web subscription service, which will launch in 2015 and offer current-season episodes the day after they air, along with a massive video library of past CBS shows, all for \$5.99 a month. "CBS All Access" comes following HBO's announcement of a digital version of HBO Go that does not require a cable subscription; taken together, the two announcements show a television industry that is going full-plunge into the world of on-demand streaming.

In a statement to *The Hollywood Reporter*, CBS chairman Les Moonves said that "CBS All Access is another key step in the company's long-standing strategy of monetizing our local and national content in the ways that viewers want it." The word *monetizing* is key here: HBO, CBS, Hulu, and a host of other players are continuing to figure out the best way to make money through digital streaming--just look at Aereo's legal troubles--but due to the layers of lawyers and different organizations involved, it's taking time to make things happen. In the end, though, CBS's announcement signals something surprising: The cord-cutters (as long as they pay their cable provider for broadband access) are winning.



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Let The Unbundling Begin: HBO Go Will Be Available Without A Cable Subscription In 2015

Posted Oct 15, 2014 by Jon Russell (@jonrussell)

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HBO is finally getting its online streaming game on, after Chairman and CEO Richard Plepler revealed that the broadcaster will launch a standalone streaming service next year.

“That is a large and growing opportunity that should no longer be left untapped. It is time to remove all barriers to those who want HBO,” Plepler told a Time Warner investor meeting today.

Plepler confirmed that a service will launch with HBO’s “current partners” in the US market next year, although he did not provide details of how much it will cost, and whether the company will use its own technology or work with existing players. The HBO Chairman

believes that an online service could complement the firm's existing offerings and help it reach new audiences.

"All in, there are 80 million homes that do not have HBO and we will use all means at our disposal to go after them," he said.

HBO has watched Netflix rise from a young startup into a service that has more paying subscribers in the US, not to mention an overseas business that has been aggressively expanding in Europe.

The beauty of Netflix is that the programming is available without the need to buy a core cable package. That takes away a lot of the complication behind becoming an HBO subscriber. Yet, the bulk of HBO's marketing comes from its alliance with cable companies, so going standalone on the Web removes some of that advantage. Thus, it would make sense for the company to offer a slightly different selection of programming online, so as not to cannibalise its primary business.

While Netflix's growth demonstrates a market for 'cord cutters', it is by no means clear that this market is large enough to replace HBO's cable-based customer base.

Another challenge is that HBO is also relatively late to the game. Netflix is far from the only challenger when it comes to online video streaming. Both Hulu and Amazon Prime Instant Video are established in the US, the latter in particular continues to beef up its catalog with original programming and licensed content — all of which also feeds back into the Prime subscription for Amazon's e-commerce empire.

There are a lot of questions at this point, but HBO and Plepler have made the first step by confirming this move, which the company has previously admitted it was thinking about.

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Charter's Malevolence Toward Local Communities Continues to Grow

By AMERICAN COMMUNITY TELEVISION |
SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2014

Press Release

September 30, 2014

Charter's Malevolence Toward Local Communities Continues to Grow

Citing multiple examples, American Community Television today called out Charter as the worst cable operator in the country when it comes to treatment of local communities and Public, Educational and Government (PEG) access television.

"It's a dubious honor, being the worst cable operator in America," said Bonnie Riedel, "but one Charter has worked overtime to obtain."

Riedel points to the slamming of PEG channels as one example. In Missouri and Wisconsin, Charter has slammed PEG channels into the 900's and in Massachusetts and North Carolina, they have slammed them to the 190's.

"There is no technical reason for Charter to do this and we see them replacing the Basic tier PEG channels with home shopping. Basic tier customers have to rent additional equipment to get to the PEG channels. It's horrific because most often Basic tier customers are the elderly and the poor, they are hit hard with a 30% increase in their bills because the box costs \$8-\$10 a month to rent," said Riedel. "Basic tier customers can get QVC but not their church services or city council meetings?"

In another situation in Missoula, Montana, Charter has informed the school district they will have to rent boxes for every television in their classrooms.^[1] That cost is estimated to run \$60,000 to \$80,000 per year for the school district.

