

*Original*



**AGENDA**  
**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**November 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
    - a. Comcast Franchise Fee
    - b. AT&T Review Franchise Fee
    - c. Technical Review
    - d. Transfer of Control
- G. New Business / Discussion Items
  - 1. Web Advertising
  - 2. DAS (Digital Antenna System), Kevin Schoen Presentation
  - 3. Cable Services in Meridian Township
  - 4. 2015 goals discussion
- 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

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Meridian Township by writing or calling the following: Frank Walsh, 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

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 franchising process, the township undergoes the federal process for franchising 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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**



## Deborah Guthrie

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**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  
E Mail: [Mike.Watza@Kitch.Com](mailto:Mike.Watza@Kitch.Com)  
or [watza@msu.edu](mailto:watza@msu.edu)  
O:(313)965-7983  
M:(248)921-3888  
Fax:(313)965-7403

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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

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION**

**OLD  
BUSINESS**

# 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](http://www.meridian.mi.us)





**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:

<b>Charter Township of Meridian</b>	\$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
<b>Amount due with this invoice</b>	<b>\$2,900.00</b>

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**

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION**

**NEW  
BUSINESS**

# 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



# 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

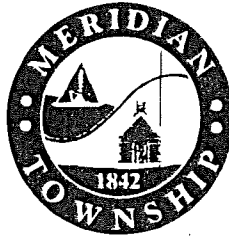
5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 (517) 853-4000

[www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us)



# 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,

  
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.

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

[www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us)



## Penney Stephen

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**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](mailto:yates@meridian.mi.us)

[www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us)  
[www.facebook.com/MeridianTownship](http://www.facebook.com/MeridianTownship)  
[www.twitter.com/MeridianTwp](http://www.twitter.com/MeridianTwp)  
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[www.HOMTV.net](http://www.HOMTV.net)  
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[www.facebook.com/CAMtvCapitalAreaMedia](http://www.facebook.com/CAMtvCapitalAreaMedia)  
[www.twitter.com/CAMtv30and99](http://www.twitter.com/CAMtv30and99)

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**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

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**From:** Jason Schreiber <[jason@golightspeed.com](mailto:jason@golightspeed.com)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at 9:38 PM  
**To:** "guthrie@meridian.mi.us" <[guthrie@meridian.mi.us](mailto:guthrie@meridian.mi.us)>  
**Cc:** Tim Lebel <[tim@milightspeed.com](mailto: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](mailto:jason@golightspeed.com)

Voice/Text: 517-455-6755

[Follow us on Facebook!](#)

## 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



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**  
Department of Public Works & Engineering

5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, Michigan 48864  
Phone 517-853-4440  
Fax 517-853-4095

Address:	<u>Various Locations</u>	
Permit Number:	<u>14-55</u>	
Application Fee:	<u>                    </u>	(101-000.000-671.000)
Receipt Number:	<u>                    </u>	Date: <u>                    </u>
Date of Issuance:	<u>                    </u>	
Date of Expiration:	<u>                    </u>	

**Utility Construction/Repair Permit**

For new utilities, attach a drawing (scale 1" = 40' min) showing location and type of work. Include: property lines, edges of street & driveway pavement, existing utilities, street trees, streetlights, and dimensions (L x W x H) of all existing and proposed cabinets. For repairs to existing utilities, attach a drawing showing the location of the proposed repairs.

Property Address Where Work is to be Performed: SEE ATTACHED LIST

Description and Amount of Work to be Performed: INSTALL FIBER OPTIC CABLE WITHIN THE ROAD RIGHT OF WAY WITH DIRECTIONAL BORING. ALSO PLACE SIX POLES WITHIN THE ROAD RIGHT OF WAY. SEE ATTACHED MAPS FOR DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Utility Company Name: KEPS TECHNOLOGIES dba ACD.NET

Address: 1800 N. GRAND RIVER AVE., LANSING, MI. 48906


Phone Number: 517-999-9999

Contractor (Business Name): RC DIRECTIONAL BORING

Address: 2000 COUNTY FARM RD. HOWELL, MI. 48843

Phone Number: 517-545-4887

I hereby certify that I am the utility company representative for the work described above, and as such I do hereby apply for a utility permit. In consideration thereof, I agree to abide by the terms of the Charter Township of Meridian Code of Ordinances, the Engineering Division Standard Specifications & Details, and the Supplemental Specifications listed on the back of this permit.

