

Minutes
Cable and Telecommunications Advisory Committee
July 19, 2011 Meeting

Attendees: Abe Abramovich (chairperson), Ron Comer, Paul Alfieri, Kathy Farinaccio,
Bryan Smith

- The meeting was called to order by the chairperson Abe Abramovich.
- The agenda for the meeting was approved.
- Bryan Smith was appointed secretary for the meeting.
- The minutes of the March 29th, 2011 meeting were approved.
- Government Access Channel Initiative - Update
 - Update:
 - Abe attended the June 6th meeting of the Town Council Sub-Committee to oversee GAC Programming
 - Rich Krawczun had initial contact with Dr. Barry James from Rider University about possibly working with Rider and their students to develop content to run on the GAC channel
 - Expect that we will not get any additional feedback until Rider is back in session in late August/early September
 - There is still the issue of funding for the equipment required to implement GAC channel content development
- Communications
 - Comcast Franchise Fee Structure
 - We received correspondence received from Comcast acknowledging that Verizon has exceeded the 60% market penetration threshold and the result is that the Comcast Franchise Fee structure will change.
 - Kathy Farinaccio reviewed the change in Franchise Fees. The result is that the Franchise fee increases to a total of 4% of the customer's TOTAL bill (versus the prior amount of 2% of Basic Service charges). 3.5% of the Franchise Fee is refunded to Lawrence Township and 0.5% is refunded to the state of New Jersey.
 - Verizon
 - Confirmed receipt of Verizon petition certifying that Verizon FiOS TV plant has passes 60% or more of the homes in Lawrence Township. No additional discussion.

- S-2664 “Market Competition and Consumer Choice Act” –
- Still on hold. No movement – will require additional time for review and public discussion
- Received correspondence from Cablevision indicating their interest in providing business telecommunications services in Lawrence Township.
 - Does not require committee approval
 - Only video franchises require committee approval
 - What customers will be serviced?
- Public Comments.
 - Brearley House request for a “free” internet connection - Discussed this request
 - Comcast responded with a quote of over \$9000 to install service at Brearley House
 - Verizon has not responded with a specific quote, although the expectation is that it will be similar to Comcast
 - Discussed using a “WiFi Hotspot” service like “Clear” to as an option to provide wireless Internet service
 - Abe will offer this information to Brearley House
 - Sheila Davidow, Traditions Complaint - Resolved
- New Business
 - Committee Membership – Abe will run ad in Lawrence Ledger
 - Changes/Additions to FAQs
 - Revisions to FAQs approved. Bryan will make changes and forward to Trey Keymoore for updates to the web pages.
- Comcast Internet Essentials Program
 - Kathy reviewed the Internet Essentials program, a new program for low income families that Comcast is launching
 - This program will provide low income families Internet service for 49.95 per month and \$150 towards a PC
 - Of a family qualifies for the free Lunch program in their town, they qualify for this program
 - Paul has suggested communicating this program via Lawrence Township Every Child Valued - Eggerts Crossing Village program
- Date and time of next meeting:
- Next meeting scheduled for September 20, 2011
- Adjournment