



**AGENDA**  
**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**January 7, 2015**  
Meridian Township Municipal Building  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI  
**Administrative Conference Room**

- A. Call Meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m.
- B. Public Remarks
- C. Approval of Agenda
- D. Approval of Minutes – December 3, 2014
- E. Communications/Announcements
- F. Old Business
  - 1. Audit Updates and Possible Discussion-Mike Watza
    - a. Comcast Franchise Fee
    - b. AT&T Review Franchise Fee
      - a. Demand Letter to AT&T
    - c. Technical Review
    - d. Transfer of Control
  - 2. Web advertising-Discovery
- G. New Business / Discussion Items
  - 1. 2015 goals discussion
    - a. HOMTV 5 Year equipment plan
    - b. Meridian Township 2015 Goals and Objectives draft
- H. Reports
  - 1. Complaints/Compliments: Deborah Guthrie
  - 2. Video Service Provider(s):
  - 3. Communications Director Report: Deborah Guthrie
  - 4. Chair's Report: Walter Benenson
  - 5. Township Information: Ron Styka
  - 6. Programming: Deborah Guthrie
  - 7. Viewership/Promotions: Deborah Guthrie
  - 8. Finance: Deborah Guthrie
- I. Other Business & Announcements
- J. Public Remarks
- K. Adjournment

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact Meridian Township by writing or calling the following:  
Frank Walsh, Township Manager, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198 (517-349-1200, Ext. 308). Ten days notice required.

# Cable Communications Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

## DRAFT

Administrative Conference Room  
Meridian Municipal Building, Okemos, MI  
December 3, 2014

**Present:** Commissioners: Chair, Walter Benenson, Tunga Kiyak, Brian Seipel and Patrick Crowley  
Staff: Deborah Guthrie, Mike Watza, Esq., Brandie Yates  
Township: None  
Comcast: John Gardner  
AT&T: None  
Haslett Schools: None  
Okemos Schools: None

**Call Meeting to Order:** Commissioner Benenson called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

### Public Remarks:

No Public Present

**Introductions:** Brandie Yates introduced as the secretary for the meeting, due to Penney Stephen absence.

### Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Crowley moved TO APPROVE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED. Seconded by Commissioner Kiyak.

Voice vote: Motion carried unanimously.

### Approval of Minutes:

John Gardner requested a line attributed to him be struck from the October 8, 2014 minutes. This was approved and struck from minutes.

Commissioner Kiyak moved TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF October 8, 2014 WITH REVISION. Seconded by Commissioner Crowley.

Voice vote: Motion carried unanimously.

### Communications/Announcements:

Director Guthrie started discussion by introducing the Meridian Cares Program Fundraiser to help Darla Jackson with the Emergency Needs Fund due to it being low, Deborah offered raffle tickets. Chair Benenson began discussion regarding the ease of online donations. Commissioner Crowley moved TO WRITE A LETTER to the Township Board regarding accepting online donations as part of the 2015 Goals and Objectives and the new website for things like Meridian Cares. Seconded by Commissioner Seipel.

Voice vote: Motion carried unanimously.

**Old Business:**

1. Audits-Mike Watza

a. Comcast Franchise Fee Audit (Renewal Process):

Mr. Watza stated that the audit is still underway, as part of the renewal. Ashpaugh and Sculco is the company performing the audit.

b. AT&T Review Franchise Fee Audit:

Mr. Watza explained that Garth Ashpaugh, who is conducting the audit, has been working with Grand Rapids as the benchmark and there is not much detail on an update. Generally it is going well and there will be money coming back.

c. Technical review audit:

Mr. Watza explained that Director Guthrie is much closer with this process and has recently talked with Joseph Van Eaton, the attorney in charge. She explained that it is a technical review of the Comcast system in Meridian Township. Mr. Watza talked about the fact that there is some resistance from Comcast regarding our right to perform such an audit and discussions are underway. Director Guthrie has a tentative verbal understanding with Comcast, more negotiations are needed.

d. Transfer of Control Update: Mr. Watza reported that the Commission will receive a summary report on the transfer of control by December 18<sup>th</sup>. From there, the Commission will discuss and make a recommendation to the Township Board. The Commission strongly requested a study session to go over the report. He stated that the Township Board will need to make a decision to deny, deny with condition, or ignore by March 8<sup>th</sup>. The Commission expressed extreme hesitations and concerns regarding harm to customers during the meeting.

**New Business:**

1. The Commission approved recommendation to the Township Board for the reappointment of Commissioner Seipel and Commissioner Kiyak to the Cable Communications Commission. Commissioner Crowley moved TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT of Commissioner Seipel. Commissioner Kiyak seconded. Commissioner Crowley moved TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT of Commissioner Kiyak. Commissioner Seipel seconded.

Voice vote: Motion carried unanimously.

2. Discussed possibility of having Commissioner Lathrop serve as an Alternate Commissioner and have another Commissioner appointed in his place. Chair Benenson will contact Commissioner Lathrop to see what his plans are regarding the Cable Communications Commission. The Commission directed staff to seek having an alternative serve on the commission. Chair Benenson stated that he may announce this at the leadership meeting Friday, December 5, 2014 and ask for help in spreading the word.
3. The Commission directed staff to research and implement additional revenue sources including web advertising and/or sponsorship on the HOMTV site to

generate income. Discussed possibility of adding this as a bylaw or policy regarding what kinds of advertising would be appropriate for the website.

4. Director Guthrie gave an update as to the companies that are seeking Metro Act Permits in Meridian Township. Discussed where ACD.net is with their application, as well as the other companies. The Commission appointed Commissioner Kiyak and Commissioner Crowley to work with the Planning Commission on developing a Digital Antenna System (DAS) ordinance. Director Guthrie will speak with Gail and Ray from the Meridian Township Planning Department about getting a plan in place to get started in the beginning of the year.
5. Director Guthrie asked that the Commissioners review the HOMTV 5 year equipment plan and the Meridian Township the 2015 Goals and Objectives before the January 2015 meeting.
6. The Commission reviewed the proposed 2015 meeting schedule. Commissioner Kiyak moved TO APPROVE THE 2015 MEETING SCHEDULE AS WRITTEN. Seconded by Commissioner Seipel.

Voice vote: Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Reports:**

- Cable Compliments/Complaints: No discussion.
- Video Service Provider(s): No discussion.
- Communications Director's Report: No discussion.
- Chair's Report: No discussion or report.
- Township Information: No discussion.
- Programming: No discussion.
- Viewership/Promotions: No discussion
- Finance: No discussion

#### **Other Business & Announcements:**

Nothing to report.

**Future Agenda Items:** Granicus iLegislate presentation to be scheduled for January 2015 meeting, possible DAS presentation by ACD.net owner.

#### **Public Remarks:**

No remarks from the public.

Commissioner Kiyak moved TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Seconded by Commissioner Seipel.

Hearing no objections, Chair Kiyak ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 7:40 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next scheduled meeting is **Wednesday, January 7, 2015 in the Administrative Conference Room.**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION**

**COMMUNICATIONS**



December 2, 2014

Ms. Deborah Guthrie, Cable Coordinator  
Meridian Township  
5151 Marsh Road  
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Ms. Guthrie:

As part of Comcast's commitment to keep you informed about important developments that affect our customers in your community, I am writing to notify you of a channel change. Customers are being notified of this change via bill message.

We are pleased to announce that effective December 16, 2014, Nat Geo and Nat Geo HD will be available on our Digital Starter Tier. Also, as of, January 16, 2015, Nat Geo and Nat Geo HD will no longer be available on our Digital Preferred Tier.

As always, feel free to contact me directly at 517-334-5686 with any questions you may have

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John P. Gardner".

John P. Gardner  
Senior Manager, External Affairs  
Comcast, Heartland Region  
1401 E. Miller Rd.  
Lansing, MI 48911

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION**

**OLD  
BUSINESS**

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff  
Brett Dreyfus  
Julie Brixie  
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor  
Clerk  
Treasurer  
Manager



Milton L. Scales  
Ronald J. Styka  
John Veenstra  
Angela Wilson

Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee

Linda Fisher  
Assistant Secretary and Director, Tax  
AT&T  
11760 U.S. Highway One, Suite 600  
North Palm Beach, FL 33408

December 24, 2014

Dear Ms. Fisher:

We are writing you on behalf of the Michigan Cities of Southfield, Grand Rapids, Kentwood, Livonia and Wyoming, the Townships of Meridian, Waterford and Van Buren, the Orion Community Cable Communications Commission (representing the Township of Orion and the Village of Lake Orion) and the Oxford Group (representing the Townships of Addison and Oxford and the Villages of Leonard and Oxford) and the Public Media Network members of the Cities of Kalamazoo and Portage. Attached is a report we received from the firm of Ashpaugh & Sculco regarding your underpayment of franchise and PEG fees to these communities.

In the report, you will see a table identifying the amounts owed to each community, including audit costs, where applicable. As you know, under the applicable franchises, these communities were permitted to review your franchise and PEG payments and "[a]ny additional amount due verified by the franchising entity which shall be paid by the provider within 30 days of the franchising entity's submission of an invoice for the sum. If the sum exceeds 5% of the total fees which the audit determines should have been paid for the 24-month period, the provider shall pay the franchising entity's reasonable costs of the audit." Attached is also an invoice from each of the signing communities for the amounts in the report, plus additional costs that they may have been individually incurred and, and applicable, in connection with the audit. Each of us would appreciate payment within 30 days of the date of this letter.

Should you wish to discuss the report with us, we are more than willing to do so. Should you dispute the sums owed and wish to resolve such dispute through a settlement, we are open to that and need not agree that the approach in the report is correct or not. The intentionally low value for time value of money in the report should provide us some latitude for a resolution that does not prejudice either party for the future.

As you know, under Michigan law "any claims by a franchising entity that fees have not been paid as required under section 6, and any claims for refunds or other corrections to the

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 (517) 853-4000

[www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us)



remittance of the provider, shall be made within 3 years from the date the compensation is remitted." It is not clear whether the attached invoices or this letter are sufficient to state a "claim" under the law, or whether we must file a court action. It is also not clear in light of the unilateral adjustments AT&T itself made to payments, when the three years would run. However, as a matter of caution, we are assuming the three years will run for the first quarter covered by the audit on or about mid-February of 2015. Therefore to avoid the necessity of filing a legal action we'd ask that you respond as quickly as possible to this letter. Should you wish to discuss a settlement and avoid litigation and, that you make the payments shown on the invoices by the date required under the act.

Sincerely,

Deborah Guthrie  
Communications Director  
Meridian Township  
Guthrie@meridian.mi.us  
517-853-4380

## Deborah Guthrie

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**From:** Lee Afflerbach <lafflerbach@ctcnet.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 19, 2014 8:52 AM  
**To:** Deborah Guthrie  
**Subject:** Testing & Inspection

Deborah:

I see two possible approaches:

1. Comcast cooperates and we have a headend inspection to examine items such as: ( our normal approach in last year – DC, Syracuse, Port Angeles, Telluride, Sterling, Ft Morgan CO)
  - a. PEG communications links
  - b. EAS equipment
  - c. Backup power (HE, hubs and in plant)
  - d. General plant architecture
  - e. (field work) Test at 2 or more test points in the Township
    - i. With Comcast staff and equipment
    - ii. Meter tests and TV monitor
  - f. Inspect drop cable grounding for electrical violations
  - g. Aerial plant inspection for clearances, hanging cables
  
2. Comcast does not cooperates and we have a headend inspection( visit/tour) to examine items such as:
  - a. PEG communications links (discussion only)
  - b. EAS equipment (discussion only)
  - c. Backup power (HE, hubs and in plant) (discussion only)
  - d. General plant architecture discussion
  - e. (field work) CTC/Township independently test at 2 or more test points in the Township ( municipal sites)
    - i. With CTC amplitude signal level measurement equipment
    - ii. Converter & TV monitor
  - f. Inspect drop cable grounding for electrical violations ( with township electrical inspector)
  - g. Aerial plant inspection for clearances, hanging cables ( with township electrical inspector)

Regards,

Lee

Lee Afflerbach, PE  
CTC Royal Oak Office  
5562 Heron Point Road  
Royal Oak, MD 21662

Phone: 410-745-5958  
Cell: 443-745-0496  
Fax: 410-745-2758

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Elizabeth Ann LeGoff    Supervisor  
Brett Dreyfus            Clerk  
Julie Brixie              Treasurer  
Frank L. Walsh          Manager



Milton L. Scales            Trustee  
Ronald J. Styka            Trustee  
John Veenstra              Trustee  
Angela Wilson              Trustee

October 20, 2014

John P. Gardner, Senior Manager  
Government Affairs  
Comcast Heartland Region  
1401 East Miller Road  
Lansing, MI 48911

Dear Mr. Gardner:

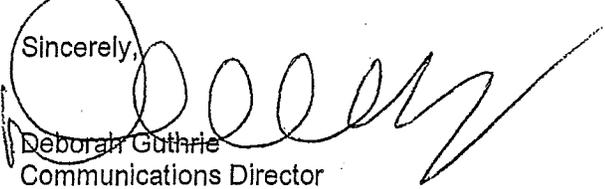
We received your letter regarding the Tech Audit of the Comcast system in Meridian Township on October 3, 2014. After you sent your letter, we spoke on a few separate occasions and we have not come to an agreement on the inspection of the system.

