



AGENDA
CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Date: September 2, 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 – July 1, 2015
- E. Communications/Announcements
- F. Old Business
 - 1. Township Website Redesign Update
 - 2. CTC Audit – Final Report
 - 3. Equipment Budget: Reallocation of 2015 Cable TV Funds
- G. New Business / Discussion Items
 - 1. 5 Year Equipment Plan & Long Term Vision
 - 2. CCC Rules and Responsibilities
 - 3. Township Branding RFP
- 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: HOMTV Scoop Deborah Guthrie
 - 8. Finance: Deborah Guthrie
- I. Other Business & Announcements
- J. Public Remarks
- K. Adjournment

Cable Communications Commission Regular Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Administrative Conference Room
Meridian Municipal Building, Okemos, MI

July 1, 2015

Present: Commissioners: Chair, Walter Benenson; Vice Chair, Patrick Crowley;
Commissioner, Brian Seipel
Staff: Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director and
Andrea Smiley, Administrative Assistant
Township: None
Comcast: John Gardner, Comcast Sr. Manager Government
Affairs
AT&T: None
Haslett Schools: None
Okemos Schools: None

Call Meeting to Order: Chair, Benenson called the meeting to order at **6:05 pm.**

Public Remarks: No Public Present

Approval of Agenda:

Vice Chair, Patrick Crowley moved **TO APPROVE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED.**
Seconded by Commission, Seipel.

Voice vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Seipel moved **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF** June 3, 2015.
Seconded by Chair, Benenson.

Commissioner, Seipel offered as a reminder to add information about the Cable Commissions Roles and Responsibilities as discussed at the May meeting. It was explained that there was further discussion at the June meeting and that the topic would be added to the August meeting Agenda.

Vice Chair, Crowley moved **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF** June 3, 2015. Seconded by Chair, Benenson.

Voice vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Communications/Announcements:

1. City of Livonia – Survey Results

Guthrie commented that Meridian Township was a test site for the survey and that several other communities participated. The survey results were included in packet

to share with the Commission. Question 29 concerned with challenges that will be faced in the next two years. Question 28 concerned with issues similar to what the Commission has discussed; the budget, lack of HD availability, staffing, etc. The survey shows that other communities are facing similar challenges. Chair, Benenson asked the question of which communities participated in the survey. Guthrie stated that she would have to check with Livonia on the exact names.

Guthrie stated that she also wanted to share the survey with the Commission because a year ago a special committee was created to do own survey and budgeted for a communication needs assessment, the franchise fee audit and a technical audit for franchise renewal purposes. Vice Chair, Crowley, posed the question that now 2 out of the 3 were no longer needed. Guthrie commented that she shared the Livonia survey to show their process and discuss further after discussing the new business.

Old Business:

1. Township Website – RFP

Director Guthrie commented that Meridian Township received 8 Proposals for the new Website Design. Stephen Gebes, IT Director; Brandie Yates, Communications Specialist and Director Guthrie went over all the RFP's that were submitted and narrowed it down to the top 4 prospective bidders, meeting the majority of the criteria. Those 4 companies will be invited to a follow up interview/presentation to be scheduled in July.

Director Guthrie asked the Commission if they remembered discussing Commissioner Tunga as participating on the committee for the new Website. She wanted to ask if he wanted to be a part of the interviews/presentations. The Commission agreed that he did want to participate.

Director Guthrie commented that the Commission could appoint someone to be on the committee. Vice Chair, Crowley moved **TO APPOINT COMMISSIONER KIYAK, IF HE IS INTERESTED**. Seconded by Commissioner, Seipel.

Vice Chair, Crowley asked for the 8 companies that submitted a proposal and the 4 companies selected for follow up interviews to be identified. Administrative Assistant, Smiley provided a spreadsheet of the companies. The Commission reviewed the amount of local companies, as well as larger companies to be able to handle the expectations of the redesign.

2. Comcast Update and Budget Request

Chair, Benenson asked the question if this topic had been covered. Director, Guthrie explained that the Comcast Franchise Agreement is old business, but relates to the budget so it is all included in one memo. The memo shows the

Comcast agreement and the additional monies along with staff recommendation for the additional money. Director, Guthrie explains some of the needed replacements for equipment within the Communications department. She also discussed how some of the production equipment may not be covered by the Township insurance. Commissioner, Seipel offered his expertise to assist with the process.

Chair, Benenson asked if the meeting had moved to new business and Director, Guthrie commented that the Commission needed to look over the budgeted items and reallocation of funding and then make a recommendation to the Township Board. Vice Chair, Crowley asked if the budgeted items were listed in the memo. Director, Guthrie stated that the first motion is directed to the list of items, new and replacements, on the memo. Commissioner, Seipel stated that he felt the motion should be more specific to the items listed, 'on page 37', in the memo. Vice Chair, Crowley agreed. Director Guthrie commented that they could restate the motion to include that verbiage.

Commissioner, Seipel moved **TO APPROVE THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT ITEMS IDENTIFIED ON PAGE 37 OF THE PACKET THAT HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED BY STAFF, UTILIZING ANTICIPATED, BUT NOT TO EXCEED, PEG FEE REVENUES RECEIVED FROM COMCAST.** Seconded by Vice Chair, Crowley.

Voice vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Director, Guthrie began discussing the second action in the memo and explained that last year the board approved to budget money for a communication needs assessment, a franchise fee audit and a technical audit for franchise renewal purposes. The franchise fee audit is still planned and conversations have taken place with the technical auditor and that is being finalized based upon what Comcast has allowed to be audited and there isn't anything specific about a technical audit in the Uniform Agreement. Comcast Representative, John Gardner, explained that the technical audit was being performed as part of the Franchise Renewal process, which is now complete. Vice Chair, Crowley stated that he thought the technical review was also for other technical entities within Meridian Township, which also has not moved forward. Director, Guthrie stated that she is pursuing other avenues in that regard.