Applicant (Print) GARY GOULD Signature 

Title OSP PROJECT ENGINEER Date 8-6-14 Phone No. 517-999-3203

Company KEPS TECHNOLOGIES dba ACD.NET

**Cabinet size & location approved and address assigned by Community Planning & Development**

Cabinet Address \_\_\_\_\_ Approved by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

In accordance with Public Act 368, Section 247.183 of 1925 (as amended), the plans are approved contingent on the requirements stated in this permit.

This permit does not relieve the applicant from meeting any applicable requirements of other public agencies.

Permit Issued by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Permit Not Valid unless signed above)

Not Satisfactorily Completed: \_\_\_\_\_ Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Satisfactorily Completed: \_\_\_\_\_ Inspector: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS: \_\_\_\_\_

Sidewalk or Pathway Damage: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**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 ¼" 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.**

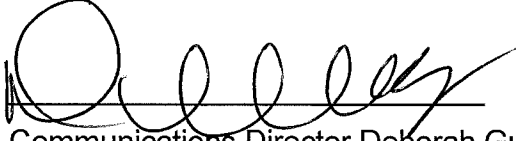
See Map No. 16-790-7888, 16-790-7889, 16-790-7890, 16-791-7890, 16-791-7891, 16-791-7893

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:** September 26, 2014

**Re:** 5 Year Plan for HOMTV Equipment Discussion

---

## Equipment:

During the previous 5 year equipment plan from 2011-2016 attached, 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 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Communication Department  
5 Year Equipment/Software/Streaming Services Purchase Plan**

**2011 Equipment/Software/Services Budget**

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Cost	Status
Macbook Pro	Replacement		\$3,000	complete
P2 small tapeless camera	New		\$5,277	complete
Still Camera	Replacement		\$1,500	complete
<b>Total Field/Editing Equipment</b>			<b>\$9,777</b>	
EZ News Encumbered 2nd yr.			\$5,583	complete
Adobe Creative Suite	Upgrades		\$2,100	partial
Adobe Creative Suite	new additions		\$2,300	partial
P2 Cards		800 2	\$1,600	complete
<b>Total Software</b>			<b>\$11,583</b>	
Third Phase of HOMTV Website Development			\$2,000	complete
Granicus video web hosting site		\$725 12	\$8,700	
Broadband at&t streaming fee		\$100 12	\$1,200	
Broadband at&t streaming fee		\$100 12	\$1,200	
PEG Central web hosting		\$75 12	\$900	
<b>Total Services Budget</b>			<b>\$14,000</b>	
<b>Cable Technology/Re-Engineering Upgrade</b>			<b>\$46,700</b>	
<b>Total Equipment/Software/Services Budget</b>			<b>\$82,060</b>	

**2012 Equipment/Software Budget**

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Cost	status
Studio Lighting Phase 1	Replacements		\$15,000	carryover
Field Lights/Kit Lights	Replacements		\$8,000	carryover
imac editing system replacement	Replacements		\$3,000	complete
<b>Total Field/Editing Equipment</b>			<b>\$26,000</b>	
Music Bakery	Replacements		\$3,000	partial
P2 Cards		800 3	\$2,400	complete
3D Graphics system	Upgrades		\$3,000	
<b>Total Software</b>			<b>\$8,400</b>	
Annual web service			\$300	
Broadcast Pix Warranty			\$2,000	
Granicus video web hosting site		\$725 12	\$8,700	
Broadband at&t streaming fee		\$100 12	\$1,200	
Broadband at&t streaming fee		\$100 12	\$1,200	
PEG Central web hosting		\$75 12	\$900	
<b>Total Services Budget</b>			<b>\$14,300</b>	
<b>Cable Technology/Re-Engineering Upgrade payback amount</b>			<b>\$53,500</b>	
<b>Total Equipment/Software/Services Budget</b>			<b>\$102,200</b>	