"In this situation, Charter once again shows itself to be a bad actor in the community. They could have provided free DTA's to the school district, just like Comcast did for customers in Maryland, but instead, Charter chooses to skim school district funds," said Riedel.

The situation in Missoula reminds ACT of Charter's removal of cable drops to police and fire departments in Missouri in 2011.^[2] ACT has since learned that Charter is currently cutting off cable service to first responders in Minnesota.

"I looked at the minutes of one volunteer fire department in a very small town, their total yearly budget is \$70,000, and now they have to pay Charter for cable service. You would think Charter might want to contribute to the efforts of the local volunteer fire department by continuing to provide free cable, if only as a good will gesture. But no, that \$100 per month is sorely needed by the multibillion dollar corporation," said Riedel.

Not stopping there, Charter also charges local communities to transmit PEG channels they should be receiving. "We've heard amounts as high as \$4,000 per month, just to flip the switch and send the signal. I personally think if we could get a community to take them to court they would win. How can you have federal or state law that provides for PEG channels but then not transmit the channels unless the municipality pays the ransom?" asked Riedel.

ACT maintains that Charter's lack of civic responsibility and malevolence toward local communities should prevent the transfer of properties between Comcast and Charter, and the further expansion through GreatLand Communications.

Charter will own a significant portion of the upper Midwest once all the transfers are approved.

"People in those upper Midwest states should be very nervous that Charter will be their new provider," said Riedel. "Along with everything else, Charter ranks dead last in customer service."^[3]

"We believe strong conditions should be placed on Charter in the FCC's ongoing transfer proceedings. Charter doesn't believe there should be any conditions. It's time for communities to stand up for themselves and push back on this bully," said Riedel.

American Community Television educates and advocates on behalf of Public, Educational and Government (PEG) access channels. Ms. Riedel can be reached at riedel@acomunitytv.org or 410-

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FCC Boss Makes His Case For New 25 Mbps Broadband Definition



by Karl Bode 07:17PM Thursday Oct 02 2014

FCC Boss Tom Wheeler has been making the rounds the last few months trying to drum up support for his plan to raise the definition of broadband from 4 Mbps down to 10 Mbps down (if you're getting subsidies) and 25 Mbps down in general. Not too surprising, this has resulted in the usual griping from carriers, who know that revised standards will only act to highlight the slower speeds and spotty coverage delivered in competitively-lacking areas.



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Speaking this week before the Telecommunications Officer and Advisors in St. Paul, Wheeler quoted Bob Dylan in telling audience attendees that the times are changing, and they'll need to change along with them unless they want to "sink like a stone."

"I don't know about you, but I'm tired of seeing the charts of where the U.S. ranks in comparison to the broadband speeds of other nations," Wheeler said. "Table stakes for the 21st century is 25 Mbps, and winning the game means that all consumers can get at least 100 Mbps – and more."

Improving competition, Wheeler proclaimed, was the best way to achieve those goals, and a lack of competition has created massive gaps in coverage for next-generation services. And while Google Fiber, municipal broadband, and the ocean of very limited "me too" 1 Gbps offerings help, many of these deployments are focused on high-end developments, creating a new digital divide for cutting-edge telecom services.

"Three-quarters of American homes have no competitive choice at 25 Mbps," complained Wheeler. "That includes almost 20 percent who have no option at all at those speeds!" That's of course thanks to un-upgraded DSL providers who've failed to keep pace with cable upgrades. As we've noted numerous times that problem is getting worse as AT&T and Verizon exit many DSL markets, providing cable operators with less competitive pressure than ever before.

So what is an agency that has historically paid empty lip service to competition going to do about it? One of Wheeler's pet projects of late has been to take aim at state protectionist laws written by incumbent ISP lobbyists, preventing towns and cities from building their own broadband networks -- even in cases when private operators refuse to.

"The advantages of competition are so obvious and ingrained in the American psyche that many local communities have stepped up to facilitate it where the private sector has not," said the FCC boss. Yet, he added, "there are currently laws in 19 states that impose restrictions of one kind or another on such local decision-making."

As noted previously, both EPB Broadband in Chattanooga and the city of Wilson, North Carolina have petitioned the FCC to declare portions of their state laws nonenforceable, given those laws impede the FCC's mandated mission to ensure the reasonable and timely deployment of broadband services to all.