Chair, Benenson asked for clarification on 'reallocating funding', stating that it wouldn't be reallocating all funding, but only some funding. Director, Guthrie explained that the Communications Needs Assessment was budgeted for \$22,000 and Vice Chair, Crowley stated that one still needs to be done. Director, Guthrie proposed that the audit be done in house as previously discussed. Vice Chair, Crowley asked if there was a specific need for

reallocating the money, for instance an emergency replacement. Commissioner, Seipel asked for more detailed information, as provided with the first part of the memo and motion, rather than just reallocating 'as needed'. Chair, Benenson asked the question concerning what would happen if the Commission didn't approve reallocating the money. Director, Guthrie stated that the Commission could ask for more detailed information as to what the money would be reallocated for or that the Communications Needs Assessment is still needed and that the money shouldn't be reallocated at all. Vice Chair, Crowley stated that he wanted to continue with the Communication Needs Assessment.

Director, Guthrie stated that the original purpose of the Communication Needs Assessment was for the Franchise Renewal Process, which is no longer an issue, so to spend that money would be unnecessary. That money could be used elsewhere and be more beneficial. Commissioner, Seipel questioned whether the need to spend the money on equipment would have still existed if the money had already been spent on the Communication Needs Assessment.

Chair, Benenson thought that it would make more sense to say that the money should be kept in the fund balance with the anticipation of budgeting for improvements next year.

Vice Chair, Crowley suggested that Director, Guthrie provide a list of unspent monies, as well as a list of items that the unspent monies should be reallocated to and which items were extremely important, important in the next couple years, etc. at the next ccc meeting. Chair, Benenson commented that the second motion in the memo is tabled and a new motion be presented at the next meeting.

New Business:

1. 2016 Draft Budget Memo

Director, Guthrie stated that the individual department budget is due to the Township by August 1, 2015. Each year the Cable Commission takes a look at the equipment that the Communications Department plans on purchasing and makes a recommendation for the Board to approve those capital purchases. The memo references those future funding needs, especially budgeted items for 2016. Director, Guthrie pointed out that this refers back to the first memo because those unspent monies could be spent on these equipment items. Vice Chair, Crowley commented that this process is the normal course of action of budgeting for items that would be purchased in future years.

Commissioner, Seipel moved **TO MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED CAPITAL ITEM EQUIPMENT PURCHASES FOR THE 2016 CABLE TV FUND.** Seconded by Vice Chair, Crowley.

Voice vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair, Crowley moved **TO APPROVE DIRECTOR, GUTHRIE TO WORK WITH THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO BUDGET AN INCREASE IN STAFFING TO AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO MEET THE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENTAL WORKLOAD NEEDS, IF THE BUDGET ALLOWS, AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE TOWNSHIP BOARD.** Seconded by Commissioner, Seipel.

Voice vote: Motion carried unanimously.

2. 5 Year Equipment Plan & Long Term Vision

Table the equipment budget; to be provided at the next meeting; only the warranty budget was provided for this meeting. Long term vision – Commission making recommendation to Board about rules and responsibilities coming in August. Chair, Benenson's long term vision is to do away with all the cables.

Reports:

1. Cable Compliments/Complaints:
2. Video Service Provider(s): John Gardner spoke about the channel guide and the shared channel issue.
3. Communications Director's Report: Top goals for the Communications Department before year end – Programming on the Comcast Guide Channel, Branding Employee Handbook, Branding Guidelines, website vendor training, and finalizing software.
4. Chair's Report: Nothing to Report.
5. Township Information: Nothing to Report
6. Programming: No discussion
7. Viewership/Promotions: No discussion
8. Finance: No discussion

Other Business & Announcements:

Public Remarks: No Public Present

Adjournment:

Vice Chair, Crowley moved **TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**. Seconded by Commissioner, Seipel.

Hearing no objections, Chair Benenson **ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 7.25 pm.**

NEXT MEETING:

The next scheduled meeting is **August 5, 2015 in the Administrative Conference Room.**

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

COMMUNICATIONS

Deborah Guthrie

From: Joy Thrun <joy@classictravelusa.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2015 5:43 PM
To: Deborah Guthrie
Subject: HOMTV Interview

Dear Deborah,

Thanks for doing a feature on Classic Travels 35th year in Meridian.
Adam was great!

I appreciate the recognition and your support.

Have a great holiday weekend!

Joy

Check it out! I have sound on my computer if anyone wants to listen.

http://www.homtv.net/index.asp?view=news&news_id=6479

Valerie Tkaczyk
Classic Travel



4767 Okemos Road
Okemos, MI 48864
Phone: 517-349-6200
Toll Free: 1-800-643-3449
Fax: 517-349-6656

Orion Community Cable Communications Commission
Village of Lake Orion – Charter Township of Orion
1349 Joslyn Road
Lake Orion, Michigan 48360
(248) 393-0147

July 14, 2015

Deborah Guthrie
Communications Director
Meridian Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, Michigan 48864-1198

Dear Deborah,

On behalf of the Orion Cable Commission, I would like to thank you for taking the lead in the audit of AT&T. This is probably not something we would have done on our own, so we appreciate all that you did to make this happen. We received our check from AT&T last week. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Orion Community Cable Communications Commission


Diane Griffiths
Administrator



July 22, 2015

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 some changes to the channel lineup. Customers are being notified of these changes via bill message.

Effective September 9, 2015, CSPAN2 (channel 104) will no longer be available on Limited Basic service. CSPAN2 will be available with Digital Starter or higher level of service.

Also, effective on or about September 10, 2015, Jewelry TV will be available with our Limited Basic tier.

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

Sincerely,

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



Jim Murray
President
AT&T Michigan
221 N. Washington Square
Lansing, MI 49833
Office: (517) 334-3400
Fax: (517) 334-3429

July 17, 2015



Ms. Mary Jo Kunkle
Executive Secretary
Michigan Public Service Commission
PO Box 30221
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Ms. Kunkle:

Michigan Bell Telephone Company, doing business as AT&T Michigan ("AT&T"), submits its Eight Annual Video Report to the Michigan Public Service Commission ("MPSC") and franchising entities in the State of Michigan regarding its deployment progress, as required by Michigan's Uniform Video Services Local Franchise Act (2006 Public Act 480, as amended) or "Video Act". AT&T is separately providing a copy to each Clerk in the Michigan Communities where AT&T has launched its U-verseSM TV service.