Just to be clear, we are undertaking the inspection because Comcast activated the formal renewal processes of the Cable Act. Under those processes, we must review past performance and future needs, and the inspection is part of that effort. If you are refusing the inspection because you are abandoning any federal renewal rights you may have, please let us know, and we can consider whether the inspection is necessary. But if you are not, then you are interfering with the renewal process, and intentionally so. That action is not justified by your current franchise. That franchise, in Sections 9(e) and 11, give us clear rights to inspect the system.

You may be asserting that the franchise has been modified by Michigan's Uniform Act. But Comcast has already argued the point before two judges in the federal district court and lost both times (including in a case involving us). We understand you are appealing one of those cases, but your refusal to cooperate after activating the formal renewal process simply underlines why the uniform act can't be squared with the federal cable law. As far as we are concerned, this places you out of compliance with your obligations under local law, and is inconsistent with federal law. It is especially serious given your statements to the FCC in connection with the merger proceeding. This is your notice – unless you are abandoning any renewal rights you may have - that we consider this a substantial failure to comply with your franchise and with applicable law. Please let us know within five business days how you wish to proceed.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at 517-853-4380 should you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

  
Deborah Guthrie  
Communications Director  
Meridian Charter Township

CC: Michael J. Watza, Esq. Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti & Sherbrook  
Joseph Van Eaton, Esq. Best Best & Kreiger, L.L.P.

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 (517) 853-4000

[www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us)





Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

December 22, 2014

*Via U.S. Mail and Electronic Mail*

Kathryn A. Zachem  
Senior Vice President, Regulatory and State Legislative Affairs  
Comcast Corporation  
300 New Jersey Ave., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001

Steven Teplitz  
Senior Vice President, Government Relations  
Time Warner Cable Inc.  
901 F Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20004

Catherine Bohigian  
Executive Vice President, Government Affairs  
Charter Communications, Inc.  
1099 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 650  
Washington, DC 20001

**Re: Applications of Comcast Corporation, Time Warner Cable Inc., Charter Communications, Inc., and SpinCo for Consent to Assign Licenses or Transfer Control of Licensees, MB Docket No. 14-57**

Dear Ms. Zachem, Mr. Teplitz and Ms. Bohigian:

It has recently come to our attention that Time Warner Cable ("TWC") has discovered a significant number of responsive documents that were not timely produced to the FCC. For the reasons stated herein, the Commission will stop its informal 180-day transaction clock until January 12, 2015.

On August, 21, 2014, the Commission issued Requests for Information that required TWC to produce responsive documents and a written explanation supporting the withholding of responsive documents on the basis of privilege. Responsive materials were due to be produced on September 11, 2014. Beginning in December 2014, Commission staff learned that in excess of 7,000 responsive documents had been withheld based on an inappropriate claim of attorney-client privilege. These documents were produced to the Commission on December 9 and 10, 2014, and Commission staff was advised that a complete revised privilege log would be provided

in mid-January, 2015. During the week of December 15, 2014, Commission staff learned that in excess of 31,000 responsive documents had not been produced to the Commission due to vendor error, and would be produced on December 30, 2014. After Commission staff expressed concern about the delays in production of the missing documents and the privilege log, TWC now advises Commission staff that it will produce these missing documents and a complete privilege log on December 22, 2014.

The effect of these late disclosures has been to slow down the Commission's review of the Comcast/TWC/Charter transaction, in particular because sections of the review that staff had thought were complete now must be reopened to take account of the additional documents that have been disclosed. This does not simply require examining the additional documents, but re-running many of the document searches and reconsidering the analyses that staff thought were complete. In addition, staff has been hampered in its review of TWC's privilege log because, after only a cursory review of the log, it was apparent that many entries were incomplete which hampered review of TWC's privilege claims. While the Commission can understand and accept that minor errors can occur when preparing both documents for production and privilege logs; it expects applicants to promptly correct errors, without prompting, when they occur. Here, however, the magnitude of the errors, with respect to both the document production and the privilege log, is material and the delays in rectifying them were substantial so that the tardy productions have interfered with the Commission's ability to conduct a prompt and thorough review of the pending applications.

Accordingly, we are stopping the informal 180-day transaction clock as of the date of this letter for three weeks until the Commission staff has had an opportunity to review the documents and the revised privilege log for completeness. The clock will restart on January 12, 2015. Although we are stopping our informal clock, we note that we are not revising the pleading cycle and Reply Comments are still due to be filed by December 23, 2014.<sup>1</sup>

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Hillary Burchuk, Office of General Counsel, at (202) 418-1719.

Sincerely,

William T. Lake  
Chief, Media Bureau

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<sup>1</sup> We also note that our permit-but-disclose *ex parte* procedures allow interested parties to bring to our attention any new information that is contained in these documents even after the pleading cycle has ended.



One Comcast Center  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103

**VIA E-MAIL AND OVERNIGHT DELIVERY**

December 23, 2014

Mr. Joseph Van Eaton  
Best Best & Krieger  
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Suite 5300  
Washington, DC 20006

Re: Comcast/Midwest Cable Transaction

Dear Mr. Van Eaton,

Wes Heppler has informed me that you have requested an extension of the time frame for the members of the Ramsey/Washington Suburban Cable Commission (the City of Birchwood Village, the City of Dellwood, the City of Grant, the City of Lake Elmo, the City of Mahtomedi, the City of Maplewood, the City of North St. Paul, the City of Oakdale, the City of Vadnais Heights, the City of White Bear Lake, White Bear Township and the City of Willernie, Minnesota), the City of Southfield, Michigan, and the Township of Meridian, Michigan, to consider the transfer of control of the communities' cable system Franchisees pursuant to the transaction between Comcast Corporation ("Comcast") and Charter Communications, Inc. ("Charter"), by which Comcast will spin off a new, independent company which will become Midwest Cable, Inc.<sup>1</sup>

This letter is to confirm that the parties agree to extend the time frame for consideration of the transactions by the communities named above through and including Friday, February 27, 2015, in order to accommodate continuing discussions and agenda deadlines. The extensions for the Township of Meridian and the City of Southfield, Michigan, are made without waiving our argument that no consent is required from the communities under applicable state law.

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<sup>1</sup> Midwest Cable's name will be changed to GreatLand Connections, Inc., when the transaction closes.

Mr. Joseph Van Eaton  
December 23, 2014  
Page 2

If you have any questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Klayton F. Fennell in black ink.

Klayton F. Fennell  
Vice President, Government Affairs  
Comcast

Handwritten signature of Leonard J. Baxt in black ink.

Leonard J. Baxt  
Midwest Cable, Inc.  
Executive Vice President, and  
Chief Administrative Officer

**Deborah Guthrie**

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**From:** Dawn <dawn accuratemedia@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2014 5:39 PM  
**To:** HOMTV  
**Subject:** Advertising on Homtv.net

Hi there,

We're interested in advertising on Homtv.net. Let us know if you wish to discuss further about this proposal.

Thanks!

Note: Our team has manually researched your website and shortlisted it as Potential Advertising destination. However, in case we've misjudged your website and you're not interested or do not offer advertising at all, kindly respond with "NOT INTERESTED" or "UNSUBSCRIBE" and our team will NEVER contact you again.

--

Rgds  
Dawn  
Accu-rate Media

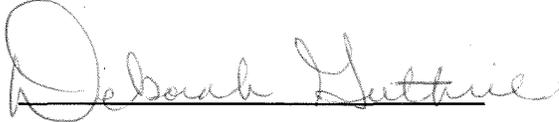
**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION**

**NEW  
BUSINESS**

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Cable Communications Commission



**From:** Communications Director Deborah Guthrie

**Date:** December 24, 2014

**Re:** 5 Year Plan for HOMTV Equipment Discussion

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### Equipment:

During the previous 5 year equipment plan from 2011-2016, we budgeted monies for contractual services, software and equipment to include replacements and upgrades, and additional equipment. However, during that time we were unable to purchase the following:

- 2012: 3D graphic system and music library
- 2013: Multimedia lectern
- 2014: Phone call system replacement, GoPro body mountable camera kit and accessories, iMac editing system replacement, and remote broadcast system. Additionally, Final Cut and Adobe Suite updates will not be completed this year.

Some of the reasons we are unable to purchase equipment include: the temporary salaries line item being higher than anticipated in 2012 & 2014 due to elections; legal fees line item being higher than anticipated related to the transfer of control and AT&T financial audit in 2013 and 2014; and the increased costs in contractual services due to upgrades of the video network and storage systems. As the lines between the video production world and the information technology world become more blurred, we have incurred increased costs for contractual warranty services and software upgrades. This year we are unable to purchase the 8<sup>th</sup> editing system for the intern edit suite, which is a hindrance as our intern staff and production levels continue to average 600 programs per year and 30 interns per semester.

In 2015, the proposed video production equipment line item includes a High Definition playback system that would replace the 10 year old Standard

Definition system, an additional camera support system, and town hall microphones and bases, totaling \$21,000. The limited funds to purchase equipment in 2015 are due to an increase in legal fees needed for refranchising.

Because of these unforeseen expenses, staff recommends that the final phases of the conversion for HOMTV facilities to fully HD be implemented into the 5 year Communications Department Equipment and Software Master Plan, including HD studio cameras and HD playback systems. Furthermore, the 5 year plan should also consider emerging technologies such as 4K video and a video storage management solution.

Therefore, staff proposes the Commission discuss adopting the proposed 2015-2020 five year Master Plan for equipment purchases.

Communication Department

Draft Working Document 5 Year Equipment/Software/Streaming Services Purchase Plan

2015 Budget

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Cost	status
Video Server- HOMTV Playback system	replacement	1	\$14,000	
Townhall mics and bases	replacement	12	\$2,000	
MultiMedia Lecturn	new	1	\$5,000	
<b>Total Field/Editing Equipment</b>			<b>\$21,000</b>	
Final Cut X	upgrades		\$3,000	
Adobe Creative Suite	additional	2	\$3,500	
<b>Total Production/Software</b>			<b>\$6,500</b>	
Adobe Software Contract			\$2,400	
Communcations Needs Assessment			\$20,000	
Granicus Video web hosting service			\$8,700	
*Granicus Open Platform - Mobile programming			\$3,900	
Comcast HOMTV Studio Access			\$156	
Comcast Fire Station 1			\$900	
Comcast Fire Station 2			\$600	
Comcast HOMTV Internet			\$840	
Annual HOMTV webpage hosting service			\$2,300	
Broadcast Pix Annual Warranty - video switcher			\$3,900	
QLogic Switch Maintenance VSAN - video network			\$800	
Scale Logic - Video Server Hardware Maintenance Warranty			\$2,500	
Scale Logic - Video Server Software Maintenance Warranty			\$3,200	
EZNews - Annual Maintenance Agreement			\$1,343	
Total Info - annual bulletin board service, CAMTV			\$995	
<b>Total Contractual Services Budget</b>			<b>\$30,134</b>	
<b>Total Equipment/Software/Services Budget</b>			<b>\$57,634</b>	

2016 Budget

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Cost	status
Small P2 Camera	replacement	2	\$12,000	
Imac editing computer	replacement	2	\$10,000	
laptop graphic computer	replacement	1	\$5,000	
Remote Editing/Switcher System	new	1	\$25,000	
live remote streaming device	new	1	\$20,000	
Incodex encoder for live broadcasting	new		\$5,000	
<b>Total Field/Editing Equipment</b>			<b>\$77,000</b>	
Final Cut X	upgrades		\$3,000	
<b>Total Production/Software</b>			<b>\$3,000</b>	
Adobe Software Contract			\$2,400	
New Media Monitoring			\$12,000	
Granicus Video web hosting service			\$8,700	
*Granicus Open Platform - Mobile programming			\$3,900	
Comcast HOMTV Studio Access			\$156	
Comcast Fire Station 1			\$900	
Comcast Fire Station 2			\$600	
Comcast HOMTV Internet			\$840	
Annual HOMTV webpage hosting service			\$2,300	
Broadcast Pix Annual Warranty - video switcher			\$3,900	
QLogic Switch Maintenance VSAN - video network			\$800	
Scale Logic - Video Server Hardware Maintenance Warranty			\$2,500	
Scale Logic - Video Server Software Maintenance Warranty			\$3,200	
EZNews - Annual Maintenance Agreement			\$1,343	
Total Info - annual bulletin board service, CAMTV			\$995	
<b>Total Contractual Services Budget</b>			<b>\$30,134</b>	
<b>Total Equipment/Software/Services Budget</b>			<b>\$110,134</b>	

