

Waterford Cable Commission
AGENDA
6:30 pm, Tuesday, September 17, 2019
Town Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room

1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of minutes
3. Correspondence and bills
4. Signal quality
5. Subscriber complaints
6. Report from Media Network
7. Report from Cable Coordinator
8. Comments
9. Adjourn



Waterford Township Cable Commission

Minutes of the Tuesday, August 20, 2019, Meeting

Members Present: Ken Fuerst, Howard Heitzeg, Kathy Hepler, Laura Petrusha, Al Pavlish, Gary Allison (Cable Coordinator)

Absent: Bob Piggott, Steven Thomas

Guest: Josh Bowren

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Laura Petrusha at 6:35 p.m.

Roll Call.

Agenda – The motion to approve the agenda for August 20, 2019 was made by Howard Heitzeg and supported by Kathy Hepler. Approved unanimously.

Minutes – The motion to approve the minutes from June 18, 2019 was made by Kathy Hepler and supported by Al Pavlish. Approved unanimously.

Correspondence and Bills – Comcast channel changes, PEG and franchise fees received.

Signal Quality – Streaming services for municipal and school district down.

Subscriber Complaints – An easement complaint was reported.

Media Network Report – Report was submitted by Josh Bowren. Following discussion, report was accepted by the commission.

Cable Coordinator's Report – Gary Allison reviewed the Cable Coordinator Report. Following discussion, report was accepted by the commission.

Comments – No comments

Adjournment – The motion to adjourn was made by Howard Heitzeg and supported by Kathy Hepler. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Allison, Cable Coordinator

Township of Waterford
Cable Coordinator Report September 2019
Submitted by Gary Allison

- Broadcast/Playback System
 - The new OnDemand feature will be available for residents in October. Currently, ALS and Castus are working to get this started.
- Budget
 - Preliminary budget meetings have started. The Cable Department will submit a budget that is conservative regarding revenue due to the new orders issued by the FCC. However, expenses will remain the same. Thanks to our cable fund, the department is able to do this.
- Suspected Metro Act Violation
 - Cable was made aware of possible unauthorized work being conducted in the township. The company has been contacted and the Building and Development Services Department was notified. The Cable Department and Building are working together to resolve the issue.
- FCC
 - Cable Franchise Fees in Michigan Communities and across America will be impacted as of September 26, 2019. In Michigan, there are concerns that franchise fees could fall by as much as ½ according to some.
 - An appeal of the order and a request for stay is being organized at the National and State level.
 - Example of concerns:
 - The order principally Reduces Franchise Fees by the market value of the following “In kind” and “Grant” requirements included in Cable Franchise by the Market Value of:
 - All In-kind Cable Related Costs and Contributions including:
 - I-Nets
 - PEG Channel Value deduction (deferred up to one year)
 - Any PEG Grant
 - Free drops
 - Discounted Service
 - No apparent exceptions for settlement/extra-contractual agreements
 - Exemptions from Deductions to franchise fees:
 - Costs of Complying with build out or customer service requirements
 - Initial PEG Transport costs
 - PEG Capital Costs including equipment for PEG operation
 - Points of Concern for Waterford
 - PEG Channel Value deduction
 - This is vague language and offers an opportunity for a fight if pushed.
 - Free drops

- A slight concern. At this time, Waterford Township has 4 free drops at the Township campus.
- Costs of complying with build out or customer service requirements
 - Waterford accepted the status quo from cable providers when issuing franchise agreements as required by the state. The language is, therefore, vague and open for interpretation and may have cause for a fight if pushed.
- Initial PEG Transport cost
 - Though a concern, it is believed to minimal. However, it is open for interpretation.