

Cable Television Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes – November 3, 2014

In Attendance (Absent member marked by “X”)

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

- The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. Roll was called.
- The minutes of the October 6, 2014 meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- Membership:
 - ✓ The Committee still has one open position.
- Ascertainment Period
 - ✓ Township attorney reported to Joyce that negotiations were still ongoing. He did not have an anticipated date when any proposal would be sent over to the Township Council.
- Volunteer Videographer Pilot Program
 - ✓ Victory said the Township’s IT Department was editing the Franklin Day festival held September 20 in Colonial Park and videotaped by Comcast.
 - ✓ Victory said the Meadows Foundation was adding a media room at the Wyckoff-Garretson House on South Middlebush Road. Victory will keep in touch with them; there may be some programs they record that would be appropriate for FTTV.
- FTTV policy
 - ✓ The policy has been posted on the Cable TV page on the Township’s website.

NEW BUSINESS

- Victory said there was a private school not on Franklin’s original list. This should be included on the list for Comcast if they will be providing service through their new franchise agreement as they had in the past.
- The Committee voted to keep meeting dates in 2015 on the 1st Monday of each month. For September, when the first Monday falls on a holiday, the Committee will meet on the second Monday, September 14.

Dates:

January 5
February 2
March 2
April 6
May 4
June 1
July 6

August 3
September 14
October 5
November 2
December 7

RESIDENT COMPLAINTS

- The Township received a complaint from a Griggstown resident through the Township's website. The resident, who did not want to have the Township respond to her e-mail, complained about Comcast's internet service, saying many of her neighbors were having similar problems. She also said the information on the franchise agreement negotiations that was posted on the website was not up-to-date.
 - ✓ The Committee is responsible for Cable TV and not internet and would not be able address the resident's concerns. [Joyce was told by IT that the resident has options. They said "A resident could get satellite internet (its slow and costly but it works) also, Verizon offers DSL service over copper lines even if FIOS isn't available."]
 - ✓ As for the information on the negotiations, Justin Heyman from IT did respond to the resident that there wasn't any further information that could be posted since negotiations were on-going. Justin did not hear anything further from the resident.
- Joyce shared her experience in negotiating a lower price for Verizon service. She found out the offers shown on Verizon TV commercials are limited to new customers, do have restrictions, and are not as favorable as they sound.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

- The next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Monday, December 1, 2014.