If you have any questions, please contact me on (517) 334-3400 or Yvette Collins on (517) 334-3708.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jim Murray", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Enclosures

cc: Clerks in Franchised Communities
Ms. Susan Corbin, Michigan Public Service Commission Staff
Ms. Christina Forist, Michigan Public Service Commission Staff
Ms. Yvette Collins, AT&T Michigan

8th Annual



AT&T Michigan
Annual Video Report

July 17, 2015

STATUS OF AT&T'S VIDEO SERVICE DEPLOYMENT IN MICHIGAN

Michigan Bell Telephone Company, doing business as AT&T Michigan ("AT&T"), submits its Eighth Annual Video Report to the Michigan Public Service Commission ("MPSC" or "Commission") and franchising entities in the State of Michigan regarding its deployment progress, as required by Michigan's Uniform Video Services Local Franchise Act (2006 Public Act 480, as amended) or "Video Act".¹

On January 1, 2007, Michigan's Video Act became effective. On January 31, 2007, as required by the Video Act, the MPSC approved the standardized form for the uniform video service local franchise agreement as developed by the MPSC Staff after soliciting input from all interested parties.

In March of 2007, AT&T began submitting franchise agreements in accordance with the Video Act to local governments, using the form approved by the MPSC. After these initial agreements became effective, AT&T launched its Internet Protocol TV (IPTV) service called AT&T U-verse® TV on May 21, 2007 in parts of over 50 communities in the Detroit and Ann Arbor areas. AT&T has now obtained franchise agreements and has launched its U-verse TV in 323 communities.

Section 9 (3) of the Video Act requires certain providers to provide access to video service to a number of households equal to at least 25% of the households in a telecommunication provider's service area within three years of the date that it begins offering video service. Additional levels of deployment may become applicable within 6 years, but only if certain percentages of households with access consistently subscribe to the provider's video service.²

AT&T recently completed its eighth year of providing video service in the state, and the progress of the deployment of the service to date has been significant. In Michigan, AT&T currently provides access to its video service to over 50% of the households in its telecommunications service area (however, AT&T's subscription rate is less than 30%). Of these households with access to AT&T's video service in Michigan, over 35% are low-income households as defined by the Video Act. AT&T does not deny access to service to any group of potential residential subscribers because of race or income.

Since its launch in 2007 through the end of the 1st quarter of 2015, AT&T has paid more than \$119 million to the local governments, made up of \$92 million in video franchise fees and \$27 million in public, education and government (PEG) fees.

1 See Section 9(4) of the Video Act: "Each provider shall file an annual report with the franchising entity and the commission regarding the progress that has been made toward compliance..."

2 See Section 9. (3) of the Video Act: "If a video service provider is using telecommunication facilities to provide video services and has more than 1,000,000 telecommunication access lines in this state, the provider shall provide access to its video service to a number of households equal to at least 25% of the households in the provider's telecommunication service area in the state within 3 years of the date it began providing video service under this act and to a number not less than 50% of these households within 6 years. A video service provider is not required to meet the 50% requirement in this subsection until 2 years after at least 30% of the households with access to the provider's video service subscribe to the service for 6 consecutive months."

AT&T'S INVESTMENT IN MICHIGAN'S WORKFORCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

AT&T invests billions to build the advanced networks that create jobs and fuel economic growth. From 2012 through 2014, AT&T invested more than \$1.7 billion in its Michigan wireless and wireline networks.

AT&T'S U-verse® TV PRODUCT

AT&T's U-verse TV network architecture and technology is fundamentally different from a legacy cable TV system. AT&T's U-verse TV is Internet Protocol TV (IPTV), which is based on the common language of the Internet. IP gives U-verse a significant advantage over older, cable-based platforms. AT&T is utilizing the U-verse IP technology to deliver more integration, more convenience and more value to its customers.

Today, U-verse is positioned to deliver the ideal combination of real-time, high-quality content and the on-demand and interactive content that IPTV makes possible. Customers are enjoying many benefits of the platform, like Total Home DVR³ and multi-screen⁴ content. In addition, AT&T extends its U-verse TV brand across screens with Uverse.com and the U-verse App for smartphones and tablets.

Over the years AT&T has highlighted in this Annual Video Report the many enhancements made to the U-verse TV service. Since the issuance of last year's Annual Video Report, AT&T announced various updates to U-verse TV innovative features and offerings, including:

- Michigan U-verse TV customers can enjoy access to more than 200 HD channels. All U-verse customers receive HD-ready equipment, and most packages include an HD-ready DVR.
- AT&T made multiple enhancements to its U-verse App, making it available on even more devices, including a wearable. Michigan customers can watch more than 230 live channels inside the home and more than 170 live channels outside the home. The U-verse App has more live channels available outside the home than any cable TV provider.
- AT&T's deployment of Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) continues. We work closely with all communities who have requested AT&T to carry their PEG programming. There are 65 communities across Michigan that have partnered with AT&T for PEG implementation. These 65 communities provide 82 channels of PEG programming via AT&T.

³ Total Home DVR (Digital Video Recorder). See: <http://www.att.com/u-verse/explore/total-home-dvr.jsp> for more details. An AT&T U-verse customer can record 4 shows at once on a single DVR, record and play back shows from any room in the home, pause a recorded show in one room and pick it up in another and program the DVR remotely from the computer or wireless phone.

⁴ See: <http://www.att.com/esupport/article.jsp?sid=KB402261&cv=813> for more details. This innovative feature allows the viewer to track four shows all at one time, on one screen. A customer may access Multiviews for Sports, News and Kids, etc., depending upon the programming purchased.

AT&T's U-verse offers multiple combinations of TV, Internet and Voice packages to customize the customer's experience. U-verse TV offers several programming packages including U-basic, U-200, U-200 Latino, U-300, U-300 Latino, U-450, and U-450 Latino packages, plus U-family, a family-friendly programming option. The customer may choose from a variety of subscription options that feature a wide variety of channels, including music, local, movie and sports programming, as well as premium Spanish-language and international packages.

All packages include high definition or HD-capable equipment, and most packages include an HD digital video recorder (DVR), easy to use parental controls, built-in picture-in-picture, video on demand, games like sudoku and solitaire. For a summary of all of the interactive applications, go to: uverse.com/apps

ADDITIONAL AT&T U-verse® TV INFORMATION

For additional information on AT&T U-verse TV, to see a demonstration of how it works or to see the popular bundles, visit the website below. Customers may also call 800-ATT-2020 or visit a local AT&T location in Michigan.