**2017 Budget**

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Cost	status
HD Studio Cameras	replacement	1	\$100,000	
mac tower editing computer includes fiber jet seat	additional	1	\$10,000	
Imac editing computer	replacement	2	\$10,000	
small p2 camera	replacement	2	\$12,000	
<b>Total Field/Editing Equipment</b>			<b>\$132,000</b>	
Final Cut X	upgrades		\$3,000	
<b>Total Production/Software</b>			<b>\$3,000</b>	
Adobe Software Contract			\$2,400	
New Media Monitoring			\$12,000	
Granicus Video web hosting service			\$8,700	
*Granicus Open Platform - Mobile programming			\$3,900	
Comcast HOMTV Studio Access			\$156	
Comcast Fire Station 1			\$900	
Comcast Fire Station 2			\$600	
Comcast HOMTV Internet			\$840	
Annual HOMTV webpage hosting service			\$2,300	
Broadcast Pix Annual Warranty - video switcher			\$3,900	
QLogic Switch Maintenance VSAN - video network			\$800	
Scale Logic - Video Server Hardware Maintenance Warranty			\$2,500	
Scale Logic - Video Server Software Maintenance Warranty			\$3,200	
EZNews - Annual Maintenance Agreement			\$1,343	
Total Info - annual bulletin board service, CAMTV			\$995	
<b>Total Contractual Services Budget</b>			<b>\$30,134</b>	
<b>Total Equipment/Software/Services Budget</b>			<b>\$165,134</b>	

**2018 Budget**

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Cost	status
teleprompter	additional	1	\$7,000	
mac tower editing computer	replacement	2	\$10,000	
small p2 cameras	replacement	2	\$12,000	
large camera	replacement	1	\$25,000	
Career Fair Display	replacement	1	\$1,500	
remote prompter system	new	1	\$2,000	
multiscreen touchscreen townhall display	new	2	\$20,000	
<b>Total Field/Editing Equipment</b>			<b>\$77,500</b>	
Final Cut X	upgrades		\$3,000	
Fiber jet	upgrade	2	\$7,000	
<b>Total Production/Software</b>			<b>\$10,000</b>	
Adobe Software Contract			\$2,400	
New Media Monitoring			\$12,000	
Granicus Video web hosting service			\$8,700	
*Granicus Open Platform - Mobile programming			\$3,900	
Comcast HOMTV Studio Access			\$156	
Comcast Fire Station 1			\$900	
Comcast Fire Station 2			\$600	
Comcast HOMTV Internet			\$840	
Annual HOMTV webpage hosting service			\$2,300	
Broadcast Pix Annual Warranty - video switcher			\$3,900	
QLogic Switch Maintenance VSAN - video network			\$800	
Scale Logic - Video Server Hardware Maintenance Warranty			\$2,500	
Scale Logic - Video Server Software Maintenance Warranty			\$3,200	
EZNews - Annual Maintenance Agreement			\$1,343	
Total Info - annual bulletin board service, CAMTV			\$995	
<b>Total Contractual Services Budget</b>			<b>\$30,134</b>	
<b>Total Equipment/Software/Services Budget</b>			<b>\$117,634</b>	

**2019 Budget**

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Cost	status
small p2 camera	replacement	2	\$12,000	
mac tower editing computer	replacement	2	\$10,000	
small p2 camera	additional	1	\$6,000	
audio booth & equipment	additional		\$1,000	
Camera Jib	new	1	\$5,000	
Interactive Training White Boards	new	4	\$25,000	
Phone Call System Production	new	1	\$10,000	
3D graphic system and music library	replacement		\$10,000	
<b>Total Field/Editing Equipment</b>			<b>\$79,000</b>	
Final Cut X	upgrades		\$3,000	
<b>Total Production/Software</b>			<b>\$3,000</b>	
Adobe Software Contract			\$2,400	
New Media Monitoring			\$12,000	
Granicus Video web hosting service			\$8,700	
*Granicus Open Platform - Mobile programming			\$3,900	
Comcast HOMTV Studio Access			\$156	
Comcast Fire Station 1			\$900	
Comcast Fire Station 2			\$600	
Comcast HOMTV Internet			\$840	
Annual HOMTV webpage hosting service			\$2,300	
Broadcast Pix Annual Warranty - video switcher			\$3,900	
QLogic Switch Maintenance VSAN - video network			\$800	
Scale Logic - Video Server Hardware Maintenance Warranty			\$2,500	
Scale Logic - Video Server Software Maintenance Warranty			\$3,200	
EZNews - Annual Maintenance Agreement			\$1,343	
Total Info - annual bulletin board service, CAMTV			\$995	
<b>Total Contractual Services Budget</b>			<b>\$30,134</b>	
<b>Total Equipment/Software/Services Budget</b>			<b>\$112,134</b>	

**2020 Budget**

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Cost	status
small p2 camera	replacement	2	\$12,000	
mac tower editing computer	replacement	2	\$10,000	
mobile video app	new		\$10,000	
remote townhall camera system	replacement		\$50,000	
<b>Total Field/Editing Equipment</b>			<b>\$82,000</b>	
Final Cut X	upgrades		\$3,000	
Fiber Jet	upgrade	2	\$7,000	
<b>Total Production/Software</b>			<b>\$10,000</b>	
Adobe Software Contract			\$2,400	
New Media Monitoring			\$12,000	
Granicus Video web hosting service			\$8,700	
*Granicus Open Platform - Mobile programming			\$3,900	
Comcast HOMTV Studio Access			\$156	
Comcast Fire Station 1			\$900	
Comcast Fire Station 2			\$600	
Comcast HOMTV Internet			\$840	
Annual HOMTV webpage hosting service			\$2,300	
Broadcast Pix Annual Warranty - video switcher			\$3,900	
QLogic Switch Maintenance VSAN - video network			\$800	
Scale Logic - Video Server Hardware Maintenance Warranty			\$2,500	
Scale Logic - Video Server Software Maintenance Warranty			\$3,200	
EZNews - Annual Maintenance Agreement			\$1,343	
Total Info - annual bulletin board service, CAMTV			\$995	
<b>Total Contractual Services Budget</b>			<b>\$30,134</b>	
<b>Total Equipment/Software/Services Budget</b>			<b>\$122,134</b>	

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Cable Communication Commission



Deborah Guthrie

**From:** Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director

**Date:** December 24, 2014

**Re:** 2015 Township Goal Setting

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The Meridian Township 2015 draft Goals and Objectives include 116 goals, 29 of which pertain to the Communications Department. They are circled in the attached document. These goals and objectives will be approved by the Township Board at the December 9, 2014 meeting and are open for discussion. Commissioners are invited to attend the meeting to make any changes or additional suggestions.

Attached

# Meridian Township 2015 Goal Setting

## DRAFT 2015 Goals & Objectives

---

*Meridian Township exists to create a sustainable community through the most effective use of available resources that achieve the highest quality of life.*

### 1. Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance the environment

- a. Update the street tree ordinance **and adopt a tree protection ordinance**
- b. Prepare, update, and enforce ordinances that protect natural features such as woodlands, wetlands, and floodplain areas
- c. **Utilize** use the Township's Greenspace Plan as part of the review for land development projects
- d. **Apply** Use the best planning practices to encourage the preservation of green and open spaces
- e. Build a new *green* Central Fire Station
- f. Continue the Deer Management Program to reduce the deer population in our community
- g. **Manage** invasive species management in the parks and land preserves (removing garlic mustard, buckthorn, autumn olive, Japanese knotweed, Japanese hedge parsley, and phragmites)
- h. Administer and enforce the Soil Erosion Sedimentation Control Program
- i. Maintain the sewer system to minimize sewage backups
- j. Develop an Urban Management Service area
- k. Maintain robust recycling initiatives including the Meridian Recycling Center, community events, educational programs, **and work to enhance recycling opportunities in apartment complexes**
- l. Continue energy, water, and waste reduction efforts in Township buildings and other facilities
- m. **Adopt an ordinance prohibiting or regulating, as the law allows, fracking within the Township**
- n. **Review and update open space requirements**

### 2. Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance public safety

- (a) **Increase** Share information **shared with the public through social media regarding public safety tips, PSAs (Public Service Announcements), emergency communications, and police and fire services** ~~through social media~~
- (b) Provide Beyond the Badge police and fire programs and stories ~~for subscribers~~
- c. Strengthen communication and educate developers/builders, business owners, and neighborhood associations regarding the planning process in an effort to minimize violations and negative impacts
- d. Continue **implementation** ~~to implement~~ of the Grand River Corridor Access Management Ordinance
- e. Provide police coverage for Williamstown Township
- f. **Implement the** Office of Highway Safety Planning (OHSP) Traffic Grant implementation
- g. **Purchase** ~~implement~~ new mobile phone forensics software

- h. Upgrade the booking area camera
- i. **Evaluate conversion to the State Records Management System** ~~a new Records Management System~~ (RMS) in the Police Department, and **implement if determined to be feasible**
- j. ~~Implement~~ **Update in-car mobile software to communicate with new** Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) ~~software and Mobile Client~~
- k. Construct the new Fire Station at Okemos Road and Central Park Drive
- l. Purchase 1 replacement ambulance for the Fire Department
- m. Purchase 3 replacement police patrol vehicles **for the Police Department**
- n. Complete the Okemos Road Pathway Bridge crossing the Red Cedar River
- o. Continue fire service to Alaedon Township
- p. Continue the yearly Police Citizens' and Youth Academies
- q. ~~Continue~~ **Participate** in the Lansing Regional Shared Fire Services
- r. Process monthly police and fire citizen surveys
- s. **Monitor legislative actions relative to medical marihuana and prepare to act accordingly with local ordinances**
- t. **Explore revision and/or modification of Township ordinances for the purpose of reducing penalties for possession or use of small amounts of marihuana**

**3. Meridian Township shall provide an unparalleled parks system**

- a. **Develop** Phase I development of Towner Road Park
- b. **Complete** Legg Park **projects** - parking area, dog park, and stewardship
- c. Construct roof structures over the dugouts at Hartrick Park
- d. **Install** new siding on the pavilion at Nancy Moore Park
- e. **Install** new safety fencing around the ball diamonds at Nancy Moore Park
- f. **Rebuild** ~~Engineer and rebuild~~ the drainage **system** ~~in parking island at~~ **for** Harris Nature Center **parking island**
- g. Improve the parking lot surfaces at Harris Nature Center, Ferguson Park, and Wonch Park
- h. **Construct** the Wonch Park Pavilion with grant support
- i. Install new play equipment at Orlando Park and Hillbrook Park
- j. Develop a new Master Plan for Central Park
- k. Replace the footbridge at Legg Park
- l. Provide support for Eagle Scout Projects
- m. Build an 18 hole disc golf course
- n. Improve directional signage on trails
- o. **Construct** a youth environmental exploration area at Harris Nature Center
- p. **Establish a plan for development of a smart-phone application (App) that provides information of Township Parks and Trails** ~~Create a park and trail app for smart-phones~~
- q. Develop the Water Trail Access Program
- r. **Investigate purchasing the five (5) acres to the east of Wardcliff School which borders Park Lake Road for recreational uses**

**4. Meridian Township shall provide exemplary public services and facilities**

- a. Conduct an annual assessment/reinspection program of taxable properties within Meridian Township

- (b) Finalize the Comcast franchise agreement to include high definition (HD) PEG (Public, Education & Government) channels, VOD (Video on Demand), and PEG on the program guide system
- (c) **Develop a 5-year equipment purchase plan to be adopted** by the Cable Communications Commission (CCC) ~~to develop a 5-year equipment purchase plan that includes HD studio cameras and playback~~
- (d) Improve communication and educate the public on the Rental Housing Program and continue to improve the process for rental housing inspections
  - e. Revise the sign and parking regulations
  - f. Continue support of and membership in regional organizations (i.e. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission)
  - g. Strengthen cooperative planning efforts with the Ingham County Road Department, Ingham County Drain Commission, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, and surrounding jurisdictions
  - h. Promote good design standards through the site plan review process
  - i. Utilize a health impact assessment guide, created in conjunction with the Ingham County Health Department and Tri-County Regional Planning, in the review of development projects
  - j. ~~Streamline The Geographic Information Staff will work with all Township departments to streamline field survey work~~ **procedures so that** information **will** flow directly into the Geographic Information System
  - k. Participate with Tri-County regional partners to contract for flight services to provide orthographic photography ~~with data current from the spring of 2015~~ for the entire Township and surrounding areas
  - l. ~~Team members will work with BS&A Software to~~ **Bring** the Township's payroll back in-house and incorporate the human resources module software
- (m) Update the patrol car **graphic** design
  - n. **Evaluate options for upgrades to in-building camera systems within the** ~~Replace facilities video surveillance system for Public Safety Building and potential expansion to include other facilities, town hall, and impound lot~~
  - o. Upgrade or replace lift station SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) system communications and software
  - p. Complete the first year of 3-year SAW (Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater) Grant project to develop sanitary sewer system asset management plan
  - q. Replace control panel at Woodhill lift station
  - r. Replace pumps at Shoals lift station and Sundance lift station
  - s. Complete Pathway Bridge on Okemos Road crossing Red Cedar River
  - t. Construct a **new** pathway **on the** south side of Haslett Road (east of Okemos Road to west of Bayonne)
  - u. Replace **the** retaining wall on Mt. Hope Road at Glendale Cemetery
  - v. Replace **the** pathway retaining wall at 2322 Mt. Hope Road
  - w. Construct a pathway **on the** south side of Mt. Hope Road (Okemos Road to Maumee)
  - x. **Reroof** ~~replace the roof at the~~ Service Center
  - y. Pursue Ingham County Trail Millage funding to implement the Lake Lansing to River Trail connector pathway
- (z) **Investigate options for establishing Meridian Township as a smart community and explore viable plans for expanding municipal fiber, broadband, and public Wi-Fi in Meridian Township**
  - aa. **Investigate providing a leaf pickup program in Meridian Township**
  - bb. **Fill in pathway gaps**