*\*original amnt. Budget amendment for \$279,900 to be paid back 6 years w/ 4% interest to general fund*



**2013 Equipment/Software Budget**

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Cost	status
Studio Lighting Phase 2	Replacement		\$43,000	design phase
P2 Small Camera system	Replacement		\$6,000	complete
imac editing system	Replacement		\$3,000	complete
<b>Total Field/Editing Equipment</b>			<b>\$52,000</b>	
Adobe upgrades	upgrade		\$2,000	partial
Final Cut upgrades	upgrade		\$3,000	
P2 cards	Replacement	800	\$1,600	
<b>Total Software</b>			<b>\$6,600</b>	
Intranet Website			\$2,000	
Annual web service			\$300	
Broadcast Pix Warranty			\$2,000	
Granicus video web hosting site		12	\$8,700	
Granicus Citizen Participation Suite		12	\$4,800	
Broadband at&t streaming fee		12	\$1,200	
Total Info.			\$995	
<b>Total Services Budget</b>			<b>\$19,995</b>	
<b>Cable Technology/Re-Engineering Upgrade payback amount</b>			<b>\$53,500</b>	
<i>*original amnt. Budget amendment for \$279,900 to be paid back 6 years w/ 4% interest to general fund</i>				
<b>Total Equipment/Software/Services Budget</b>			<b>\$132,095</b>	

**2014 Equipment/Software Budget**

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Cost	status
P2 Small Camera system	Replacement		\$6,000	
P2 Small Camera system	Additional		\$6,000	
P2 Card Reader	Additional		\$2,400	
Remote Broadcast Live system	New		\$11,000	
Internship whiteboard Display- training	New		\$8,000	
Phone call system	Replacement		\$5,000	
imac editing system	Replacement		\$3,000	
Multi Media Lecturn	Replacement		\$8,500	
GoPro body mountable camera	New		\$1,100	
<b>Total Field/Editing Equipment</b>			<b>\$51,000</b>	
Adobe upgrades	upgrade		\$3,200	
Final Cut X Upgrades	upgrade		\$3,000	
<b>Total Software</b>			<b>\$6,200</b>	
Video web hosting service			\$8,700	
Annual HOMTV webpage hosting service			\$2,300	
Broadcast Pix Annual Warranty - video switcher			\$2,800	
QLogic Software Maintenance VSAN - video network			\$400	
Rorke Data - Video Server Software Maintenance Warranty			\$3,000	
EZNews - Annual Maintenance Agreement			\$1,343	
CAMTV - PEG Central video hosting			\$3,500	
Total Info - annual bulletin board service, CAMTV			\$995	
Tech Audit			\$15,000	
Franchise fee Audit			\$26,600	
<b>Total Services Budget</b>			<b>\$64,638</b>	
<b>Cable Technology/Re-Engineering Upgrade payback amount</b>			<b>\$53,500</b>	
<i>*original amnt. Budget amendment for \$279,900 to be paid back 6 years w/ 4% interest to general fund</i>				
<b>Total Equipment/Software/Services Budget</b>			<b>\$175,338</b>	