<http://www.att.com/u-verse/>

Customers may find the following AT&T websites helpful for further information regarding channel lineup, availability of AT&T U-verse TV or to check the status of their installation or repair order:

- AT&T U-verse TV channel lineup:

<http://www.att.com/u-verse/shop/channel-lineup.jsp>

- AT&T U-verse TV availability:

<http://www.att.com/u-verse/availability/>

- U-verse TV Customers have the ability to check status of their installation or repair order via an online tool at:

<http://www.att.com/u-verse/appointmentstatus>

Andrea Smiley

From: Deborah Guthrie
Sent: Wednesday, August 05, 2015 12:46 PM
To: Andrea Smiley
Subject: FW: Ira Childress, AD (@OkemosAthletics) mentioned you in conversation on Twitter!

Please print for ccc packet. Thanks.

From: Ira Childress, AD (via Twitter) [mailto:notify@twitter.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2015 4:01 PM
To: Deborah Guthrie <Guthrie@meridian.mi.us>
Subject: Ira Childress, AD (@OkemosAthletics) mentioned you in conversation on Twitter!



Ira Childress, AD
mentioned you.

Reply



Ira Childress, AD
@OkemosAthletics

Aug 04

Kudos to @HOMTV @homtvdeborah for continuing to hire talented sports reporters. Nice job today by @homtvandrea on the OHS tennis court story



[View conversation](#)

[Settings](#) | [Help](#) | [Opt-out](#) | [Download app](#)

Twitter, Inc. 1355 Market Street, Suite 900 San Francisco, CA 94103

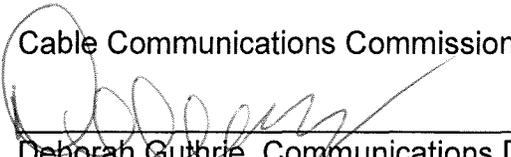
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

**OLD
BUSINESS**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cable Communications Commission

FROM: 
Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director/PIO

DATE: July 27, 2015

SUBJECT: Meridian Township Website Redesign Update

At the July 1, 2015 Cable Commission meeting, staff reported on the progress of the overhaul for the township website. Staff has kept the public informed by posting the township RFP online and updating the progress of the project.

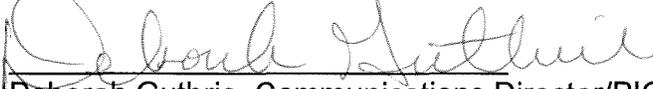
Of the 23 companies that were sent the RFP; 10 were within the Lansing region, 5 outside the region but within Michigan, 8 located in other US states, and 1 from outside the US. Of those, 8 companies confirmed and submitted a proposal.

At the July 1, 2015 CCC meeting, the Cable Commission made a recommendation and passed a motion unanimously for Commissioner Kiyak to be appointed to sit on the website committee interview panel. Since that time, staff selected 4 companies for follow up presentations/interviews held during the latter part of July. The companies were selected based on their ability, expressed in their proposal, to be able to meet the needs and requirements of the township, while remaining within the budget. Staff conducted interviews with the following companies:

- Vision Internet
- Basso Design Group
- CivicPlus based
- Revize

Staff will narrow the selection down to two companies and conduct follow up interviews, in which time Cable Commissioner Tunga Kiyak will take part in assisting with this final phase of the selection process.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cable Communications Commission
FROM: 
Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director/PIO
DATE: July 28, 2015
SUBJECT: CTC Technical Audit of Comcast System

Attached you will find the final report from CTC for the Technical Audit of the Comcast system. CTC recommended that staff fix the digital PEG signal to Comcast and finalize the migration of SD to digital. Staff is working with Comcast technicians on this migration. A new playback system has been ordered and will be shipped in September.

CTC also recommended to have safety work conducted by Meridian Township electrical inspectors. Staff is following up on that, as well.

This is a final report from the technical auditors leaving a balance of monies unspent to be reallocated in the amount of \$14,865.

ctc technology & energy

engineering & business consulting

July 10, 2015

Via Electronic Mail

Ms. Deborah Guthrie
Communications Director/PIO
Meridian Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864
guthrie@meridian.mi.us

Dear Ms. Guthrie:

This letter is a follow-up to your request for summary of the work performed by Columbia Telecommunications Corporation (CTC) as part of our contract to provide technical support in evaluating and testing the cable television systems operated by Comcast and AT&T.

Project Background and Status

In the fall of 2014 I had an opportunity to meet with your staff on site and to review and inspect certain aspects of the cable TV system, including the Township studio and control equipment located in the Township office building, and the interconnection equipment used to link your programming to the cable companies. At the time we also discussed the ground rules on how we would approach the testing and field inspection with Comcast.

At the outset of our work, we had anticipated that Comcast would cooperate with the testing and inspection in a manner similar to that we have experienced in other parts of the country with Comcast and other cable operators. Over the past 30 years we have inspected literally hundreds of systems nationally. Unfortunately, due to a number of unusual factors associated with this specific assignment, it appears that we will be unable to jointly test and inspect the system along with Comcast.

Given that we are unable to reach an accord with Comcast on this testing and inspection, I recommend that we discontinue any further work on this project—because there appears to be a limited opportunity for CTC to provide you with any meaningful support relating to the testing and inspection you envisioned.

Recommendations

We were able to review the Comcast system with regard to the Township's institutional network. We found that Comcast has complied with the requirements and implemented facilities requested by the Township and the other local video program access providers.

As a part of the inspection of the interconnection equipment located at your offices, I noted that

the equipment used to transport signals to the cable operator's headend employs obsolete analog technologies. While the analog equipment appears to be of high quality for supporting analog video, this is the only portion of the video chain (i.e., from programming on one end to the viewer on the other end) is incompatible with the common digital transmission platform employed by both your studio and Comcast.

I recommend that you approach both Comcast and AT&T to discuss options for replacing the existing analog interface equipment at both ends of the fiber-optic interconnection links with modern digital interface devices. The digital equipment will provide a transmission path for continuous digital transmission from your control centers source through to the cable system headend. Both high-definition (HD) digital television and standard-definition (SD) formats can be supported with this type of equipment. In the long term, this will provide a truly transparent pathway to support modern video services. Retaining the obsolete analog technology serves the interests of neither the PEG community nor the cable system operators.

