

# Cable Television Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes – March 2, 2015

In Attendance (Absent member marked by “X”)

Bruce McCracken  
 Jon MacIvor  
 Lisa Stevens  
 X Kirkman Frost  
 X Patricia Stanley  
 Joyce S. Miller, Secretary

- The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Roll was called.
- The minutes of the January 5, 2015 meeting were approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Membership:
  - ✓ We are still waiting for a Township Council liaison to be named.
  - ✓ We will advertise for new members in the next Township newsletter.
  - ✓ Bruce was voted as new Chair of the committee.
- Ascertainment Period
  - ✓ The Township attorney reported to Joyce that the Township met with Comcast on February 26 to review the draft franchise renewal ordinance. There were still some issues to be worked out. The hope is to move an ordinance forward in April. The Township was waiting for Comcast to respond with data and answers to questions.
- Volunteer Videographer Pilot Program
  - ✓ The pilot program is over. The Committee members discussed the value of the program. A reinstated program would require some dedicated volunteers, funding and Township Council approval. This will be discussed further at another meeting.
- The Committee looked at the Frequently-Asked Questions which are on the Committee’s webpage. Since many of the questions involve the franchise agreement negotiations or items being discussed during negotiations, the Committee postponed the discussion and review until the new agreement is in place.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- The Township decided not to rejoin the Jersey Access Group. The Committee agreed with the Township IT Department that the Township did not receive the benefit of membership.
- Joyce reported on the franchise fees received from Verizon and Comcast for 2014.

	Comcast (franchise agreement with Franklin)	Verizon (system-wide agreement with state of NJ)
2014	\$58,494.30	\$158,880.75
2013	\$56,601.64	\$143,026.17

- After talking with the senior resident who called about her service with Comcast (see below), Joyce suggested that someone address the three senior citizen clubs after the new Comcast agreement is approved. Discussion could include:
  - The Township does not have any say on the rates charged.
  - The Township cannot force Verizon to expand in the Township.
  - Residents are encouraged to contact the New Jersey Office on Cable Television (OCTV) when they have problems.

Committee members thought this was a good idea, as did the senior resident who made the initial complaint. It was suggested that former Assemblyman Upendra Chivukula, who now works for the Board of Public Utilities, be invited to address the senior clubs.

#### RESIDENT COMPLAINTS

- There were four resident complaints
  - A senior citizen complained about the rates and poor TV reception. Joyce submitted the complaint on behalf of the resident to the (OCTV), who forwarded it on to Comcast. Joyce called the resident; TV reception was improved but they were still unhappy about the rates.
  - A resident had numerous complaints about Comcast and forwarded a spreadsheet showing one month's problems. She was encouraged to contact the OCTV. Her complaint was also given to the Township attorney, who in turn gave it to the Comcast representative.
  - A resident sent an e-mail pointing out the various grammatical errors on the Bd. of Education channel. The Township Manager told the resident that the Township was not responsible for the material on that channel.
  - A resident complained about the audio on the Township's channel during the broadcast of the Township Council meetings. The Township's IT Department was aware of the situation and looking to resolve the problem.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

- The next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Monday, April 6, 2015