**2015 Equipment/Software Budget**

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Cost	status
Large P2 Camera system	replacement		\$12,000	
Camera Jib	new		\$5,000	
Video Server	new		\$9,000	
Teleprompter mounted	additional		\$7,000	
Intern whiteboard training system	new		\$8,000	
Townhall mics and bases	replacement		\$5,000	
camera cables	replacement	4	\$6,000	
<b>Total Field/Editing Equipment</b>			<b>\$52,000</b>	
Final Cut X upgrades	upgrade		\$3,000	
P2 cards	new	\$800	2	\$1,600
<b>Total Equipment/Software</b>			<b>\$4,600</b>	
Video web hosting service			\$8,700	
Annual HOMTV webpage hosting service			\$2,300	
Broadcast Pix Annual Warranty - video switcher			\$2,800	
QLogic Software Maintenance VSAN - video network			\$400	
Rorke Data - Video Server Software Maintenance Warranty			\$3,000	
EZNews - Annual Maintenance Agreement			\$1,343	
CAMTV - PEG Central video hosting			\$3,500	
Total Info - annual bulletin board service, CAMTV			\$995	
<b>Total Services Budget</b>			<b>\$23,038</b>	
<b>Cable Technology/Re-Engineering Upgrade payback amount</b>			<b>\$53,500</b>	
<i>*original amnt. Budget amendment for \$279,900 to be paid back 6 years w/ 4% interest to general fund</i>				
<b>Total Equipment/Software/Services Budget</b>			<b>\$133,138</b>	

**2016 Equipment/Software Budget**

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Cost	status
P2 Small Camera system	Replacement	6000	2	\$12,000
Laptop	Replacement			\$5,000
Remote Editing system	Replacement			\$25,000
imac editing system replacement	Replacement			\$3,000
Wireless mic replacements	Replacement		6	\$6,000
<b>Total Field/Editing Equipment</b>				<b>\$51,000</b>
graphics/software	upgrade			\$5,000
Final Cut X upgrades				\$3,000
P2 cards		\$800	2	\$1,600
<b>Total Equipment/Software</b>				<b>\$9,600</b>
Video web hosting service				\$8,700
Annual HOMTV webpage hosting service				\$2,300
Broadcast Pix Annual Warranty - video switcher				\$2,800
QLogic Software Maintenance VSAN - video network				\$400
Rorke Data - Video Server Software Maintenance Warranty				\$3,000
EZNews - Annual Maintenance Agreement				\$1,343
CAMTV - PEG Central video hosting				\$3,500
Total Info - annual bulletin board service, CAMTV				\$995
<b>Total Services Budget</b>				<b>\$23,038</b>
<b>Cable Technology/Re-Engineering Upgrade payback amount</b>				<b>\$53,500</b>
<i>*original amnt. Budget amendment for \$279,900 to be paid back 6 years w/ 4% interest to general fund</i>				
<b>Total Equipment/Software/Services Budget</b>				<b>\$137,138</b>

**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:** Deborah Guthrie  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 09, 2014 11:51 AM  
**To:** Gardner, John  
**Cc:** Penney Stephen  
**Subject:** complaint and tech audit

John,

Good meeting last night. Thank you for sharing all of the information that you did with the commission.

If it could be possible, please let me know about the tech audit tomorrow so that I can get in contact with my tech audit guy and give him an update. I hate to keep him in limbo.

In regards to the complaint I briefly mentioned about last night, 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 stated that she wanted an unbundled service where she could just get internet and she was told repeatedly by Comcast reps over the phone that she could 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](mailto:Juliehausserman@gmail.com)

Thanks, Deborah

## 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](http://www.meridian.mi.us)  
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[www.twitter.com/Meridiantwp](http://www.twitter.com/Meridiantwp)  
[www.myMeridian.net](http://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

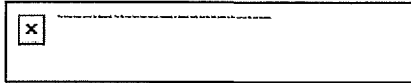
5151 Marsh Rd

Okemos, MI 48864

HOMTV and CAMTV

[stephen@meridian.mi.us](mailto:stephen@meridian.mi.us)

517-853-4384

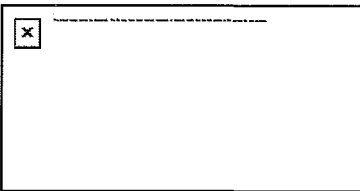


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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION**

**COMMUNICATIONS  
DIRECTOR  
REPORT**

## Penney Stephen

---

**From:** Deborah Guthrie  
**Sent:** Monday, October 20, 2014 11:57 AM  
**To:** Brandie Yates; Darkus Beasley; Lia Davis; Lynn Meikle; Penney Stephen; Robert Gingerich-Jones  
**Subject:** township Branding and marketing campaign

Frank asked me for a recap of our department's branding efforts this morning. I thought I would share my response to make sure we are all on the same page.