While Wheeler has criticized these laws, he's yet to specify how or when he hopes to tackle them. He'll obviously need to keep his cards close to his chest on this issue, as ISPs have threatened to sue should the FCC act on the matter.

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bcltoys
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Lost today

I can't hear you.
Did somebody say something.

2014-Oct-2 7:20 pm:

bigballer
join:2014-09-25

Re: I can't hear you.
I can't call his bluff.
Is he actually "for real" or just bullshitting us as usual.

2014-Oct-3 3:33 am:

davidhoffman
Premium
join:2009-11-19
Warner Robins, GA
kudos:3

Re: I can't hear you.
A public negotiating tactic. He can generate a lot of comments to the FCC in favor of this ideal future of data transfer rates. In the end the goal will be somewhere between the minimum goal of 3 to 4 Mbps we have today and the 25 Mbps he contemplates. I think the end result might be

BloombergView

TECH

Pulling the Plug on Comcast's Merger



OCT 8, 2014 2:21 PM EDT

By Susan Crawford

a A

Three years ago, cable titan John Malone -- chairman of Liberty Global, the largest cable company in the world -- said that when it comes to high-capacity data connections in the U.S., "cable's pretty much a monopoly now." Last month, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Tom Wheeler proved Malone's point: For high-capacity wired data connections to the Internet, Wheeler said that more than 80 percent of Americans have just one choice -- their local cable company.

The cable companies long ago divided the country among themselves, and it's about to get worse. A proposed \$45 billion merger between Comcast and Time Warner Cable would strengthen the industry's near-monopolistic power. If the merger goes through, the chances of fiber competition emerging to challenge cable's dominance become even lower than they already are.

It's far from a done deal. Last week, the FCC stopped its 180-day merger-review shot clock, saying that answers to the commission's questions were incomplete. It looks as if there is a substantial chance that the deal may not be approved; the commission similarly stopped its informal clock for the AT&T/T-Mobile combination three years ago -- a merger that was eventually blocked.

It also looks as if the FCC is taking a serious look at the economic impact a more powerful Comcast would have on American consumers and businesses. And the FCC is not necessarily pleased that Comcast is introducing new facts many months after asking permission to merge: The commission said that 850 pages of documents recently filed by Comcast introduced "a relatively substantial body of new material" that is "critical to the review." The FCC's pause is good news

for the country.

Should the merger be approved, and when the smoke clears after a series of ensuing swaps and sales among friendly cable guys, Comcast would control most of California, Oregon, Washington, and the eastern seaboard from North Carolina to New England.

At the same time, Comcast would stop serving Minnesota, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio in order to avoid having more than 30 percent of the market of pay TV customers -- a threshold the FCC has considered as indicating too much market share. Even so, the deal would give Comcast control over the pipes to at least half of American homes.

And the deal would put Malone center stage, because his company Liberty Media now owns 26 percent of Charter Communications, which would benefit from the transaction, too -- swapping customers with Comcast in a way that allows the company to cluster its operations. (The companies call this division of markets "enhanced geographic rationalization.") Charter would become the second-largest cable company in the country.

If a nutshell, the Comcast-Time Warner merger would strengthen cable's already overwhelming power along the coasts while potentially relegating cable customers in important Midwestern cities -- including Detroit, Minneapolis and Indianapolis -- to second-class service. That's because they will be served by a new entity, GreatLand, that is being created by the lawyers at Comcast and Charter for purposes of the merger. The new company will be burdened with extensive debt, leaving it with what one analyst called "less-than-middling" finances.

From the perspective of the cable industry, none of this behavior is noteworthy. Cable thrives on scale and scope, and the plans of both Comcast and Charter -- to spread their costs across more customers in tightly focused areas -- is rational. The FCC has blessed this kind of clustering activity in the past, approving in 2006 an elaborate series of swaps in connection with the dismantling of Adelphia Cable of Philadelphia.

But here's the problem: Because none of these cable companies faces real competition, they have no incentive to invest in the fiber networks America will need to compete in the modern world. They have no incentive to pass along to consumers the lower prices their scale makes possible.