**5. Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance our economic prosperity for all residents**

- a. Defend assessment appeals made to the Michigan Tax Tribunal
- ⓑ. Develop a branding campaign and marketing strategy and propose a 2016 budget to the Township Board to include branding campaign, imaging, print, design, and marketing
- c. Enhance and encourage the retention of existing businesses and establishment of new businesses
- d. Promote Township resources to prospective businesses and industries
- e. Formulate and adopt an Economic Development Plan
- f. Encourage infill and/or redevelopment of existing commercial sites
- g. Promote mixed-use development in commercial areas
- h. Facilitate the objectives of the **Downtown Development Authority** by eliminating the causes of property value deterioration and promoting economic growth
- i. Continue streetscape improvements to define downtown areas and promote a sense of place
- j. Assist with the redevelopment of the former Central Fire Station/MARC property
- k. Continue our economic focus on Haslett, Carriage Hills, Grand River, and Okemos
- l. Continue our focus on the Douglas J project
- m. Continue to conduct monthly business visits with a focus on customer service
- n. Complete the 2005 Master Plan update
- ⓐ. Sustain and enhance our positive working relationship with Michigan State University
- p. Complete the Consolidated Annual Financial Report (CAFR) receiving an unmodified audit opinion and the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting
- q. Complete the annual budget process focusing on how the budget mirrors our annual goal setting process
- r. **Maintain, per the Board's direction**, a minimum fund balance in the General Fund of \$5,250,000
- s. Increase enrollment of online bill pay and explore options for new platforms to accept these payments (including BS&A's AccessMyGov-Internet Services)
- t. Support all types of transportation modes in the Township including the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
- u. Encourage the use of complete streets practices as a routine part of operations
- v. **Investigate the pension liability funding plan**
- w. **Investigate reaching out and expanding the Celebrate Downtown Okemos event to include other areas of the Township, including Haslett and East Lansing**

**6. Meridian Township shall promote and enhance diversity across the Township**

- ⓐ. ~~Promote~~ Continue to cultural diversity with our community programs and celebrations
- ⓑ. ~~Explore~~ Investigate closed captioning costs for **HOM-TV programs** and possibility
- c. Investigate and possibly launch a Chinese version of HOM-TV news programs
- d. Continue to encourage the use of the Mixed Use Planned Unit Development and Commercial Planned Unit Development Ordinances
- e. Encourage developers to provide affordable housing
- f. Encourage a wide range of housing types
- g. Strengthen community pride through such activities as downtown events and expanded outdoor sculpture displays

- h. Seek diversity in hiring **and promoting**
- i. Update the Personnel Policy Manual, along with having the Human Relations Ordinance statement prominently displayed in the introduction, and continuous outreach to special agencies and networks for recruitment of new hires, volunteers, interns, etc.
- j. Host Chinese New Year and Heritage Festival events
- k.** Promote Nokomis Learning Center activities
- l. Consider implementing the Language First Program **(In an effort to aid our Township staff with communicating with visitors from all over the world)**
- m. **Utilize additional recruiting outlets and resources such as on-line job boards, advertisements, and professional organizations to attract qualified minorities to apply for job openings**
- n. **Provide professional training and development to staff**

**7. Meridian Township shall provide outstanding recreational and cultural programs**

- a. Provide sports and fitness programs for youths and adults
- b. ~~Provide~~ Administer environmental programs and events for all ages at Harris Nature Center
- c. ~~Offer Provide~~ educational, fitness, and social opportunities for senior citizens at the Meridian Senior Center and Meridian Mall
- d. **Coordinate** the Farmers' Market outdoors (May-October) and indoors (December-April)
- e. Develop a Farmers' Market Relocation Plan (location, size, and funding)
- f. Support activities of the Friends of Historic Meridian
- g. Support activities of the Meridian Garden Club
- h. Conduct special events: Chinese New Year, Celebrate Downtown Okemos, July 4th Fireworks Celebration, Meridian Heritage Festival, Halloween Adventures, Drive-thru Santa, Christmas in the Village, Free Family Winter Sports Weekends, Polar Bear 5K Race, Music in the Park program
- i. Continue the Arts and Crafts Marketplace each month during the summer
- j. Continue Recreation Services Agreement with the City of Williamston

**8. Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance constituent communications**

- a.** Continue to respond to all citizen inquiries in a timely, professional, and efficient manner
- b. Provide assessment information ~~and make assessment information available to property owners and their representatives (e.g., real estate agents, title company employees, private real estate appraisers, etc.)~~
- c. Replace the Town Hall microphones and bases
- d. Investigate replacement of Township hall video imager
- e. **Increases encouragement of public** ~~Encourage~~ engagement and **participation** ~~sharing~~ through multimedia and **other** ways to connect
- f. Create a monthly Township Manager blog **and increase its outreach**
- g. Conduct ~~and complete~~ a communications needs assessment
- h. Investigate costs of new Township website for ~~2016 proposal to the Township Board~~
- i. Audit social media outlets and develop a social media strategy campaign
- j. ~~Continue to place~~ **Upload** packet information on the Township website **that is in a searchable format for ease of use by the public**
- k.** Publish the Meridian Monitor twice-yearly to all residents
- l. Reach out to residential and business groups regarding potential development impacts

- (m) **Increase staff engagement and participation with** ~~Speak to~~ neighborhood groups using social media, fire safety programs, HOM-TV interviews, and Beyond the Badge
- n. ~~Information Technology Staff will~~ **Add** a new disk appliance to our ~~the~~ network to increase storage space and reliability
- o. ~~IT, Police, and Fire staff will work with Ingham County Dispatch to replace the central server software at the dispatch center and the connecting software in any of our vehicles with Mobile Software Update in-car mobile software to communicate with new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software~~
- (p) ~~Produce~~ **Print** and distribute one issue of the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Family Fun Guide (distribution in January)
- (q) **Continue Increase communication** with constituents through email and multi-media sources
- r. **Rename** Renaming select Land Preserves
- s. **Conduct the citizen survey through ICMA with the same process or method as was used in 2012**
- (t) **Begin the process of overhauling the Township website and branding up to an amount of \$30,000**

9. Meridian Township shall sustain and enhance neighborhoods and eliminate blight

- (a) **Possibly Create** DAS (Distributed Antenna System) ordinance with the Public Works & Engineering and Planning Departments
- (b) Promote Neighborhood Watch
- (c) **Develop a method to increase compliance of communications companies using the rights of way in the Township** ~~Work with Engineering Department on boxes, cables, and non-compliance issues in rights of way~~
- d. Continue to work with homeowners associations to strengthen code enforcement in residential neighborhoods
- e. Promote and encourage the preservation of older neighborhoods
- f. **Enforce** ~~ment of~~ the Property Maintenance Code
- g. Continue the Code Enforcement Committee with neighborhood associations
- h. Continue pavement preservation program on local roads
- i. Continue sidewalk repair program (order to maintain)
- j. Maintain and improve the water and sewer systems
- k. Hire a part-time code enforcement officer
- l. ~~Continue~~ **Support** for the community gardens in the Township
- m. **Inspect Township owned properties annually to ensure appropriate maintenance**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION**

**COMPLAINTS/  
COMPLIMENTS**

## Deborah Guthrie

---

**From:** Angie Wilson  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 02, 2014 10:23 PM  
**To:** Deborah Guthrie  
**Subject:** Re: Thank you

It was a treat for me. I really am very grateful and proud of the work that you, the staff and the interns do for the township and the service you provide the residents.

Angela Wilson

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 2, 2014, at 7:58 PM, "Deborah Guthrie" <[Guthrie@meridian.mi.us](mailto:Guthrie@meridian.mi.us)> wrote:

Trustee Wilson,

Thank you so much for attending the 2015 Golden Tapes Award Ceremony. It really meant a lot to the interns to have you attend. They commented how great it was for you to be there and to be part of the event. So I know I speak on behalf of everyone in extending a huge thank you; your support means so much.

Also, thank you for your kind words during the Township Board meeting. The interns working behind the scenes had big smiles!

Thank you, Deborah

# Individual Video Provider Customer Intakes

**Complaint Number** 2014-024

**Date** 12/3/2014

**Name** Todd Cohan

**Street Address** 6227 Oak Park Trail

**City / Zip** Haslett 48840-

**Work Phone** **Ext**

**Cell Phone**

**Home Phone** (517) 881-1125

**Email**

**Best Time to Call** Any

**Best Time to Service**

**Service Provider** Comcast

**Reason for Calling** Inquiry

**Unburied Cable**  **Waiting for Service**  **Missed Service Call**  **Cable Box**

**Bad Reception**  **Cable Out**  **Cannot Phone**  **Other**

**Bad Treatment**  **Bad Information**  **No Response to Request**

**Problem Description** Received annual notice from Comcast with the updated rates for 2015. There was not a notice regarding any channel changes yet he did not see that CNET was listed any longer and was concerned that the channel was not only being dropped but dropped without notice. He said this channel was attempted to be dropped before and that people raised enough concern that it remained on the Comcast system. He stated that there would be a lot of issues if it were dropped.

**Problem Before?** No  **Ongoing**   **MPSC Information**

**Assigned Staff** Deborah Guthrie **Given**

**Staff Response** We spoke about the channel and I notified the customer that from our conversation the channel is not being dropped and that it is on channel 99 and will remain there in 2015.

**Resolution** We spoke about the channel and I notified the customer that from our conversation the channel is not being dropped and that it is on channel 99 and will remain there in 2015.

## Deborah Guthrie

---

**From:** Darkus Beasley  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 03, 2014 9:45 AM  
**To:** McConnell, Bill; HOMTV  
**Subject:** RE: Archive Program

Bill,

The software that we use to broadcast live was not set up appropriately at the beginning of the meeting. When we take a show live, it can be interrupted by the normal schedule if a particular button is not selected. I do apologize and take full responsibility for this issue. It was corrected early on in the meeting and doesn't occur after 6:15 p.m. We do have several interns learning the proper procedures for live broadcasts, and so we may run into a few hiccups here and there. We appreciate your understanding and will be working diligently to see that this issue doesn't occur again.

Thank you for watching!

Best,  
Darkus Beasley

Video Programmer / Studio Producer, HOMTV and CAMTV

[beasley@meridian.mi.us](mailto:beasley@meridian.mi.us)

517-853-4376

[www.meridian.mi.us](http://www.meridian.mi.us)  
[www.facebook.com/MeridianTownship](http://www.facebook.com/MeridianTownship)  
[www.twitter.com/Meridiantwp](http://www.twitter.com/Meridiantwp)  
<http://pinterest.com/meridiantwp/>  
[www.myMeridian.net](http://www.myMeridian.net)

[www.HOMTV.net](http://www.HOMTV.net)  
[www.facebook.com/HOMTV](http://www.facebook.com/HOMTV)  
[www.twitter.com/HOMTV](http://www.twitter.com/HOMTV)  
[www.pinterest.com/HOMTV](http://www.pinterest.com/HOMTV)  
[www.instagram.com/HOMTV](http://www.instagram.com/HOMTV)

[www.facebook.com/CAMtvCapitalAreaMedia](http://www.facebook.com/CAMtvCapitalAreaMedia)  
[www.twitter.com/CAMtv30and99](http://www.twitter.com/CAMtv30and99)

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**From:** McConnell, Bill [mailto:[mcconn64@anr.msu.edu](mailto:mcconn64@anr.msu.edu)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 03, 2014 9:35 AM  
**To:** HOMTV  
**Subject:** Archive Program

The recording of the Planning Commission's Nov. 24 meeting is interrupted by Public Service Announcements at several points. I wonder if that is how the meeting was broadcast?

# Individual Video Provider Customer Intakes

**Complaint Number** 2014-025

**Date** 12/16/2014

**Name** Steve Middleman

**Street Address** Cameron Oaks Subdivision

**City / Zip** Haslett 48840-

**Work Phone** **Ext**

**Cell Phone**

**Home Phone**

**Email**

**Best Time to Call**

**Best Time to Service**

**Service Provider** Comcast

**Reason for Calling** Complaint

**Unburied Cable**  **Waiting for Service**  **Missed Service Call**  **Cable Box**   
**Bad Reception**  **Cable Out**  **Cannot Phone**  **Other**   
**Bad Treatment**  **Bad Information**  **No Response to Request**

**Problem Description** Salesman for Cameron Oaks Mayberry Subdivision in Haslett contact me regarding Comcast cable services being extended from the road in the subdivision to the homes. I explained to Mr. Steve Middleman that according to our franchise agreement in 9 (b), Comcast shall fully extend the Cable system, except for subscriber service drops, to that area. I also explained 20 (b) from the agreement; "For residences which require in excess of 150 feet of drop cable, Comcast may charge an additional fee as determined on a case by case basis."

According to Mr. Middleman, there are 9 out of 10 homes built in this subdivision, of those, 4 have Comcast service which are the homes close to the road. For the homes that are set back further, they do not have service and he stated that home owners have contacted him requesting service. He is not happy that Comcast would charge to extend the service drop from the road to the home.