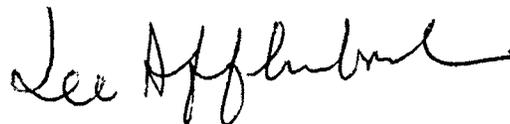
Another area of consideration is the electrical inspection of the drop cables associated with the cable television system. We had proposed to inspect drop cables as a part of our normal testing procedure. Since CTC will not be performing this work, you might **consider having the local municipal inspector randomly select drop cables for inspection in compliance with your local code for low-voltage communications wiring systems.**

The cable system should comply with two primary national construction standards. The first standard, the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) published by the IEEE, is the primary guide to construction of the cable system in the public rights-of-way. The NESC is a national code designed to provide standards and work rules to protect persons against hazards from the installation, maintenance, and operation of electrical systems and communications lines.

The second standard is the National Electrical Code (NEC) published by the National Fire Protection Association. This national code establishes rules for the safe installation of electrical conductors and equipment.

Again, I want to thank you for your patience on this project. If you have any questions regarding our work on this project or require additional details regarding either the digital video interconnection recommendation or subscriber cable drop inspection procedures, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee Afflerbach". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Lee Afflerbach, P.E.

MEMORANDUM

TO: CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
FROM: 
Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director/PIO
DATE: July 29, 2015
SUBJECT: Equipment Budget: Reallocation of 2015 Cable TV Funds

At the July 1, 2015 Cable Communications Commission meeting, Commissioners requested to be provided a list of 2015 Capital Items being purchased as a result of additional revenues being received and a reallocation of available contractual funds for capital equipment.

This list contains the original items budgeted for 2015, already approved items by the CCC at the last meeting and additional proposed items to be purchased. The two proposed items are of utmost priority due to the failing audio system in the Town Hall room and the continual computer crashes for the CAMTV signal. There is no action to be taken on these items.

Original 2015 Equipment Budget:	\$17,891.00
Playback System	\$10,891.00
Camera Jib	\$5,000.00
Townhall mics & bases	\$2,000.00
Unexpected Revenue Received 2015:	\$24,000.00
AT&T Audit	\$11,500.00
Comcast Transfer	\$12,500.00
Reallocation of Contractual Items:	\$21,365.00
Tech Audit	\$14,865.00
Legal Fees	\$6,500.00
Additional 2015 Revenue 1% PEG Fee:	\$55,000.00
Total Additional 2015 Revenue to Allocate:	\$100,365.00
Approved Allocation by CCC July 1, 2015:	\$65,200.00
Modulator/Demodulator	\$10,000.00
Laptop	\$500.00
Portable PA system	\$1,000.00
2 Small P2 Cameras	\$12,000.00
LiveU Remote Camera	\$20,000.00
Incoder/Encodex for live stream	\$4,600.00

2 Smartboards	\$4,000.00
Recruitment Board	\$1,000.00
LED Studio Lights	\$12,100.00
Additional 2015 Equipment Proposed:	\$31,521.00
Audio Project	\$29,521.00
CAMTV Computer/Encoder	\$2,000.00
Total Proposed 2015 Capital Purchases:	\$96,721.00
Remainder for Fund Balance:	\$3,644.00

*Staff is currently trying to see if the audio project is covered by the township insurance. If the project is covered, it will significantly reduce the costs. At the time of this memo, we do not know if it will be covered but staff will report the results to the commission when the information is available.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

**NEW
BUSINESS**

VIDEO PRODUCTION EQUIPMENT & PROJECTS

2015 Equipment Budget

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Projected Cost	Cost
Video Server- HOMTV Playback system	replacement	1	\$14,000	\$10,891.00
Camera Jib	new	1	\$5,000	
Townhall mics and bases	replacement	15	\$2,000	
Audio Project	replacement	1	\$29,521	
HD modulator/demodulator for HOMTV	replacement	1	\$10,000	
Windows Laptop	replacement	1	\$500	
Portable PA system	replacement	1	\$1,000	
Small P2 Camera	replacement	2	\$12,000	
liveU Remote Camera	new	1	\$20,000	
Incodex encoder for live broadcasting	new		\$4,600	
Smartboard	new	2	\$4,000	
LED Studio Lights	replacement	10	\$12,100	
Audio Project Townhall Room	replacement		\$29,521	
CAMTV computer/encoder	replacement	1	\$2,000	
Total Field/Editing Equipment			\$146,242	

2016 Equipment Budget

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Projected Cost	Cost
HD Studio Cameras/Teleprompter	replacement	1	\$220,000	\$277,300
DRONE	NEW	1	\$2,000	
Swagit streaming equipment	replacement		\$7,300	
Recabling ceiling	replacement		\$2,000	
Small P2 Camera	replacement	1	\$6,000	
imac editing computer	replacement	2	\$10,000	
laptop graphic computer	replacement	1	\$5,000	
Remote Editing/Switcher System	new	1	\$25,000	
Total Field/Editing Equipment			\$277,300	

2017 Equipment Budget

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Projected Cost	Cost
mac tower editing computer	additional	1	\$10,000	\$37,000
includes fiber jet seat				
mac tower editing computer	replacement	1	\$5,000	
imac editing computer	replacement	2	\$10,000	
small p2 camera	replacement	2	\$12,000	
Total Field/Editing Equipment			\$37,000	

2018 Equipment Budget

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Projected Cost	Cost
teleprompter	replacement	1	\$7,000	\$76,000
mac tower editing computer	replacement	2	\$10,000	
small p2 cameras	replacement	2	\$12,000	
large camera	replacement	1	\$25,000	
remote prompter system	new	1	\$2,000	
multiscreen touchscreen townhall display	new	2	\$20,000	
Total Field/Editing Equipment			\$76,000	

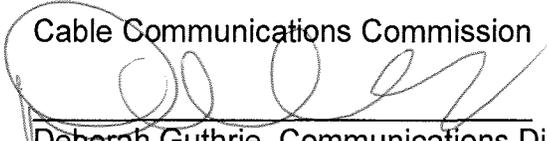
2019 Equipment Budget

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Projected Cost	Cost
small p2 camera	replacement	2	\$12,000	\$79,000
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	
Total Field/Editing Equipment			\$79,000	

2020 Equipment Budget

Items	New/Replacement	Quantity	Projected Cost	Cost
small p2 camera	replacement	2	\$12,000	\$82,000
mac tower editing computer	replacement	2	\$10,000	
mobile video app	new		\$10,000	
remote townhall camera system	replacement		\$50,000	
Total Field/Editing Equipment			\$82,000	

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cable Communications Commission
FROM: 
Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director/PIO
DATE: July 27, 2015
SUBJECT: Cable Communications Commission Rules & Responsibilities

During the June 3, 2015 CCC meeting, the Cable Commission made a motion to provide a proposal to the Township Board stating any changes to the Rules & Responsibilities of the Commission. At the request of the Commission, current documentation is included for discussion purposes in order to recommend any changes.

