

Cable Telecommunications Advisory Committee Meeting
May 26, 2009

Minutes

1. Call to Order and Introductions.
 - Present
 - Committee: Abe Abramovich, Stanley Rose, JimWilliams
 - Council: Councilman Bob Bostock, Mayor Pam Mount
 - Comcast: Kathy Farinaccio
 - Verizon: Absent
 - School: Tom Ervin
 - Lawrence Ledger: Lea Kahn
 - Prospective Committee member: Dr. Ronald Comer
2. Approval of Agenda.
 - The Agenda was accepted with one change:
 - The items under #11 should be included in #9
3. Appointment of Secretary for this Meeting.
 - Stanley Rose was appointed Secretary for this meeting
4. Review and Approval of Minutes of the March 24th, 2009 Meeting.
 - The Minutes of the March 24th meeting were approved as distributed
5. Government Access Channel
 - a. Review of pending Township draft ordinance: “Cable Television: Programming Policies and Procedures for Government Access Channel”
 - The committee presented several comments on the draft ordinance
 - SR: The FCC regulations preclude any control over channel lineup. Therefore, the ordinance can mention the PEG channel, but cannot specify that it is channel 19 (or any other channel assignment)
 - AA: Should allow for editing offensive language
 - Mayor: Need to have a calendar of events for the township
 - BB: Need clarification of the differences and what is allowed on
 - Public
 - Educational
 - Government
 - Kathy Farinaccio will get us some sample ordinances from other area. The committee had thought that Trey Keymoore was going to do this.
 - BB: Need to be prescriptive to prevent any later misunderstandings
 - Mayor: What is “next level of service?”
 - TE: To play back a video, need a switching device at a cost of less than \$5,000
 - AA: Would need a person to manage content. If not kept active, it quickly becomes stale and will lose all viewers.
 - Mayor: Since there are vacancies on the committee, find a volunteer who would do this.
 - AA: Believes that this type of effort is beyond what a committee volunteer could do. Also, require a highly skilled/specialized person.

- AA: Need to decide what to do next, define the scope of effort, budget for equipment, staffing, etc.
 - AA will ask Trey Keymoore to summarize his earlier research about the requirements and constraints for a Government Access Channel, including what other townships in the area are doing.
- b. Report on public feedback regarding the existing content for the GAC (Verizon channel 36 and Comcast channel 19).
- AA: No feedback from the public was received.

6. Communications.

A. Comcast

- a. Comcast notice of March 26, 2009: Notice regarding MLB availability on HD and availability of premium channel discount to Triple Play customers.
- b. Comcast notice of April 24, 2009: Notice of addition of “TV Network” on 252 (Limited Basic)
- c. Comcast notice of May 6, 2009: Notice of several channel changes
- d. Comcast notice of May 19, 2009: Notice of change in programming on various tiers.

B. Verizon

- a. Verizon Service Alert of April 7, 2009
 - Verizon sent a letter reminding the Township that the free services provided in public buildings are for a single connection and may not be networked.

7. Public Comments.

- a. Telephone call from Ms. Maryann Daniel regarding regular service interruptions during bad weather. Her provider is Comcast.
 - Kathy said that Comcast replaced the drop and ancillary equipment and they believe that cleared up this problem.

8. Implementation of FAQ page on Township Website

- a. Verizon’s response to FAQs posted on Lawrence Township website
 - Shortly after the meeting, Mr. Abramovich received a response from Verizon and this was passed on to Trey Keymoore for inclusion on the website.

9. Old Business Relating to Comcast.

A. Status of plans to add additional channels.

- NJN Digital and HDTV. - Completed
- WYBE HDTV - Completed
- New York HDTV Channels. – No change
- Discovery HD – No change
- Travel Channel – No change

B. Request from LTPS, per Tom Ervin follow up email of September 25, 2008, for Comcast to provide 38 replacement digital converter boxes to replace the analog boxes currently in use.

- Kathy said it is unlikely that Comcast will provide the 38 boxes, as this would then have to be done in all other school districts. But, Dave Briedinger said that Comcast is looking into an alternative that would accomplish the same goal.

10. Old Business Relating to Verizon.

- None

11. New Business relating to Comcast.

- None

12. New Business Relating to Verizon

- None

13. New Business - Other

- a. Committee Membership status: There are currently two (2) vacancies on the committee. Dr. Ron Comer has applied and at the time of the meeting was waiting for confirmation from Council

14. Date of Next Meeting: July 28, 2009 at 7:30 pm

15. Adjournment