**Problem Before?** No  **Ongoing**   **MPSC Information**

**Assigned Staff** Deborah Guthrie **Given**

**Staff Response** Spoke with John Gardner from Comcast

**Resolution** I spoke with Mr. Gardner on the phone to which he cited state law in section 3 (8) and section 9 (9) that you cannot require a telecommunication company to build out or extend services above what is required in state law. I contacted Mr. Middleman back and left him a message that Comcast would be happy to work with them but that there are no requirements for them to extend to the home and no requirements for Comcast to pay. Comcast would be happy to build if the homeowners or Mayberry are willing to work them and pay the necessary costs.-Deborah

## Penney Stephen

---

**From:** Deborah Guthrie  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2014 10:45 AM  
**To:** Gardner, John  
**Cc:** Penney Stephen  
**Subject:** Comcast Request

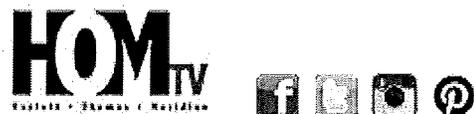
Salesman for Cameron Oaks Mayberry Subdivision in Haslett contact me regarding Comcast cable services being extended from the road in the subdivision to the homes. I explained to Mr. Steve Middleman that according to our franchise agreement in 9 (b), Comcast shall fully extend the Cable system, except for subscriber service drops, to that area. I also explained 20 (b) from the agreement; "For residences which require in excess of 150 feet of drop cable, Comcast may charge an additional fee as determined on a case by case basis."

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**Deborah Guthrie**  
Communications Director/Public Information Officer, Meridian Township  
Executive Producer, HOMTV  
5151 Marsh Rd  
Okemos, MI 48864  
HOMTV and CAMTV  
[guthrie@meridian.mi.us](mailto:guthrie@meridian.mi.us)  
517.853.4380



## Penney Stephen

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**From:** Darla Jackson  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2014 8:10 PM  
**To:** All Employees  
**Subject:** Meridian Cares

Dear fellow employees,

On behalf of the Community Resources Commission, I would like to thank you all for participating in Meridian Cares. Whether it was because you wanted to help area residents in financial crisis or you simply wanted a chance to win a week off, the money that was raised will help ensure that people are not facing eviction, having their utilities shut off, or facing any other similar crises. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Frank Walsh, the Township Board, the Communications Department, and all who participated, the event was quite successful.

Again, thank you all, and I wish you and your families a very happy holiday season.

Darla Jackson  
Human Services Specialist  
Meridian Charter Township  
5151 Marsh Rd.  
Okemos, MI 48864  
(517) 853-4204 phone  
(517) 853-4251 fax  
[jackson@meridian.mi.us](mailto:jackson@meridian.mi.us)

## Penney Stephen

---

**From:** Frank Walsh  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2014 9:53 PM  
**To:** Deborah Guthrie; Gretchen M. Gomolka; Danielle N. Hughes; Deanne Feldpausch; Erin Bierly; Carol Hasse; Joyce Marx; Linda Toomey; Penney Stephen; Brandie Yates; Darla Jackson; Darkus Beasley; Lynn Meikle; Angie Wilson; Julie Brixie  
**Cc:** LuAnn Maisner; Fred Cowper; David Hall; Stephen Gebes; Mark Kieselbach; Raymond Severy; David Lee  
**Subject:** MERIDIAN CARES

Ladies, I want to personally thank you for your extra effort to help make Meridian Cares a successful program.

Your energy and passion will greatly benefit many. There is no better feeling above that of lifting up others in need.

Sincerely,

Frank

Sent from my iPhone

## Penney Stephen

---

**From:** Ron Styka <ronstyka@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2014 9:54 PM  
**To:** Frank Walsh  
**Cc:** Deborah Guthrie; Gretchen M. Gomolka; Danielle N. Hughes; Deanne Feldpausch; Erin Bierly; Carol Hasse; Joyce Marx; Linda Toomey; Penney Stephen; Brandie Yates; Darla Jackson; Darkus Beasley; Lynn Meikle; Angie Wilson; Julie Brixie; LuAnn Maisner; Fred Cowper; David Hall; Stephen Gebes; Mark Kieselbach; Raymond Severy; David Lee  
**Subject:** Re: MERIDIAN CARES

No one could have said it better than Frank. You all make being a Meridian Trustee a position to be proud of. Thank you.

On Wed, Dec 17, 2014 at 9:52 PM, Frank Walsh <[walsh@meridian.mi.us](mailto:walsh@meridian.mi.us)> wrote:  
Ladies, I want to personally thank you for your extra effort to help make Meridian Cares a successful program.

Your energy and passion will greatly benefit many. There is no better feeling above that of lifting up others in need.

Sincerely,

Frank

Sent from my iPhone

## Deborah Guthrie

---

**From:** Milton Scales  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2014 9:34 AM  
**To:** Brandie Yates  
**Cc:** Deborah Guthrie; Frank Walsh  
**Subject:** HOMtv Award Show

Brandie,

I just saw your intern award show on HOMtv and wanted you to know that I loved it. What a great idea!

The interns were quite engaged as evidenced by their applause and unique drum rolls. It is very nice to see teamwork and peer support in action. Good job!

---

Sincerely,  
Milt

"Moving Meridian Forward"

Our vision is to achieve and maintain the highest quality of life for our residents.

Milton L. Scales, Trustee  
Meridian Township Board  
P.O. Box 1552  
Okemos, Michigan 48805

Our mission is to create a sustainable community through the most effective use of available resources in order to achieve the highest quality of life for our residents.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION**

**COMMUNICATIONS  
DIRECTOR  
REPORT**

**November 2014 Monthly Report for the Communications Department**

**New Programs on HOMTV**

**Televised Meetings:**

Environmental Commission	11-5-14
Planning Commission	11-24-14
Township Board	11-18-14

**New Original Programming:**

Ballot Meridian LIVE Coverage	11-4-14
Beyond the Badge	11-25-14
InnerView: Emergency Needs Fund	11-19-14
Meridian Magazine	11-24-14
Meridian News Now	11-20-14
All Access Sports	11-25-14

**Director's Statement:**

The Cable Communication Commission is looking into adding an alternate Commissioner to the roster in hopes of reducing the amount of canceled meetings due to lack of quorum.

**Facebook Page summary through 11-30-14:**

	<b>PEOPLE LIKE THIS</b>	<b>HIGHEST REACH</b>
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP	1,287	14,276
HOMTV	944	1,542
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT	472	2,445
DOWNTOWN OKEMOS	423	No new posts
MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION	421	639

## Social Media Top Posts

### **Dr. Hinterman's Grand Opening**

November 7 at 10:58am

**7,476** People Reached **249** Likes, Comments & Shares **2,223** Post Clicks **438** Photo Views

Congratulations to the grand opening/ribbon cutting for Doug Hinterman's new dentist office at 4132 Hagadorn Rd. For more photos of the redeveloped dentist office (from a barn) please visit our Flickr album: [flic.kr/s/aHsk5npj5w](https://www.flickr.com/photos/5485812@N00/)

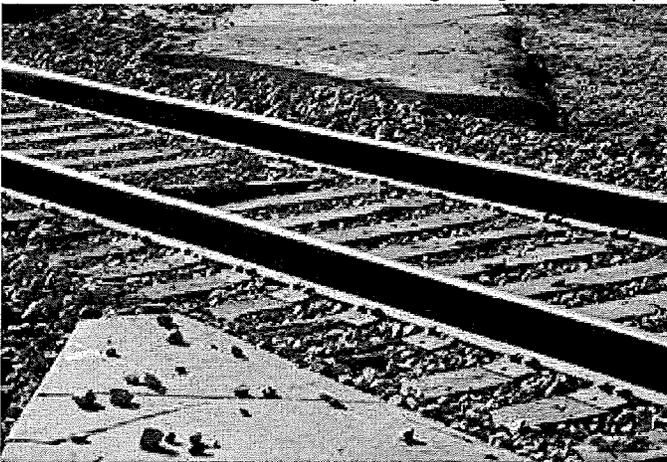


### **Hagadorn Railroad Work Road Closure**

November 7 at 3:50pm

**1,610** People Reached **33** Likes, Comments & Shares **111** Post Clicks **20** Photo Views

The Ingham County Road Department will be closing northbound Hagadorn Rd. between Service Dr./Hannah Blvd. & Shaw St. for railroad crossing repair beginning on Monday, November 10th <http://bit.ly/10zuNb4>



### **ESPN College Game Day Bus Spotting**

November 7 at 12:12pm

**1,080** People Reached **65** Likes, Comments & Shares **35** Post Clicks **35** Photo Views

Spotted yesterday was ESPN's College GameDay bus behind The Home Depot in Okemos Michigan. Where will it be next? Tell us where you spot the bright orange bus! Get excited Michigan State Spartans fans, College Game Day is tomorrow! #LetsDoGameDay!



## 17 Thanksgiving Turkey Mistakes Everyone Makes

17 Thanksgiving Turkey Mistakes Everyone Makes

[HTTP://WWW.PINTEREST.COM](http://www.pinterest.com)

November 26 at 5:30pm

**1,069** People Reached **6** Likes, Comments & Shares **65** Post Clicks **51** Link Clicks

Cooking during the holiday season is no easy task. Not all of us are chefs and for some, this is the first time cooking a turkey. Check out this link covering 17 mistakes to avoid when cooking your #Thanksgiving #turkey. Happy Thanksgiving!



### SENT/FINISHED PRESS RELEASES:

- Township Board Approves 2015 Recommended Budget (11/10/14)
- Day Before Thanksgiving Farmers' Market (11/10/14)
- Additional Property Added to 2014 Deer Management Program (11/10/14)
- Fire Department Awarded More Than \$1 Million in Grants (11/10/14)
- Local Programming Places in National and Regional Competitions (11/17/14)
- Day Before Thanksgiving Farmers' Market (11/17/14)
- Holiday Shopping Safety Tips (11/17/14)
- Improvement Projects Completed in Parks (11/24/14)
- Winter Farmers Market (11/24/14)
- Meridian Cares Team Aims to Raise \$3,000 for Those in Need (11/26/14)

### Updates for the period ending November 30, 2014:

- Communications Department created and distributed **10 new** press releases
- Completed **2 of 2** Cable Complaints/Cable Inquiries
- Staff completed **6** interviews for the part-time Communications Assistant position
- Staff completed **4** intern examinations and workshops
- Staff had **3** job shadows in the month of November
- Interns have contributed approximately **2,068 hours** during the month of November
- On November 7th, staff **attended** the Michigan Association of Broadcasters (MAB) Broadcasting Career Builder Conference (BCBC) as a recruiter for the HOMTV Internship Program as well as a Speed Networking Mentor.
- On November 18th, staff **attended** the Michigan State University Broad College of Business and Bagels seminar "Developing a Social Media Strategy for Your Organization" seminar
- Received **13 new** internship applications and resumes
- Staff conducted **20** interviews for the Spring 2015 semester of the HOMTV Internship Program.
- Completed/changed **5** Bulletin Board announcement requests on HOMTV
- Produced and aired **12** original programs on HOMTV
- Aired **5 new** official township meetings on HOMTV
- Aired **13** syndicated programs on CAMTV
- CAMTV received/filled **2 new** requests for program playback
- HOMTV's award winning LIVE Ballot Meridian General Election night coverage spanned over **5 hours**
- Uploaded **16 HOMTV** videos to YouTube
- Darkus finished editing "Sustaining the Future: Episode 3"
- UltraNEXUS interface was failing to open properly on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Darkus was able to contact tech support at Leightronix and worked to correct the issue. Programming resumed later that day.
- Rob Gingerich-Jones left the Communications Department on November 21, 2014. In Rob's last two weeks, he taught Darkus how to access and utilize the EZ news server, DiskWarrior Software in order to repair any malfunctioning FibreJet drives, and how to modify the graphic elements for Meridian Magazine. Rob gave Darkus a refresher on the soft and hard patching in the control room, how to delete raw media after the semester has concluded, and how to archive Broadcast Pix video files to the Drobo archive drives.
- Darkus began filling a temporary assignment as Senior Production Manager in addition to her duties as Video Programmer beginning November 24<sup>th</sup>. She has worked all night meetings and supervised all shows since that date.

**2014**

**COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

# COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

## Narrative

The Communications Department of Meridian Charter Township serves eight main functions:

- Oversees the Video Service Franchise Agreements between Meridian Charter Township and video service providers including overseeing Metro Act Permits and any rights of way issues.
- Serves as the PIO (Public Information Officer) for emergency situations as outlined in the Meridian Township Emergency Plan.
- Oversees, manages and provides Meridian Township information through video, social media, Meridian Township and HOMTV websites, press releases, press conferences, and township wide print publications.
- Provides support services for marketing and promotions of township wide events and fundraisers including the Meridian Cares Program.
- Operates and Produces all content for HOMTV, the government access television station which appears on Comcast cable service. Operates CAMTV, the public access channel, which appears on Comcast and AT&T U-verse.
- Operates an extensive multimedia journalism and promotions internship program which serves to provide information to township residents and in turn provides a tremendous amount of hands on real world experience for college students.
- Provides assistance to township video cable subscribers with any unresolved ongoing dispute with video service provider(s).
- Provides staff support to the Cable Communications Commission.