Chapter 70 of the Meridian Charter Township Code of Ordinances addresses the Cable Communications Policy.

§ 70-28
Cable Communications Commission.

[Ord. No. 2003-12, 9-21-2003]

- (a) The Township shall establish a commission to be known as the "Meridian Township Cable Communications Commission." The Township Board shall solicit from the public and from the franchise names of persons interested in serving on the commission, but is not limited to names submitted.
- (b) The commission consists of five residents of the Township appointed by the Township Board. Each member shall serve a term of three years. Any vacancy in the office shall be filled by the Township Board for the remainder of the term. No employee or person with an ownership interest in a cable television franchise granted pursuant to this article shall be eligible for membership on the commission. Members of the commission may be compensated at a rate to be determined by the Township. Such rate of compensation, if any, be established and may be revised, from time to time, by resolution of the Township Board.
- (c) Subject to federal law, the commission, in addition to the functions and responsibilities that the Township Board may delegate to it from time to time by resolution, shall have the following functions:
 - (1) Discuss this article and franchises with prospective franchise applications.
 - (2) Advise the Township Board on applications for franchises.
 - (3) Advise the Township Board on matters that might constitute grounds for revocation of a franchise under this article.

- (4) Recommend to the Township Board, after hearing, resolutions of disputes between franchisees, between franchisee(s) and subscribers, between franchisee(s) and access users, and between access users.
- (5) Advise the Township Board on the regulation of rates under this article and make recommendations on requested changes in rates, services or classifications.
- (6) Recommend to the Township Board general policy relating to access channels with a view to maximizing the diversity of programs and services to subscribers.
- (7) Encourage the use of access channels by institutions, groups and individuals within the Township. The Township Board shall budget a minimum of 80% of franchise fees for use by the commission to operate a government access channel and administer this ordinance and cable television franchises. Such budgeted funds shall be kept by or under the control of the Township Treasurer. The Township Treasurer shall draw checks on said account only when a majority of the members of the Township Board has authorized such expenditure.
- (8) Encourage and supervise interconnection of systems.
- (9) Review and report to the Township Board concerning records and reports that the franchisee is required to submit under this article.
- (10) The commission shall annually prepare a proposed budget and submit that proposed budget to the Township Board for its consideration and adoption. Prior to adopting a budget for the commission, the Township Board shall conduct a public hearing. The commission shall also prepare and submit to the Township Board an annual report including an accounting of budgeted fees received and distributed by the commission and a report of the type and amount of use of access channels.
- (11) Conduct evaluations of the system at least every three years and make recommendations to the Township Board regarding amendments to this article or to the franchise agreement.

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

August 14, 2015

Subject: Request for Branding Campaign Proposals

Bid Reference Title: Meridian Township Brand Development and Campaign RFP

Dear Prospective Bidder:

You are invited to submit a proposal for the above subject to Meridian Township.

The details of our request are contained in the enclosed request for proposal (RFP). Additional information and resources needing to be addressed are outlined in the RFP and also located on our website, www.meridian.mi.us, in the "Township Projects" section.

Overview

Meridian Charter Township is seeking an integrated communications and design company with expertise in branding and marketing to develop a brand and branding campaign for the Township. The company, referred to as 'facilitator', will create and facilitate a brand development committee while providing direction through the first two branding phases as suggested in this RFP. The brand development committee will decide on the final brand image. The facilitator will then be charged to help "sell" the community on the brand once it's been decided. The qualified company must have a good speaker who can excite the community about the brand.

Scope of Work

Please address the process in which your company will involve discovering Meridian Township's brand, developing the brand, implementing the brand strategy, and measuring the success. Please describe the process your company will use for each phase including online and print marketing strategy, campaign development, communication vehicles, and messaging the new brand both internally and externally. The final phase will measure the impact of the campaign and recommendations for any needed adjustments.

The facilitator must also have the ability to work with the newly selected company for Meridian Township's Website Redesign Project which is currently underway. The Communications Department will coordinate the efforts of the two companies to meet the goals of the branding campaign.

5151 MARSH ROAD, OKEMOS, MICHIGAN 48864-1198 517.853.4000
www.meridian.mi.us



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Suggested Branding Phases for Meridian Township

Phase One: Discovery

1. Create Brand Development Committee:
We desire the branding committee to consist of 5 - 10 people, including members of economic development, tourism, Township senior staff, downtown representatives, and representatives from the business sector, etc.
2. Meet with Committee to discuss Meridian goals and get to know the Township:
 - Where are we today?
 - Where do we want to be?
 - How do we want to be perceived?
 - What are our needs and future goals?
 - What is Meridian's niche or what makes Meridian unique?
3. Dissect current brand and messaging
4. Define and develop Meridian's audience and brand personality
5. Ask the community for input through:
 - Focus groups
 - Community forum(s)
 - Online survey
 - Interviewing stakeholders
 - Multimedia
6. Discover Meridian's 'Anchor Tenants' through community meetings

Phase Two: Development

1. All responses/input gathered from the community must address the following questions:
 - Will this target the market we hope to attract?
 - Will there be 'buy-in' over time?
 - Will the private sector invest?
 - What is the return on investment?
 - How wide of an audience will this attract?
 - Will it extend across seasons over time?
 - Will it create 'buy-in' from the brand champions/brand advocates?

