

Cable Television Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – April 7, 2014

In Attendance (Absent member marked by “X”)

Victory Chase
Amanda Johnson
X Bruce McCracken
Jon MacIvor
Lisa Stevens
Kirkman Frost
Councilman James Vassanella (arrived 7:10 p.m.)
Joyce S. Miller, Secretary

- The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Roll was called.
- The minutes of the March 3, 2014 meeting were approved. (Kirkman Frost was not a member in March and abstained).

OLD BUSINESS

- The Committee welcomed Kirkman Frost, the newest member appointed by the Township Council.
- The Board of Education has not yet named a representative to the Committee.
- Ascertainment period
 - ✓ Comcast submitted their Municipal Consent Application on March 12, 2014. All copies were given to the Municipal Clerk for distribution. No one on the Committee has received or reviewed the application.
- Volunteer videographer pilot program
 - ✓ Victory has e-mailed to all Committee members:
 - Background history leading up to the pilot program.
 - The proposal sent to Franklin Township Council, October 3, 2011 to establish the program.
 - The Resolution dated November 10, 2011 approving the two-year pilot program.
 - Status reports 1 to 4 submitted to the Township Council throughout the two year program.
 - A report on currently-owned equipment by the Township or available to the Township, as well as a list of equipment that would be needed for the program to continue.
 - ✓ Victory shared some thoughts and issues regarding the program and said she would outline them in a preliminary evaluation for committee discussion at its May meeting. There was some discussion on the issues, but no decisions were made. The committee as a whole will review Victory’s preliminary evaluation and prepare and approve the final required report no later than its meeting of July 7, 2014. This report will then be sent to the Township Council.
 - ✓ Victory reported that the first part of the raising of the Rockingham barn taping is being prepared for broadcast at a future date.
- JAG

- ✓ Paperwork and payment has been submitted for the Township's membership in the Jersey Access Group (JAG).
- ✓ JAG is having their annual conference at the New Brunswick Hyatt on May 7-9. [Township IT Department Chair Justin Heyman has been invited to speak at the conference.]
- FTTV policy
 - ✓ There was no discussion at the meeting, but Joyce said she would draft for the Committee members' review an update of the latest policy, adopted in 2005.

NEW BUSINESS

- Joyce received an e-mail in February from the Township's new Verizon representative, William Freshwater, stating there are no plans to expand FiOS in Franklin Township. However, the Township Council on April 8, 2014 passed a resolution authorizing the right-of-way agreement between the Township and Sunesys, Inc. to install additional fiber optic cable on Irvington Avenue (from Easton Avenue to Carmen Street) and Carmen Street to Franklin Boulevard. Joyce will try to obtain more detailed information.
- Joyce reported at the March meeting that a resident was losing connection to the internet every time there is snow, rain or heavy wind. Despite Comcast replacing lines in the house, supplying a new modem, and the resident buying a new router, the problem persists. Joyce contacted Comcast representative Rob Clifton who said he would have a technician look into the problem.
- Amanda forwarded to the Committee an article about Apple and Comcast's preliminary talks about creating a streaming television service. Victory mentioned the Comcast agreement to purchase Time Warner cable. The Committee found both stories of interest as to the future of the cable industry.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

- The next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Monday, May 5, 2014.