## 2014 Achievements and Awards

HOMTV entered two national contests in 2014, the Philo T. Farnsworth Local Video Competition and the Government Programming Awards competition sponsored by NATOA (National Association of Telecommunication Officers and Advisors). Recognized by Philo, HOMTV received seven first place awards and one finalist award. Recognized by NATOA, HOMTV received one national third place award.

### ***ACM Central States Region - 2014 Philo Festival of Media Arts Award Winners:***

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AWARD</u>
Magazine Program	"Community Connection #121"	First Place (professional)
Website	"www.homtv.net"	First Place (professional)
Documentary	"Making Meridian"	First Place (non-professional)
Empowerment/Inspirational	"Let Your Voice Be Heard"	First Place (non-professional)
Promo (3:00 or less)	"CPR Awareness"	First Place (non-professional)
Promo (3:00 or more)	"Family Fun Guide"	First Place (non-professional)
Community Activism Award	"Let Your Voice Be Heard"	First Place (non-professional)
News Program	"Meridian News Now"	Finalist

### ***NATOA - 2014 Government Programming Award Winners:***

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AWARD</u>
Public/Community Meetings	"Meridian Live: Township Board 2/4/14"	Third Place

## Presentations and Speaking Engagements

Deborah Guthrie:

- ENATOA Webinar: Social Media for Local Governments (2/3/14)
- MML Webinar: Comcast Time Warner Merger (6/2/14)
- MML Webinar: Metro Act Permits and Authority (6/4/14)
- SCAN NATOA Presentation: on Branding your Image (6/18/14)
- Meridian Leadership Group Presentation: Communications Dept. & HOMTV Election coverage (8/1/14)
- ENATOA Webinar: Elections Policies on Government Access Channels (8/11/14)
- Planning Commission Work Session Presentation: Public Participation and Social Media Engagement (10/6/14)
- Meridian Leadership Group Presentation: Meridian Cares Program (12/5/14)

Brandie Yates:

- Panelist for Michigan Association of Broadcasters Great Lakes Broadcasting Conference (3/12/14)
- Branding Presentation to the Meridian Township Board (6/17/14)
- Panelist for ACM and Central States Region Philo Festival of Media Arts Conference (10/11/14)

## HOMTV and CAMTV Production Totals

NUMBER OF NEW HOMTV PROGRAMS AIRED DURING THE MONTH

<i>Show</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sept</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Hours</i>
All Access	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	5	3	2	12	4.5
Beyond the Badge	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	9	3.5
Coffee Break	2	4	2	1	2	4	0	3	2	0	0	0	20	3.75
Community Connection	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	.5
InnerView	1	2	5	4	2	3	4	2	3	1	1	1	29	11.5
Jewels 'N General	16	17	19	16	17	21	17	14	15	8	0	0	158	75.25
Meridian Magazine	1	4	4	2	0	4	4	1	4	4	3	1	31	12.25
Meridian News Now	3	4	4	3	3	4	5	3	4	5	2	2	40	9.25
Open Line	1	2	2	3	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	13	11.5
Promos	1	14	14	9	5	7	26	5	11	22	22	9	144	12.5
Senior Living	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	8	3
Elections	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	1	2	39	1	0	57	42
Special Features	1	5	3	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	17	7.5
Women of Meridian	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	6	2
<i>Monthly Totals</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>46</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>545</i>	<i>199</i>

**NUMBER OF NEW CAMTV PROGRAMS AIRED DURING THE MONTH**

<i>Show</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sept</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Hours</i>
Battle of Ideas	3	4	5	2	2	4	3	4	4	3	2	1	29	30
City Pulse Newsmakers	3	2	4	3	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	17	61.5
Cooking with Cathy	2	0	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	2	0	12	5
Democracy Now	3	1	4	2	3	4	3	2	4	2	2	2	27	26.5
Event Coverage	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	6	4	0	0	13	.5
Inspirational Corner	2	4	4	2	3	5	3	4	4	4	3	2	32	14.5
One Hit Wonders	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2
Poetree-n-Motion	3	3	4	4	2	5	1	4	1	3	2	1	31	14.5
Promos/PSA's	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	4	32
Soldiers Journal-In the Fight	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	8	3.75
A Sit Down with Shanacee	0	0	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	.5
UM Wolverine Caucus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	4	2.5
Teen LOL TV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	4	1.5
<i>Monthly Totals</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>191</i>	<i>194.75</i>

<b>HOMTV and CAMTV PROGRAM GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>736</b>
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<b>HOMTV and CAMTV PRODUCTION TIME GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>635.75 Hours</b>
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**NUMBER OF NEW HOMTV MEETINGS AIRED DURING THE MONTH**

<i>Meridian Live</i>	<i>Jan</i>	<i>Feb</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>	<i>July</i>	<i>Aug</i>	<i>Sept</i>	<i>Oct</i>	<i>Nov</i>	<i>Dec</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Hours</i>
Township Board	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	24	77
Planning Commission	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	3	2	3	2	2	23	66.5
Environmental Commission	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	8	13.5
Zoning Board of Appeals	1	2	0	1	2	2	2	1	0	2	0	1	15	18.5
Park Commission	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	23	66.5
<i>Monthly Totals</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>93</i>	<i>242</i>

<b>ALL PROGRAMS GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>829</b>
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## **Production Services**

CAMTV continued to produce three videos that were contracted by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission outlining the Design Charrette project that happened in 2013. The final videos were each approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes in duration.

Production continued on the \$15,000 Tri-County Regional Planning Commission HUD Grant awarded to the township to include five to six Green themed shows in three years.

## **Completed Requests/Inquiries**

Program Duplications: 105 requests processed.

Cable Subscriber Inquiries/Complaints: 24

CAMTV aired programs from seven new producers:

- 1- TEEN LOL TV shows
- 2- DVIDS- In The Fight
- 3- A Sit Down with Shanacee
- 4- UofM Wolverine Caucus episodes
- 5- Capital Area Health Alliance Winter Warm Up
- 6- Greening Mid-Michigan
- 7- Money Rules

## **Sponsorships:**

Media Sponsorships for 2014: Total of 5 events

MSU Race for the Place (4/13/14) - \$1,895.00 in kind media coverage donation

Harris Nature Center Turtle Toast (9/11/14) - \$220 in kind media coverage donation

American Heart Association – Lansing Heart Walk (9/13/14) - \$1,145 in kind media coverage donation

Walk to End Alzheimer's (9/14/14) - \$1,760.00 in kind media coverage donation

Michigan Parkinson Foundation Walk-A-Thon (10/11/14) - \$1,510.00 in kind media coverage donation

The Communications Department also assisted with the development and the implementation of the "Meridian Cares Program" fundraising campaign for the Community Resources Commission Emergency Needs Fund. Staff assisted with logo/poster design, press kit preparation, press release writing, gift basket donation coordination, and social media promotion. \$8,000 was raised through 872 raffle ticket sales and financial contributions.

## **Online Content-Social Media**

The Communications Department oversees and supplies content to the HOMTV.net Meridian Township websites. They also manage content on most of the social media accounts various sites.

The Communications Department manages 8 Facebook fan pages. The highest average number of people reached at any given time for the Meridian Township fan page in 2014 was 7,476 people on November 7, 2014 for Doug Hinterman's new dentist office. The highest average number of people reached at any given time for the HOMTV fan page in 2014 was 2,202 people on September 17, 2014. At the time of this report, the Township Facebook page has 1,311 likes and the HOMTV Facebook page has 946 likes.

The Communications Department oversees seven Twitter accounts. At the time of this report, Meridian Township has 1,033 followers and HOMTV has 978 followers.

The Communications Department also oversees the following social media accounts:

- 1 Instagram account (HOMTV)
- 1 Flickr account (Meridian Township)
- 2 Pinterest (Meridian Township & HOMTV)
- 2 YouTube channels (Meridian Township & HOMTV)
- 2 LinkedIn company pages (Meridian Township & HOMTV)
- 1 LinkedIn group (HOMTV Alumni)
- 1 LinkedIn showcase page (Harris Nature Center)
- 2 Facebook groups (HOMTV Alumni & HOMTV Interns)
- 2 Wordpress Blogs (HOMTV News & Manager's Perspective)

In 2014, the Communications Department focused on organizing and maintaining the layout consistency and information on the Meridian Township website. Some of the main changes included easier ways for the public to connect with Meridian Township and easier navigation of the site.

### **Print Publications**

The Communications Department produced four township wide publications: the semi-annual Parks & Recreation Family Fun Guide and two Meridian Monitor newsletters. The monthly Meridian Senior Center newsletter and other various posters and flyers for township departments were also created. In addition, the Communications Department writes press releases for all township departments except the Harris Nature Center to which assistance is provided when needed.

### **Press Releases**

In 2014, the Communications Department wrote 139 press releases; 128 for other departments and 11 for HOMTV. More than half of the press releases written were published by local media outlets.

### **Members of the Cable Communications Commission in 2014**

**Walter Benenson**, Chair 1/1/2014-12/31/2016

**Patrick Crowley**, Vice Chair 1/1/2014-12/31/2016

**Tunga Kiyak**, 2/22/2012-12/31/2017

**Andrew Lathrop**, 1/16/2013-12/31/2015

**Brian Seipel**, 1/1/2014-12/31/2017

The Cable Communications Commission is currently seeking an Alternate Member to serve on the Commission.

### **Interns, Paid Interns, Job Shadows and Freelancers**

Sixty-eight interns and freelance employees participated in the Multi-Media Television Journalism and Production HOMTV Internship Program during 2014. HOMTV received 184 applications, interviewed 86 prospective interns, and accepted 47 first time interns. Seven first time interns did not complete the first semester of the program. The total number of paid interns and freelance employees during 2014 was nine. The average number of interns and freelance employees per semester during 2014 was twenty-eight. Seventeen interns and freelance employees from 2013 continued on in 2014. The Communications Department hosted six job shadows in 2014.

The Communications Department incorporated the Social Media Internship opportunity within the HOMTV Internship Program in 2014 creating a fourth track option within the HOMTV Internship Program. Seven social media interns participated in 2014. Social media interns still assist with managing Township-wide social media outlets, but they are more involved in the television aspect of the internship with new duties such as live tweeting Township meetings and live studio programs.

## HOMTV Recruitment Fairs (7)

- MSU Summer Job & Internship Fair (2/12/14)
- MSU CAS Connect Fair (2/21/14)
- MAB Great Lakes Broadcasting Conference (3/12/14)
- CMU BCA Career Fair (3/22/14)
- LCC 2014 Job & Internship Fair (3/25/14)
- MSU Earn, Learn & Intern Career Fair (9/3/14)
- MAB Broadcasting Career Builder Conference & Speed Networking (11/7/14)

## HOMTV Alumni

During 2014, more than 20 interns and alumni members from HOMTV entered into or were promoted within the television/marketing industry with full-time careers or internships directly after leaving.

Rob Gingerich-Jones, Operations Engineer, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Andreina Centlivre, Multi-Media Journalist, ABC 57, South Bend, ID

Joy Zhao, Designer, Phoenix Design Studio for Gannett, Phoenix, AZ

Jordanne Jaskiw, Reporter/Video Journalist, WLNS Channel 6, Lansing, MI

Alex Frankfort, New Media Specialist, Blohm Creative Partners, East Lansing, MI

Dan Ray, Videographer/Editor, WLNS Channel 6, Lansing, MI

Brandon Wirth, News Photograph/Editor, WILX Channel 10, Lansing, MI

Blair Nelson, Videographer, WLNS Channel 6, Lansing, MI

Molly Cassidy, Reporter, CBS2, Yakima, WA

Alexandra Ilitch, Reporter, WLNS Channel 6, Lansing, MI

Connor Wilton, News Photographer, WLNS Channel 6, Lansing, MI

Allison Scott, Multi-Media Journalist, 7&4 News, Traverse City, MI

Lou DiVizio, Producer, WILX Channel 10, Lansing, MI

Eddie Huang, Marketing Intern, MessageMakers, Lansing, MI

Josh Sidorowicz, Reporter, Fox17, Grand Rapids, MI

Morgan Hall, Media Director, Michigan's Big Show, Lansing, MI

Amanda Chodnicki, News Intern, Fox 2 News, Detroit, MI

Marlee Delaney, Intern, The Ellen Degeneres Show, Burbank, CA

Heather Hartmann, Assistant Editor, Peake Media, Louisville, KY

Natalie Nako, Reporter/Producer 9&10 News, Cadillac, MI

## Communications Staff

**Deborah Guthrie**, Communications Director, Public Information Officer

**Brandie Yates**, Internship Coordinator/Communications Specialist

**Darkus Beasley**, Interim Senior Production Manager, Video Programmer

**Linda Toomey**, Communications Assistant

**Lynn Meikle**, Freelance Producer

**Coty Kenneth**, Freelance Social Media Assistant

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION**

**TOWNSHIP  
REPORT**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION**

**PROGRAMMING**



# Programming Schedule for December, 2014

Capital Area Regional Television also available online [WWW.HOMTV.NET](http://WWW.HOMTV.NET)

Time	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2:00 AM	Open for Faith Based Programming	Open for programming					
3:00 AM							
3:00 AM							
4:00 AM	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3						
5:00 AM							
6:00 AM	Facts of Congress						
6:30 AM	In The Fight						
7:00 AM	Special Feature: CATA BRT						
7:30 AM							
8:00 AM							
8:30 AM	UM Wolverine Caucus						
9:00 AM							
9:30 AM	Poetree-n-Motion						
10:00 AM	A Sit Down with Shanacee						
10:30 AM	Cooking with Cathy	Open Line: Call-In Show	Cooking with Cathy				
11:00 AM	Cooking with Cathy						Cooking with Cathy
11:30 AM	City Pulse Newsmakers						
12:00 PM	Coffee Break						
12:30 PM	Open for Faith Based Programming	Michigan Court Stories					
1:00 PM		TEEN LOL Television					
1:30 PM							
2:00 PM	Money Rules						
2:30 PM	Facts of Congress						
3:00 PM	InnerView						
3:30 PM	In The Fight						
4:00 PM	Inspirational Corner						
4:30 PM	Poetree-n-Motion						
5:00 PM	Democracy Now!						
5:30 PM							
6:00 PM	Michigan Court Stories						
6:30 PM	Coffee Break						
7:00 PM	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3						
7:30 PM							
8:00 PM	TEEN LOL Television						
8:30 PM							
9:00 PM		Battle of Ideas					
9:30 PM	UM Wolverine Caucus	Veteran's Focus	UM Wolverine Caucus				
10:00 PM							
10:30 PM	Cooking with Cathy	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	Cooking with Cathy
11:00 PM	Cooking with Cathy	Story of Hope	Cooking with Cathy				
11:30 PM	City Pulse Newsmakers						

All programs are subject to change.