Thanks and we are so happy to be taking the lead on this. Here is a recap of our efforts if you would like to share:

In 2014 Meridian Township began discussions for how they would approach a branding and marketing campaign. It was determined that the Communications Department should take the lead. In 2014 the following steps were taken:

On June 13 2014 the Communication Department gave a presentation to board on branding w/ recommendation to hire outside consultants or utilize the Communications Department expertise to conduct a branding and marketing strategy plan and campaign. The board agreed that elected officials should not be involved and felt it was important to involved community members who would represent all aspects of the township.

On September 16 2014 the Communications Department gave a presentation to the Township Board with a recommendation for a branding and marketing strategy plan to begin in 2015 so that the department could focus on current projects involving to formal process of renewal for refranchising and Comcast transfer of control.

On November 3 2014 the Cable Communications Commission with meet to discuss the 2015 Communications Goals with a recommendation for the Communications Department to develop a 2015 branding and marketing strategy plan and campaign.

The remaining meetings are to take place in 2014 regarding the townships branding and marketing strategy plan and campaign:

- November 13 Township Board meets to discuss the 2015 Goals including branding and marketing strategy plan and campaign
- December 3 2014 the Cable Communications Commission makes a recommendation for a 2015 timeline
- Jan. - April Communications dept. conducts communications needs assessment in the township

In regards to a logo, a logo is not a brand. A logo is a symbol. It is an identifier. The township logo will serve the face of the townships brand once we discover that brand through the rebranding process. The Townships logo will serve as a representation of who we are. The process of rebranding discoveries who Meridian is, discoveries the stories of who we are. The design of the logo will be determined by the brand, it is not the other way around. Often times, people get confused by this. Think of the State of Michigan. They still have the State of Michigan seal but their brand is Pure Michigan and their logo was developed through the rebranding process. Rebranding takes planning, nurturing and conditioning. While it may seem slow, we are getting there. The board has wisely recognized this as an important process for us to undertake and one in which we are excited to do so.

If you would like a proposed draft timeline for the Township Boards 2015 Goals meeting, please let me know. If you would like to meet to discuss today before I leave on vacation, let me know. Thank you. Deborah

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION**

**TOWNSHIP  
REPORT**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION**

**PROGRAMMING**



#BallotMeridian
Programming Schedule Week of October 27 - November 2, 2014



Table with columns for Time, Monday 10/27, Tuesday 10/28, Wednesday 10/29, Thursday 10/30, Friday 10/31, Saturday 11/1, and Sunday 11/2. Rows list various programs such as Meridian Live, Meridian News Now, and candidate interviews.

Candidate Interviews Debates and Election Programs Township Government Meetings Regularly Scheduled Programs Haslett/Okemos School Programs All programs subject to change. LIVE meeting coverage may pre-empt other programs.

# Programming Schedule for October, 2014

Capital Area Regional Television also available online [WWW.HOMTV.NET](http://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 Presentatlons	Sustaining the Future: Energy Presentatlons	Sustaining the Future: Energy Presentatlons	Sustaining the Future: Energy Presentatlons	Sustaining the Future: Energy Presentatlons	Sustaining the Future: Energy Presentatlons	Sustaining the Future: Energy Presentatlons
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		Give a Child a Great Start	Give a Child a Great Start	Give a Child a Great Start	Give a Child a Great Start	Give a Child a Great Start	Give a Child a Great Start
1:30PM							
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	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
8:30 PM							
9:00 PM		Battle of Ideas					
9:30 PM	UM Wolverine Caucus	Veteran's Focus	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	Greening Mid-Michigan	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**

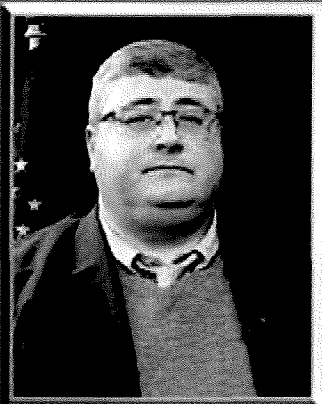


# BALLOT MERIDIAN 2014



Tune in LIVE online at [homtv.net](http://homtv.net) or Comcast Channel 21 and JOIN THE DEBATE!