And they have no incentive to allow data to flow unimpeded between their "eyeball" networks and other connecting networks. Those connection points, such as between Comcast and so-called "transit" networks carrying traffic from data centers that don't want to buy services from Comcast, have become an opportunity to charge yet more fees untethered to any market mechanism.

What's good for the industry is this case isn't good for the consumer. The FCC staff should take its time.

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To contact the editor responsible for this article: Christopher Flavelle at cflavelle@bloomberg.net.

Cable regulations hamper competition

The Detroit News 4:17 p.m. EDT October 7, 2014



(Photo: John M. Galloway, Special to The Detroit News)

Comcast, the largest television and Internet provider in the U.S., wants to give up more than two million customers in Detroit and other parts of the Midwest for seven million new customers in New York and Los Angeles. It's all part of a \$45 billion acquisition of Time Warner Cable.

The Associated Press reports that shedding operations in Detroit and six other states is designed to meet Comcast's commitment to federal regulators to shed around 3 million subscribers and serve no more than 30 percent of all the pay TV customers in the U.S. But the byproducts of these measures — in Detroit and elsewhere — illustrate how antiquated regulations create lower-quality products for consumers, discourage natural competition and encourage lobbying.

Anti-trust regulations, which aim to prevent monopolies and price gouging, are decided according to a complex mathematical formula that measures an individual company's market concentration.

But simple numbers don't take into account regional price differences, quality of service, location of offices and jobs and other variables.

The one-size-fits-all approach actually discourages competition. In this case, Comcast and Time Warner compete for none of the same customers. The removal of Comcast service from Michigan will mean customers will have fewer choices for cable and Internet. And less competition often means higher prices.

Michigan customers' more limited choice will include a new spinoff from Comcast, GreatLand Connections, Inc. GreatLand will buy management services from Charter Communications Inc., which operates in some rural parts of the state.

Competition in new technology will also suffer. AT&T has built a fiber optic network, while Comcast has pushed the boundaries of traditional cable wires.

They have forced each other to innovate in how information and TV content travels into homes. But Comcast's spin-off will carry an above-industry-average debt of \$7.8 billion, which leaves little available to invest in future technologies. And despite the intention of anti-trust regulations, Comcast will still own the largest markets in the country and have capacity beyond its competitors.

Lobbying has also been a significant part of this proposed merger. The Center for Responsive Politics reports Comcast spent about \$19 million to influence regulators in 2013.

Other media companies — Netflix and Discovery among them — that see the opportunity to benefit from the deal have demanded \$5 billion in compensation from Comcast. Their sign-off is important to obtaining final FCC approval.

The market works best for customers when it's allowed to operate as freely as possible. Comcast is getting bigger as a result of this deal, but cable competition and consumer choices in Metro Detroit will get a lot smaller.

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Comcast users part of buyout

2.5 million accounts to shift; little effect likely

Paul Wyche | The Journal Gazette



E-mail



Printer friendly

Comcast customers will be transitioned to a new company, but shouldn't expect a drop in service, officials say.

GreatLand Connections Inc. will inherit subscribers from Philadelphia-based Comcast Corp. In September, the cable giant announced GreatLand Connections as the spinoff company, resulting from a proposed \$45 billion takeover bid of Time Warner Cable Inc. made in February and being reviewed.

The Comcast acquisition is under the microscope of regulators who are determining whether it would make the company monopoly-like, exerting undue pricing power over customers and too much leverage with programmers.

As part of the deal, Comcast is giving up more than 2.5 million customers across 11 states, including Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Alabama, Tennessee, Kentucky and Wisconsin.

Representatives from Comcast met with The Journal Gazette on Wednesday to offer a glimpse into GreatLand Connections.

"For our customers, nothing will change," said Michelle Gilbert, vice president of public relations for Comcast. "People can expect the same great service."

Comcast is the largest cable company in the country with 22 million video customers and 21.1 million Internet customers. It is seeking to acquire its rival Time Warner, the nation's No. 2 cable company.

The transaction might be finalized by early next year.

In 2010, Frontier Communications Corp. of Stamford, Conn., came into the region after acquiring landline phone, Internet and cable business from Verizon Communications Inc. in 14 states.