HOMTV-Produced Programming	Open for programming	Public Programming	MI Regional Programs	National Programs
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## Programming Schedule for month of December, 2014

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
12:00 AM	Meridian Live - Township Board REPLAY	Meridian Live - Planning Commission REPLAY	Meridian Live - Township Board REPLAY	Meridian Live - Zoning Board of Appeals REPLAY	Meridian Live - Township Board REPLAY	Meridian Live - Township Board REPLAY	Meridian Live - Planning Commission REPLAY	
1:00 AM				Meridian Live - Environmental Commission REPLAY				
2:00 AM								
3:00 AM	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	Meridian Live - Environmental Commission REPLAY	
4:00 AM								
4:30 AM	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	
5:00 AM	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	
5:30 AM	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	
6:00 AM	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	
6:30 AM	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	
7:00 AM	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	
7:30 AM	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	
8:00 AM	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	
8:30 AM	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	
9:00 AM	Golden Tape Awards	Golden Tape Awards	Golden Tape Awards	Golden Tape Awards	Golden Tape Awards	Golden Tape Awards	Golden Tape Awards	
9:30 AM	Shared Fire Services Press Conference	Shared Fire Services Press Conference	Shared Fire Services Press Conference	Shared Fire Services Press Conference	Shared Fire Services Press Conference	Shared Fire Services Press Conference	Shared Fire Services Press Conference	
10:00 AM	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	
10:30 AM	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	
11:00 AM	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	
11:30 AM	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	
12:00 PM	Meridian Live - Park Commission REPLAY	Meridian Live - Planning Commission REPLAY	Meridian Live - Township Board REPLAY	Meridian Live Zoning Board of Appeals - REPLAY	Meridian Live - Park Commission REPLAY	Meridian Live - Township Board REPLAY	Meridian Live - Planning Commission REPLAY	
1:00 PM								
2:00 PM	Meridian Live - Environmental Commission REPLAY	Shared Fire Services Press Conference	Golden Tape Awards	Meridian Live - Environmental Commission REPLAY	Meridian Live - Environmental Commission REPLAY	Meridian Live - Township Board REPLAY	Meridian Live - Planning Commission REPLAY	
2:30 PM								
3:00 PM								
3:30 PM	Golden Tape Awards	Golden Tape Awards	Golden Tape Awards	Meridian Live - Environmental Commission REPLAY	Meridian Live - Environmental Commission REPLAY	Meridian Live - Township Board REPLAY	Meridian Live - Planning Commission REPLAY	
4:00 PM								
4:30 PM	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	
5:00 PM	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	
5:30 PM	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	
6:00 PM	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Meridian Live - Township Board LIVE or REPLAY	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	
6:30 PM	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4		Meridian Live - Zoning Board of Appeals or Environmental Commission LIVE or REPLAY	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4
7:00 PM	Meridian Live - Planning Commission LIVE or REPLAY			Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3
				Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3	Sustaining the Future: Episode 3
8:00 PM	InnerView		InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView
8:30 PM	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	
9:00 PM	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	Beyond The Badge	
9:30 PM	Golden Tape Awards	Golden Tape Awards	Golden Tape Awards	Golden Tape Awards	Golden Tape Awards	Golden Tape Awards	Golden Tape Awards	
10:00 PM	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	InnerView	
10:30 PM	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	All Access Sports	
11:00 PM	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	Meridian Magazine	
11:30 PM	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	Sustaining the Future: Episode 4	

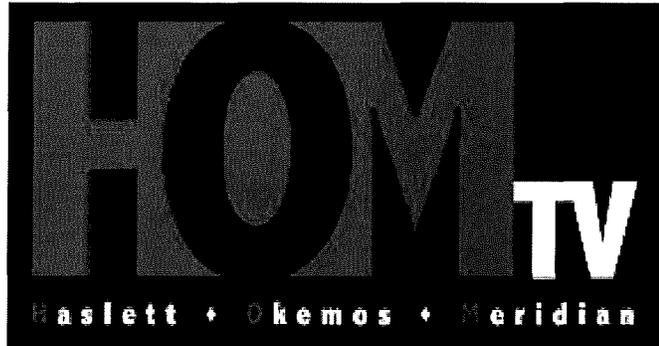
<b>Meetings</b>	<b>Programs/Specials</b>	<b>Talk Shows</b>	<b>News</b>
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All programs subject to change. LIVE meeting

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

**VIEWERSHIP/  
PROMOTIONS**

**NEW  
THIS  
WEEK!**



## Happy Holidays:

Happy Holidays from the HOMTV Staff!

Be sure to check out our social media pages to find great information on how to stay safe this holiday!



## How You Can Protect Your Home From Break-Ins While You're Traveling Over the Holidays:

With the rise in travel during the holiday season, there also tends to be a rise in home burglaries. Protect yourself this holiday season!

## Why Meridian Township is a Community of Choice:

In this special feature take a peek inside the Meridian Monitor as to why Meridian Township is a community of choice, ways the community is becoming safer with new additions and initiatives, and how you can help those in need.

[Watch the video here](#)



CENTRAL STATES ACM &  
MICHIGAN NATOA PRESENT

SAVE THE  
DATE!

# mediaCENTRAL conference

March 11-14, 2015

Lansing, Michigan



**Sponsorship Opportunities are available!**

Please contact Penney Stephen at 517-349-1232 or [stephen@meridian.mi.us](mailto:stephen@meridian.mi.us) for more information!

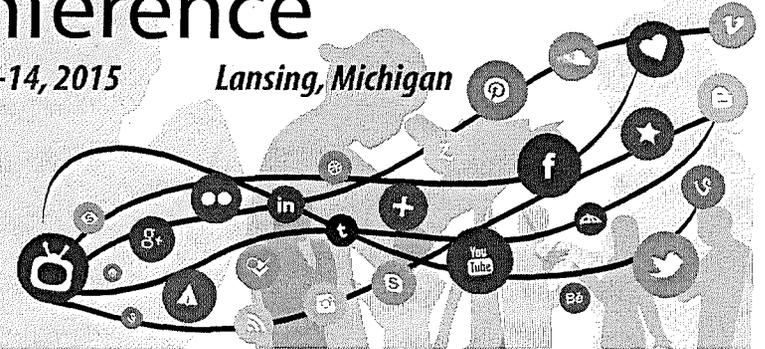
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**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION**

**FINANCE**

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN**

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION**

**FYI**

The following materials are "for your information"  
and do not necessarily relate to an agenda item

# Charter Might Retry Time Warner Buy if Comcast Deal Blocked



by Karl Bode 08:08AM Thursday Nov 20 2014

Charter board member and minority stake holder John Malone says that he'd push to have Charter Communications make another pass at Time Warner Cable if regulators block Comcast's attempted acquisition. "Oh yes," Malone said when asked if a Charter buy would still be on the table in such a scenario. "That said, we're happy with the deal that was negotiated. In many ways it's a better deal than going after 100% of Time Warner Cable." To get regulatory approval, Comcast's current deal involves spinning off 2.5 million subscribers to create a company named Greatland Communications that's co-owned by Comcast and Charter.

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News Jump

## Forums → Charter Might Retry Time Warner Buy if Comcast Deal Blocked

view:  
topics flat nest



**Packeteers**  
Premium  
join:2005-06-18  
Forest Hills, NY  
kudos:1

### just mobsters trading territory

that's what amounts to "competition" now for these cabletv/isp "innovators".  
great job FCC and Republicans - in a decade something might "trickle down" ☹

2014-Nov-20 8:26 am:

**TWCcdman**

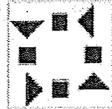
### Should be the other way around

kudos:2

2014-Nov-20 10:46 am: · [reply](#)**Chuck\_IV**join:2003-11-18  
Connecticut

As a current Charter sub(for internet/phone only, I have Directv for TV), I have no complaints with their speeds and uptime(I have serious complaints about their email systems tho). However, with this merger, I am destined to be given up by Charter and turned over to Comcast.

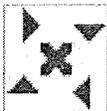
The big thing for me is Charter doesn't enforce their supposed cap, which, with my family now heavily into Netflix/Amazon on Demand, we have slide over the cap a few times in the past. From what I see with Comcast, they take their cap more seriously.

2014-Nov-20 11:09 am: · [reply](#)**KennyWest**

@173.0.5.x

**Re: Charter vs Comcast**

Why use ISP email when so many options are available for that service? ISPs shouldn't be worried about email as its best of effort to start off with. And with all of the issues TWC has had currently with their own email system, and the mergers and trades, a customer has been better off to purchase a domain and use their own domain. It's been cheaper and better for well over 10 years now.

2014-Nov-23 8:17 pm: · [reply](#)**caster**

@198.41.85.x

Comcast has no SDV so say good by to

GAME 3-9 HD  
TEAM 2-9 HD  
BTN ALTS in HD and may even BTN HD (out of market)  
Most HD feeds of HBO, SHOW, MAX, STARZ  
ESPN Goal Line HD  
PAC12 HD (out of market)  
epl extra time HD as a real channels.

2014-Nov-20 12:54 pm: · [reply](#)**MURICA**

join:2013-01-03

said by chtvcc :

As a TWC customer, who do you want going forward?

Comparing Charter vs Comcast and what they offer today

- Download speeds have been similar for some time now
- Upload speeds Comcast is twice as fast and growing (Charter is not bonding)
- Ave \$/Mbps with Charter is cheaper
- IPv6 - easy winner - Comcast

Video products - hands down Comcast blows Charter away

Voice - Comcast is also better with integrated services,

Comcast truly is the evil empire. They try to act like they are the most progressive cable company that's quickest to roll out all the newest technologies with the best equipment... but then they punch you in the face with their bandwidth caps and reveal that big shroud of wonder they've built up with their 500 Mbps speed tiers is a cover for their evil.

2014-Nov-20 4:11 pm: [reply](#)**cork1958**

Cork

Premium

join:2000-02-26

## Re: Charter vs Comcast

I'm a Charter sub and as much as I despise their business practices and lack of tiers, I do not want to become a Comcast subscriber and luckily my area is not included in the deal to be switched to them.

I've had pretty much a flawless internet since day 1 with Charter for 17 years now and as much as the fact that IPv6 doesn't really concern me to much as of yet, that day will come.

As far as Charters voice stuff, don't give a rats patooch. Will never use it!

I don't see Charters free modem lasting forever unless they start finding new ways to increase the bill with hidden fees, so that part could be a concern, but for now, I use my own modem anyway.

As far as customer service, I've never had to call Charter for any technical reason other than to find out the service was down due to weather twice and 1 time for a maintenance window that shouldn't have effected my area but did. They BOTH have always ranked near the bottom at CS anyway, so that one is a crap shoot every time you call anyway!

--

The Firefox alternative.

»[www.mozilla.org/projects/seamonkey/](http://www.mozilla.org/projects/seamonkey/)2014-Nov-21 6:55 am: [reply](#)**jjeffery**join:2002-12-04  
USA

Customer Service - Charter!

2014-Nov-21 3:36 am: [reply](#)**rit56**join:2000-12-01  
New York, NY

## Why?

This is all very exhausting. Why should we be forced to get stuck with a shitty cable company? Neither are good options. That jackass from TWC is only concerned about getting his end from the sale. If Comcast is rejected and then Charter is he will sell it to anything that comes along.