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2. Define how you will develop the brand product and vision
3. Define how you will develop ideas (activities, events, etc.) to reinforce and support the brand
4. Explain how the brand research will be incorporated into a multimedia campaign strategy
5. Explain the methodology you will propose to carry out the campaign strategy
6. Explain your proposal to create the brand promise and delivery of goods
7. Explain how you will develop the branding and marketing strategic plan

Phase Three: Implementation

Ensure Messaging is in Sync with the New Brand Personality

1. Incorporate the new brand into all communication vehicles internally and externally:
 - Brand Manual
 - Signage
 - Advertising
 - Copywriting
 - Logo Design
 - Identity
 - Photography
 - Web design elements
 - Social Media banners and icons
 - Infographics
 - Print Communications (brochures, catalogs, internal publications, fundraising materials, print collateral, etc.)
 - Employee Training Materials
 - Annual Reports

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2. Brand Leadership Committee and local champions should sell the brand to the community and create buy-in opportunities for local organizations by:
 - Speaking at 3-6 events a year about the brand
 - Keeping high energy
 - Sharing in print and digital

Phase Four: Measure Impact of Campaign

1. Assess branding and make adjustments if needed
2. Measure success to determine desired results
3. Revisit plan every 6 months to regain momentum:
 - Who will do this?
 - How will this be measured?
 - Through what method(s) will the brand be measured over time?

Budget

The proposal needs to include a timeline for each phase of the process along with costs for marketing and campaigning, brand integration and implementation, as well as any user interface and experience design or management systems recommended.

1. Provide an itemized list of costs for services
2. Identify other costs that will be charged beyond the specific service rendered. (For example: travel, equipment use, telephone, Fed Ex, etc.)
3. Provide proof of insurance
4. Describe billing procedures and fee structure

References

List three (3) references for services successfully implemented/performed in the last 12-36 months for another government agency and/or private entity. Please include contact name, address, telephone number, and services performed.



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Evaluation Criteria

Meridian Charter Township reserves the right to reject any or all submittals, to compare the relative merits of the respective responses, and to choose a vendor, which in the opinion of the Township, will best serve their interests.

The Township shall strive to buy the best quality goods and services at the lowest price. In this endeavor, the Township shall be an equal opportunity purchaser, favoring local vendors only when all other factors are relatively equal.

Evaluation and Acceptance of Bids

Prior to evaluating bids, the Manager, with assistance from Department Heads shall determine specific guidelines for bid evaluation. It should be noted whether price or quality is the predominant criteria and other criteria that shall effect bid evaluation.

The Township may evaluate all bids objectively and subjectively. It may reject any and/or all bids or portions of bids submitted. All items must be considered as presented in the specifications. Bids may be awarded as a total package or on an item by item basis.

The Township shall comply with Federal and State of Michigan guidelines on Equal Opportunity in Contract Compliance, whenever possible. Local vendors shall only be given preference in award of bids when all other factors are approximately equal, unless otherwise advertised.

Deadline

All proposals should be submitted to the following address by 5 pm, August 28, 2015. Questions may be directed to Guthrie@meridian.mi.us

Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director/PIO
Meridian Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

**COMPLAINTS/
COMPLIMENTS**

Individual Video Provider Customer Intakes

Complaint Number 2015-008

Date 2/20/2015

Name Wayne Beyea

Street Address 5273 Meridian Rd.

City / Zip Okemos 48864-

Work Phone **Ext**

Cell Phone 5172824418

Home Phone (517) 927-2267

Email beyea@msu.edu

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 He is unable to receive service from Comcast. He lives between Piper Rd. and North Meridian Road Park. Several years ago he tried to get service but hasn't been able to. He is willing to pay a monthly service fee.

8/20/15 Received another call from resident - Mr. Beyea is requesting internet services to be extended down his street. He is willing to pay from the street to his home. He expected a letter from Comcast to tell him how much the cost would be. He still wants a letter. He is requesting the township work with Comcast on getting services extended. He also stated he is in a real situation here with his daughter becoming a sophomore and two kids in college. Not having internet access is a real issue with kids in school. Mr. Beyea would like to speak with anyone at the township that could help him and will try to attend the Cable Commission meeting in September.

8/20/15 email received by Director Guthrie from resident, Mr. Beyea (cc to Ron Styka, Township Trustee and Frank Walsh, Township Manager):

Deborah,
Thank you for taking my call today regarding the lack of internet cable access to my Meridian Township home located at 5273 Meridian Road. As we discussed, COMCAST has been non-responsive to our repeated requests to provide details (i.e. written cost estimates, etc.) or a reasonable solution to get internet access to our home. I know you and I had this discussion back in the early spring, 2015 but there has been no resolution to this issue. The following is a brief synopsis of events.

- 1) We have lived at 5273 Meridian Road since 2002.
- 2) A few years later we inquired about cable internet service and were told it would take \$5,000 to provide cable because we were "more than 150" from Meridian Road.
- 3) My wife and neighbor attended a Meridian Township Cable Commission meeting to explain the situation and the Commission allowed us to talk with the adjacent Williamston Township cable internet provider. They were not willing to provide access to our home.
- 4) We have been using a Verizon Hotspot for limited internet access for years but the technology is no longer reliable or affordable for home computers and multiple related devices.
- 5) We have 4 children, two in college and two in Haslett High School. Internet access is essential while at home to complete required assignments, etc. This is more than just an inconvenience- it's now limiting access for our children to participate in essential functions and required activities.
- 6) We inquired again in early 2015 with Comcast, after contacting Meridian Township to determine if anything could be done.

Individual Video Provider Customer Intakes

7) We received a call in May from a Comcast representative who indicated that Comcast Cable Internet service could not be provided until we paid \$5000 to hook up the service because we were more than 150 feet from the road. We were told a cost estimate would follow with detail. Nothing has been received as of today (3 months later).

To reiterate my request to you today, I see several options that the Township could help facilitate:

- 1) Work with Comcast to waive the \$5000 hook-up fee to our house regarding the "150 foot" rule; or
- 2) Allow another provider to provide the cable internet service without such a hook-up fee; or
- 3) Negotiate with Comcast to allow our monthly fees to pay down the \$5000 with a buy-out clause if we were to move or switch providers; or
- 4) Meridian Township pay the infrastructure fees (beyond customary hook-up fees) to provide this essential utility service. There is a new funding program that can help off-set costs for communities to provide this service. As we discussed, the grant application deadline is September 30, 2015 (link and language below).

As you requested, I will plan to attend the Cable Commission meeting on September 2nd. Prior to the meeting I would like a written response regarding the options I suggested and any other alternatives that may exist.