A year later, competition became heated starting with a billboard campaign by Comcast questioning Frontier's commitment to its FiOS video service after the company made DirecTV its anchor TV product at the time.

Now, Frontier has billboards throughout the area taking aim at Comcast and its Xfinity brand of products.

Comcast has noticed.

"They're trying to use leverage, and that's what a business does," Gilbert said of the signs that state that while Xfinity is leaving town, Frontier is here to stay. Some of the billboards depict an analog TV with a scrambled screen.

"We're not really leaving town," Gilbert said. "I mean, yes, it will be a different company, but we're not laying off any employees, and all the systems will remain in place. There may be some product changes, but that could happen even if the company stayed Comcast."

Last month, newly appointed GreatLand CEO Michael Willner said the new, independent, publicly traded company's moniker has meaning behind it.

"The name GreatLand Connections pays homage to the rich history and striking geographies of the diverse communities in which the company will operate," he said in a statement.

"It brings to mind our commitment to connecting people and businesses with terrific products and excellent service in the almost 1,000 historic communities – large and small – across the 11 states we will serve."

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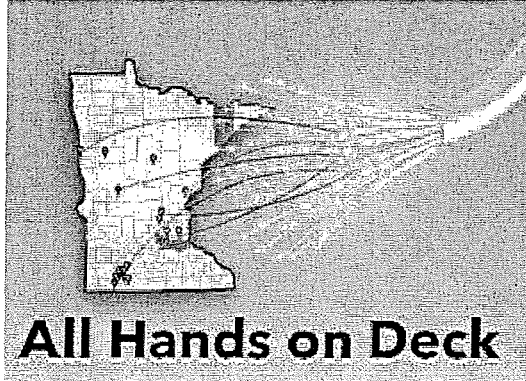
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BROADBAND

All Hands On Deck: Minnesota Local Government Models for Expanding Fiber Internet Access

Christopher | No Comments | Sep 30, 2014



Minneapolis, MN —In 2010 the Minnesota legislature set a goal: universal access to high speed broadband throughout the state by 2015. As 2015 approaches ***we know that large parts of Greater Minnesota will not achieve that goal, even as technological advances make the original benchmarks increasingly obsolete.***

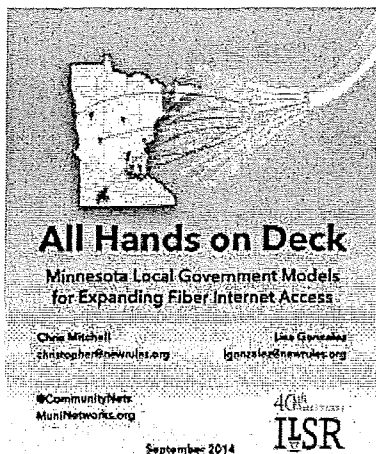
But some Minnesota communities are significantly exceeding those goals. Why? The activism of local governments.

A new report by ILSR, widely recognized as one of the most knowledgeable organizations on municipal broadband networks, details the many ways Minnesota's local governments have stepped up. ***"All Hands On Deck: Minnesota Local Government Models for Expanding Fiber Internet Access"*** includes case studies of 12 Minnesota cities and counties striving to bring their citizens 21st century telecommunications.

"When national cable and telephone companies have refused to modernize their communications systems, local governments have stepped up. And in the process saved money, attracted new businesses, and made it more likely that their youth will stick around," says Chris Mitchell, Director of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance's (ILSR) Community Broadband Networks Initiative.

- Windom, which is one of the most advanced networks in the state, built their own network after their telephone company refused to invest in their community.
- Dakota County showed how a coordinated excavation policy can reduce by more than 90 percent the cost of installing fiber.
- Lac qui Parle County partnered with a telephone cooperative to bring high speed broadband to its most sparsely population communities.

ILSR's report is particularly timely because this week, the governor's office began accepting applications for the state's new \$20 million initiative [Border-to-Border program](#). "We hope that before communities submit their applications they read this report to learn what others have done," says Mitchell.



[Click here to read and download the full report.](#)

The Institute for Local Self-Reliance presents this in-depth case study co-authored by Lisa Gonzalez and Christopher Mitchell.