2014-Nov-20 11:29 am: [reply](#)

**greatshow09**

join:2013-07-07  
Minneapolis, MN

### Re: I hope Charter wins

Charter's speeds could be a bit faster though. 60/4 seems like nothing to 105/20

2014-Nov-23 11:13 pm:

#### your comment..

Forums → Charter Might Retry Time Warner Buy if Comcast Deal Blocked

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[DSLReports.com](#)  
 Est. 1999  
 Tuesday, 09-  
 Dec 13:58:10

Developed by  
 Justin Beech

Hosted by  
[Liquid Networks](#)

## Penney Stephen

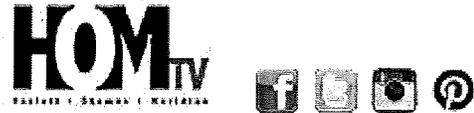
---

**From:** Deborah Guthrie  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2014 10:35 AM  
**To:** Penney Stephen  
**Subject:** FW: ACM Membership Renewal  
**Attachments:** ACM\_DUES\_Receipt\_Dguthrie.pdf

Ccc and receipt to turn in. thanks



**Deborah Guthrie**  
Communications Director/Public Information Officer, Meridian Township  
Executive Producer, HOMTV  
5151 Marsh Rd  
Okemos, MI 48864  
HOMTV and CAMTV  
[guthrie@meridian.mi.us](mailto:guthrie@meridian.mi.us)  
517.853.4380



---

**From:** Alliance for Community Media [<mailto:info@allcommunitymedia.org>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2014 1:22 PM  
**To:** Deborah Guthrie  
**Subject:** ACM Membership Renewal

Hi Deborah,

Thank you for renewing your Individual membership with the Alliance for Community Media. We greatly value your membership with us and are thankful for your continued support. With the recent membership structure and dues changes, we truly appreciate your support of our efforts to reach our goals for the future.

Changes to membership categories and dues were developed based on a thorough review of ACM funding needs and are not the only methods being implemented to achieve improvements in revenue stability. The Futures Committee also analyzed membership categories and dues rates from other similar organizations to help benchmark in establishing the new dues. Learn more about the ACM dues increase.

Remember to keep an eye out for our weekly e-blasts that contain information regarding upcoming events, ACM and other industry news, job postings, updates from our President, Mike Wassenaar and more!

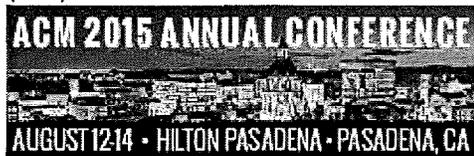
Again, thank you for renewing your ACM membership. **For your reference, your membership ID number is 15889.**

You will find your receipt of payment attached to this email. This payment renews your membership through 11/30/2015. Please do not hesitate to contact the ACM National office with any questions regarding your membership at [info@allcommunitymedia.org](mailto:info@allcommunitymedia.org) or (952) 928-4643.

Regards,



Jon Funfar  
Board Chair  
Alliance for Community Media  
Foundation of Alliance for Community Media  
4248 Park Glen Road  
Minneapolis, MN 55416  
(952) 928-4643



**Before the  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of	)	
	)	
Application of Comcast Corporation, Time	)	MB Docket No. 14-57
Warner Cable, Inc., Charter Communications,	)	
Inc., and Spinco to Assign and Transfer	)	
Control of FCC Licenses and Other	)	
Authorizations	)	

**MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS AND ADVISORS (“MI-NATOA”)  
REPLY TO OPPOSITIONS OF COMCAST CORPORATION; TIME WARNER  
CABLE, INC.; CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS, INC.; AND MIDWEST CABLE LLC**

The Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (“MI-NATOA”) files this reply to the responses and oppositions of Comcast Corporation (“Comcast”), Time Warner Cable Inc. (“TWC”), Charter Communications, Inc. (“Charter”), and Midwest Cable LLC (“Midwest Cable”). The companies object to the proposed conditions of local governments and others, primarily because the companies claim that: (i) the transactions present no risks to the public or to competition; (ii) the proposed conditions are unrelated to the transactions; and (iii) the cable-franchising process can best address any cable-related concerns. The companies also argue that the Commission cannot make its conditions enforceable locally.

On each of these points, MI-NATOA disagrees. To mitigate the transactions’ potential harms, the Commission should impose conditions that protect local programming, advance broadband deployment and adoption, safeguard the open Internet, and protect consumers. These

conditions should be enforceable locally, and they should apply to all the companies involved in these transactions.

**I. THE COMPANIES HAVE FAILED TO SHOW THAT THE TRANSACTIONS' BENEFITS OUTWEIGH THE HARMS.**

The companies have failed to show that the proposed transactions' benefits would outweigh the harms. After the transactions, ownership of the wireline video and broadband assets that serve the nation's residential subscribers would be concentrated in unprecedented fashion. Comcast would not only swap systems to cement its power geographically, but it would entirely eliminate its largest cable rival, TWC. Even Comcast admits that of the fixed broadband market for download speeds of 10 Mbps or more, its post-transaction share would be 40%.<sup>1</sup> Others estimate that Comcast's share would be even higher.<sup>2</sup> In most of the remainder of the nation, Charter would dominate video and broadband markets, including in MI-NATOA communities, where the company would provide service through an agreement with Midwest Cable.

The companies fail to show that this concentration would not lead to harms. Comcast argues that the transactions would not eliminate potential competition.<sup>3</sup> This is not plausible. For example, if it were to remain in the market, TWC could compete with Comcast and Charter in a variety of ways. First, it could overbuild the companies' systems and compete directly. Alternatively, TWC could offer competing cable service over the Internet. Comcast responds that this is "speculative."<sup>4</sup> It is anything but. Companies are adding "over-the-top" services quickly.<sup>5</sup> TWC could be expected to compete directly with Comcast and Charter, and vice versa.

---

<sup>1</sup> Comcast Response at 146.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at n.450.

<sup>3</sup> Comcast Response at 177.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> See, e.g., M. James, *HBO going 'over the top' with Internet streaming service in 2015*, LA Times, Oct. 15, 2014, available at: <http://www.latimes.com/entertainment/envelope/cotown/la-et-ct-hbo-to-launch-internet-only-service-20141015-story.html>.

Moreover, because these transactions would give the remaining companies a more dominant position in the broadband market, the companies would be more likely to leverage that power to harm this “over-the-top” competition, to protect their own cable-service revenues. Finally, the transactions would remove a “benchmark” about what is reasonable, by eliminating the nation’s second-largest cable operator. In sum, the transactions would virtually guarantee that the wireline broadband and video markets would not have meaningful competition for the foreseeable future. This will only lead to higher prices and reduced services.

The companies criticize some commenters for not supporting their comments with empirical evidence, and contrast that with their own economic experts. But the “evidence” provided by those experts is far from reliable. It ignores basic economic lessons reflected in decisions of this Commission and cited in some of the initial comments. And it essentially finds no anticompetitive impact based on a theory that because the companies have engaged in concerted efforts to divide markets, the division should be legally endorsed. In any case, the Commission’s public interest test does not turn on who pays more for experts. Even if MINATO and many other local-government groups do not have the resources to present detailed economic studies, their concerns are no less real. Given that many have shown that the transactions present serious risks, the Commission has a duty to review the transactions independently, and to impose appropriate conditions on any approval.

**II. THE COMPANIES HAVE FAILED TO SHOW THAT PROPOSED CONDITIONS ARE NOT APPROPRIATE OR TRANSACTION-SPECIFIC.**

The companies contend that many conditions proposed by other parties are not appropriate or transaction-specific. We disagree. The Commission should condition any approval on each company’s acceptance of the conditions described below.

**Conditions To Protect Local Programming, Including PEG.** The Commission should impose the conditions to protect PEG programming that have been proposed by NATOA,<sup>6</sup> Los Angeles County *et al.*,<sup>7</sup> Alliance for Community Media and Alliance for Communications Democracy,<sup>8</sup> the City of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti,<sup>9</sup> and the Minnesota Association of Community Telecommunications Administrators. Comcast argues that PEG proposals have “nothing to do with this Transaction.”<sup>10</sup> That is wrong. As discussed, the proposed transactions would increase concentration and thereby reduce the companies’ incentive to respond to local needs and interests.<sup>11</sup> Chief among many communities’ needs are the desires to protect local programming and to ensure that it continues to advance with changes in technology. The companies’ answer that parties may simply rely on the cable-franchising process to protect PEG is, for many Michigan communities, no answer at all. In Michigan, as in many states, legislatures (in an effort to promote competition) adopted uniform franchising systems. In some cases (as in Michigan), the franchise is issued in the name of the local government; in others, the state is the franchising authority. But, either way, Comcast has taken the position that it is entitled to franchises and renewal franchises that include only the terms the state specified in 2006, and that it need not satisfy local needs and interests for PEG or any other matter. While local governments have and continue to challenge this view, the Commission cannot assume that the local franchising process can somehow remedy the problems created by the merger.

**Conditions to Advance Broadband Deployment and Adoption.** The Commission should also require the companies to improve and expand the Internet Essentials broadband

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<sup>6</sup> NATOA Comments at 4.

<sup>7</sup> Los Angeles County Petition to Deny at 25.

<sup>8</sup> Comments at 10-15.

<sup>9</sup> Comments at 9-10.

<sup>10</sup> Comcast Reply at 295.

<sup>11</sup> See Comcast-NBCUniversal Order at ¶ 226.

program as proposed by NATOA,<sup>12</sup> Los Angeles County *et al.*,<sup>13</sup> New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, City of Boston Mayor Martin Walsh, City of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti,<sup>14</sup> and others. Comcast claims that criticisms of the program are “irrelevant,” and that it has “never claimed that *Internet Essentials* is the only choice for a broadband adoption program, or that there are no aspects of it that could be improved.”<sup>15</sup> If the Commission is to find that proposed transactions, as conditioned, are in the public interest, it must demand that Comcast and all the companies do better.

**Conditions to Protect the Open Internet.** The Commission should also subject the companies to the conditions to protect the open Internet that were proposed by Los Angeles County *et al.*,<sup>16</sup> City of Boston Mayor Martin Walsh,<sup>17</sup> and City of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.<sup>18</sup> As discussed, the proposed transactions would increase the remaining companies’ control over the broadband market, and therefore increase its ability to steer subscribers away from competing online video products.

**Conditions to Protect Consumers.** The Commission should also condition any approval on commitments to improve customer service, as proposed by Los Angeles County *et al.*, and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio.<sup>19</sup> Comcast argues that concerns about customer service “are not transaction-specific” and are “speculative.”<sup>20</sup> Again, we disagree. The proposed transactions would expand concentration in the industry, and make the companies even less responsive to the day-to-day needs of customers than they are now.

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<sup>12</sup> Comments at 7.

<sup>13</sup> Comments at 28-30.

<sup>14</sup> Comments at 5-6.

<sup>15</sup> Comcast Reply at 54.

<sup>16</sup> Petition to Deny at 28-30.

<sup>17</sup> Comments at 6-7.

<sup>18</sup> Comments at 7.

<sup>19</sup> Petition to Deny at 31-32.

<sup>20</sup> Comcast Comments at 283.

We also emphasize three points about the conditions:

*First*, the Commission should apply the conditions to all the companies—Comcast, Charter, and Midwest Cable—involved with the transactions. Each company would benefit from consolidation and protection from competition; each would be the dominant provider within its territory; each would have incentives to limit local programming that is not under its control and to limit Internet use (directly or through specialized services) to favor its own content. And the underlying agreements are troubling in the extreme. In Michigan, Charter and Comcast systems are near one another, and the transaction will result in market concentration and the elimination of possible future competition. To be sure, many of the Comcast systems will be owned by Midwest/GreatLand. But GreatLand will be effectively operated by Charter, and the two companies will be so intertwined that there is little prospect that one could or would make a strategic decision that presented a business challenge to the other (indeed, Charter will be providing the basic strategic advice to its competitor). From a consumer standpoint, the deals almost guarantee a standstill or reduction in service quality, rather than promoting responsiveness or innovation. Under the Charter-GreatLand services agreement, for example, Charter agrees that the service across GreatLand communities of average quality for Charter, and that customer services will be handled in basically the same way Charter manages its systems. Communities and consumers served by GreatLand and Charter will need to be protected against potential harms from this merger, just as Comcast customers will need to be protected.

*Second*, the conditions should be enforceable locally. Comcast argues that the Commission may not look to local governments to enforce conditions, citing *U.S. Telecom Ass'n v. FCC*, 359 F.3d 554, 566 (D.C. Cir. 2004). But, in fact, that case specifically recognizes that the Commission “may condition its grant of permission on the decision of another entity, such

as a state, local, or tribal government,” provided that there is a “reasonable connection” between the entity’s decision and the federal agency’s determination.<sup>21</sup>

And *third*, the Commission should reject Comcast’s argument that conditions are not needed because it is resolving these issues through the franchising process, absent some showing that it has done so in fact. Based on our experience, we suspect that showing cannot be made.

### CONCLUSION

If the Commission approves the proposed transactions, it must establish strong and enforceable conditions that ensure that the alleged benefits of the transaction are realized, and the harms are mitigated.

Respectfully submitted,  
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<sup>21</sup> *Id.* at 567.