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



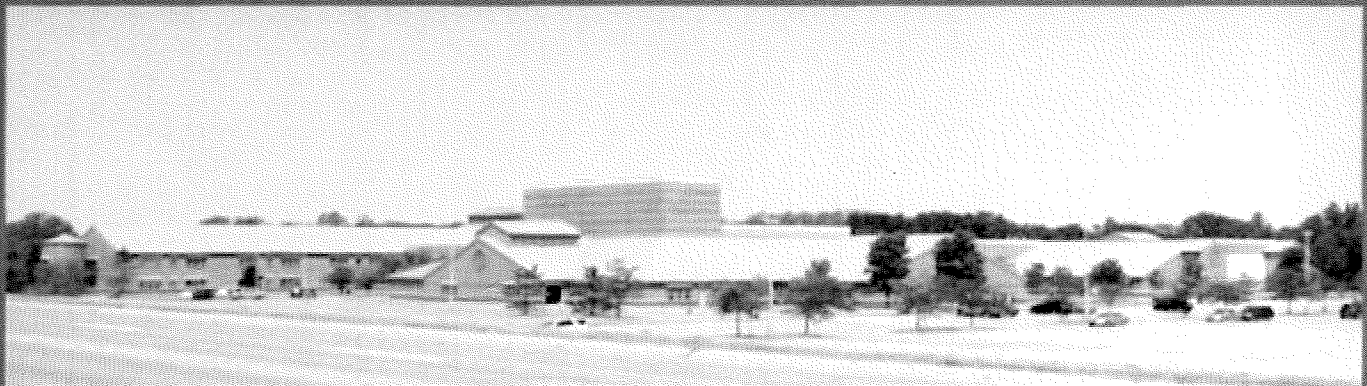
Ask Gerry Polverento (R) and Teri Banas (D) your questions on their run for office during the LIVE debate October 15 @ 7:00pm

### 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 (MCPP) 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

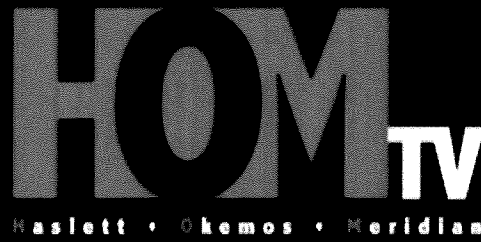
Watch LIVE on



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](http://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.**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION**

**FINANCE**



**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**

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COMMISSION**

**FYI**

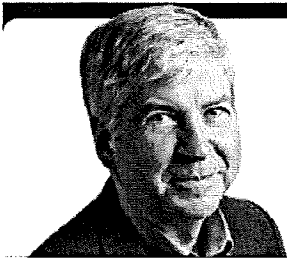
The following materials are "for your information"  
and do not necessarily relate to an agenda item

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> issues the Council may hear about is the festering DAS Antenna issue we have been discussing this year.



Governor Rick Snyder  
**REINVENTING MICHIGAN**  
Getting It Right. Getting It Done.



## 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 Erbis, 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.

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

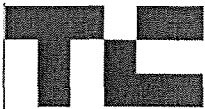
CBS'S NEW "CBS ALL ACCESS" IS THE FIRST ATTEMPT BY A BROADCAST TELEVISION NETWORK TO LAUNCH A PAID, NETFLIX-STYLE VIEW-ON-DEMAND SITE.

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 Bunnie 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.<sup>[1]</sup> 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.<sup>[2]</sup> 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."<sup>[3]</sup>

"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@acommunitytv.org](mailto:riedel@acommunitytv.org) or 410-

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
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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**  
join:2008-07-21  
Lost today

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

2014-Oct-2 7:20 pm: [reply](#)

**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: [reply](#)

**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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# 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



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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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