Problem Before? Yes **Ongoing** **MPSC Information**

Assigned Staff Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director **Given**

Staff Response John Wagner, Comcast Representative and Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director have had several conversations/discussions about service along this stretch of Meridian Rd. John Wagner stated that Comcast would be conducting a site survey of the area to find out how much the cost would be to extend services.

8/20/15 New conversation with resident Mr. Beyea - Communications Director, Deborah Guthrie informed Mr. Beyea that having access is still really important to the commission and to the Township Trustee Ron Styka, who wants all residents to have high speed internet access and to not be left behind. She also informed Mr. Beyea that she would pass this information along to the Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works, Derek Perry and explained that they have spoken about this issue from the initial concern back in May. Director, Guthrie also left message for Comcast Rep, John Gardner. He was currently out of the office until Monday, August 24.

8/21/15 email from Director Guthrie to resident, Mr. Beyea: Thank you for speaking with us again on this. I spoke with our Assistant Township Manager/Director of Public Works and Engineering Derek Perry about this yesterday. I also followed through with our Comcast representative through voicemail and email yesterday, requesting a letter from Comcast stating what the costs would be from the street to the home and the cost to extend services down the street. Our representative is currently on vacation but I expect I will receive a response upon return to the office.

Thank you for the grant information. I will look into whether or not Meridian Township qualifies. As I stated on the phone, all residents having the ability to have suitable access is important to us as well. I will follow up with you on Comcast's response and let you know what I find out about the grant.

Resolution

Deborah Guthrie

From: Beyea, Wayne <beyea@anr.msu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, August 20, 2015 5:57 PM
To: Deborah Guthrie
Cc: Ronald Styka; Frank Walsh
Subject: Lack of Cable Internet Access to 5273 Meridian Road

Deborah,

Thank you for taking my call today regarding the lack of internet cable access to my Meridian Township home located at 5273 Meridian Road. As we discussed, **COMCAST has been non-responsive to our repeated requests to provide details (i.e. written cost estimates, etc.) or a reasonable solution to get internet access to our home.** I know you and I had this discussion back in the early spring, 2015 but there has been no resolution to this issue. The following is a brief synopsis of events.

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- 4) Meridian Township pay the infrastructure fees (beyond customary hook-up fees) to provide this essential utility service. There is a new funding program that can help off-set costs for communities to provide this service. As we discussed, the grant application deadline is September 30, 2015 (link and language below).

As you requested, I will plan to attend the Cable Commission meeting on September 2nd. Prior to the meeting I would like a written response regarding the options I suggested and any other alternatives that may exist.

Best Regards,

Wayne Beyea
(cell 517-282-4418)

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdamediafb?contentid=2015/07/0221.xml&printable=true&contentidonly=true>

USDA Announces Available Funding for Farm Bill Broadband Loan Program

WASHINGTON, July 30, 2015 – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the availability of loans to build broadband in rural areas, along with changes to the program required by the 2014 Farm Bill.

"USDA is committed to providing broadband to rural areas," Vilsack said. "Broadband is as vital as electricity was 80 years ago. Since 2009, USDA investments have delivered broadband service to 1.5 million households, businesses, schools, libraries and community facilities. But our work is not done. With program improvements and available funding made possible by the Farm Bill, we can continue our work to make broadband more accessible to those who live and work in rural areas."

In a rule published on page 45397 of the July 30 Federal Register, USDA is establishing two funding cycles to review and prioritize applications for the Rural Broadband Access Loan and Loan Guarantee program. USDA also is setting a minimum level of acceptable broadband service at 4 megabits downstream and 1 megabit upstream. USDA urges applicants to design systems that allow for 25 megabits downstream and 3 megabits upstream to meet future needs. USDA is accepting comments on these changes through September 28.

To be eligible for funding, an applicant must serve an area where at least 15 percent of the households are unserved. Applications with the most unserved households will be processed first.

The maximum loan amount under today's announcement is \$20 million. Applications will be accepted through September 30, 2015. For more information, see page 45504 of the July 30 Federal Register.

The 2014 Farm Bill builds on historic economic gains in rural America over the previous five years while achieving meaningful reform and billions of dollars in savings for taxpayers. USDA has made significant progress to implement each provision of this critical legislation, including providing disaster relief to farmers and ranchers; strengthening risk management tools; expanding access to rural credit; funding critical research; establishing innovative public-private conservation partnerships; developing new markets for rural-made products; and investing in infrastructure, housing and community facilities to help improve the quality of life in rural areas.

#

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

Individual Video Provider Customer Intakes

Complaint Number 2015-013

Date 7/13/2015

Name Vicki Marone

Street Address 5257 Meridian Rd.

City / Zip Okemos 48864-

Work Phone **Ext**

Cell Phone

Home Phone (517) 282-3557

Email

Best Time to Call

Best Time to Service

Service Provider Other

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 Vicki Marone contacted Meridian Township Communications Dept. regarding having Comcast services access for cable at her home. She would like services extended along Meridian Road so she can get high speed internet and cable. Currently she pays for Freedom Net at \$50 per month and it is slow service. She would like Comcast. She lives at 5257 Meridian Rd. next to North Meridian Road Park. She believes other home owners along the road would like Comcast services, as well. She wants to know if there is anything Comcast and Meridian Township can do.

She left a message on July 1 and Communications Director, Deborah Guthrie spoke with her on July 10.

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

Assigned Staff Communications Director, Deborah Guthrie **Given**

Staff Response Director Guthrie relayed that she would forward the message to Comcast but did not think there was anything Meridian Township could do. She also told her that she would take this request before the cable commission at their next meeting for them to discuss what to do about people in the Township who did not have reliable internet and/or cable service available.

Resolution Response from Comcast Representative, John Gardner on 7/13/15: Deborah, Is this next door to the other resident that recently received a quote?

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

**COMMUNICATIONS
DIRECTOR
REPORT**

Communications Department/HOMTV
Quarterly Report
April - June, 2015

Director's Statement:

Three major agreements were reached this year with video service providers in the township. After extensive negotiations with Comcast regarding the Transfer and the franchise agreement, Meridian and Comcast came to terms on both issues midway through the year. Although, ultimately, Comcast decided to not go through with the transfer of their company to GreatLand Connections, Meridian ended up with \$12,500 in settlement fees on the matter. