

Cable Television Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – June 2, 2014

In Attendance (Absent member marked by “X”)

Victory Chase
X Amanda Johnson
Bruce McCracken
Jon MacIvor
Lisa Stevens
Kirkman Frost
X Councilman James Vassanella
Joyce S. Miller, Secretary

- The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m. Roll was called.
- The minutes of the May 5, 2014 meeting were approved. Victory abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

- The Board of Education has not yet named a representative to the Committee. Joyce left a message for Board Secretary John Calavano.
- Ascertainment period
 - ✓ The Township is now in the Municipal Review stage of the franchise renewal process, having moved on from the Ascertainment period when the Municipal Report was forwarded to the Township Council.
 - ✓ There will be a public hearing on the Comcast franchise renewal at the Township Council meeting at 7 p.m. June 24, 2014.
 - ✓ The Township attorney Lou Rainone submitted questions and answers regarding the renewal process. These were forwarded to the Committee, as well as made available to the public.
 - ✓ Questions and comments from the Committee were forwarded to Lou Rainone.
 - ✓ The Council named a subcommittee to work on the negotiations. Members include Deputy Mayor Brian Regan and Councilmen Phil Kramer and James Vassanella.
 - ✓ The Council subcommittee requested that the Committee prioritize the recommendations that were made in the Municipal Report. Kirk will prepare a form for the members to review and put together a summary for the Committee to finalize at their July 7 meeting.
 - ✓ Bruce distributed an article from *The New York Times* April 12, 2014 issue entitled “Franken’s Campaign Against Comcast Is No Joke.”
- Volunteer videographer pilot program
 - ✓ Kirk, Victory and Joyce prepared a draft Recommendation for the Videography Program. Victory will make changes based on the Committee’s comments. They will be forwarded to the Committee for review so the Recommendation can be voted on at the July meeting.
- Jersey Access Group (JAG)
 - ✓ Bruce and Victory attended the free day at the JAG annual conference and said the vendors were welcoming and very informative.

- ✓ Justin Heyman, Department Head for Franklin's IT Department, was one of the presenters at the conference.
- FTTV policy
 - ✓ Joyce drafted an updated policy. It will be discussed at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Office on Cable Television (OCTV)
 - ✓ Nancy Wolf from the New Jersey Office on Cable Television e-mailed responses to two questions:
 - Under the present law, the Board of Public Utilities does not regulate internet services when delivered over cable television lines. If a resident has a problem with internet service that cannot be first resolved after contacting the company, that person may forward the issue to the OCTV, which in turn will forward it to the company.
 - When asked if there was any place Franklin could obtain policies on the use of music on a government access channel, Ms. Wolf said OCTV does not provide legal advice and said the best source of information might be JAG.
- Music on FTTV
 - ✓ Victory spoke to the director of the Somerville all-volunteer government access channel. Somerville paid a nominal fee to Cable Vision for the right to play as background for their bulletin board the music Cable Vision has on their public channels. For other music, they give credit but do not get permission. If there were a complaint, they would stop playing it.
 - ✓ Joyce reviewed the policies posted on the JAG website but did not find any usable statements on the use of music.

RESIDENT COMPLAINTS

- ✓ Victory reported that the barn raising video lost sound recently while she was watching it on FTTV. The Township's IT Department said it was the fault of the older server. The problem was corrected.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

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