Read ongoing stories about these networks at ILSR's site devoted to [Community Broadband Networks](#). You can also [subscribe to a once-per-week email with stories about community broadband networks](#).

ABOUT Community Broadband Networks (<http://www.muninetworks.org>):

At MuniNetworks.org, we provide resources for those joining the movement to build broadband networks that are directly accountable to the communities they serve.

As more community leaders realize the economic benefits of faster, more reliable Internet services, they are pursuing local control of connectivity through public ownership, cooperative models, and other nonprofit approaches.

The vast majority of community broadband networks, particularly fiber-to-the-home networks, have lowered prices and spurred job growth in their communities. We find out what works, and help other communities replicate these results. MuniNetworks.org is a trusted voice for community networks, our team advises high-ranking broadband decision-makers, and speaks on radio and television programs in markets across the United States.

ABOUT ILSR (<http://www.ilsr.org>):

We believe we make better and more informed policies when those who design those policies are those who feel their impact.

ILSR works with citizens, activists, policymakers and entrepreneurs to provide them with innovative strategies and working models that support environmentally sound and equitable economic policies and community development. *Since 1974, ILSR has championed local self-reliance, a strategy that underscores the need for humanly scaled institutions and economies and the widest possible distribution of ownership.*

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About Christopher

Christopher Mitchell is the Director of the Community Broadband Networks Initiative with the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. He runs MuniNetworks.org as part of ILSR's effort to ensure broadband networks are directly accountable to the communities that depend upon them. [MORE →](#)

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Charter Might Retry Time Warner Buy if Comcast Deal Blocked

by Karl Bode 08:08AM Thursday Nov 20 2014

Charter board member and minority stake holder John Malone says that he'd push to have Charter Communications make another pass at Time Warner Cable if regulators block Comcast's attempted acquisition. "Oh yes," Malone said when asked if a Charter buy would still be on the table in such a scenario. "That said, we're happy with the deal that was negotiated. In many ways it's a better deal than going after 100% of Time Warner Cable." To get regulatory approval, Comcast's current deal involves spinning off 2.5 million subscribers to create a company named Greatland Communications that's co-owned by Comcast and Charter.



Print

Verizon FiOS Bows Cord-Cutter Plan With Netflix, HBO, Showtime

19 Nov, 2014

By: [Erik Gruenwedel](#)

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the rush to lure cord-cutters, cord-nevers and millennials, Verizon Communications has rolled out a streamlined subscription plan that includes high-speed Internet, local FiOS TV, HBO, Showtime and a free year of Netflix for \$59.99 a month.

With the average monthly cable TV bill projected to top \$123 in 2015, according to The NPD Group, Verizon's limited-time offer costs less than half — based on a two-year contract. Features include FiOS TV local access includes CBS, ABC, NBC, PBS, Fox, The CW Telemundo and Univision, in addition to 50 Mbps Internet speed, HBO, Showtime and one year of Netflix.

Verizon had been teasing new FiOS triple-play customers (TV, Internet and phone) in New York with a free year of Netflix included in their subscriptions.

"We think this package looks extremely competitive and appears designed to re-capture cord cutters," Tim Horan, analyst with Oppenheimer, wrote in a note. "This could have a material impact to net [FiOS subscriber] adds in [the fourth quarter]."

Verizon's mini-bundle offering comes as Sony prepares to launch an Internet TV service dubbed PlayStation Vue — reportedly priced from \$60 to \$70 dollars a month.

Dish Network is slated to launch over-the-top video services in the fourth quarter, and CBS just bowed "CBS All Access" subscription streaming service for \$5.99 a month.

AT&T and Comcast have been test-marketing separate streamlined OTT plans priced around \$40 a month, with the former including access to Amazon Prime Instant Video.

HBO and Showtime are also planning separate OTT service launches in 2015.

"AT&T and Verizon continue to use price and gift card offers to attract new customers with the reaction from cable and satellite largely muted," Nomura Securities senior analyst Adam Ilkowitz wrote in a note.



Related Links :

[Verizon, Netflix Quietly Test Bundled Subscription Plan](#)

[Verizon Remains an OTT Video Spectator for Now](#)

[Verizon CFO: Younger Demo Prefers Broadband Video to Bundled Channels](#)

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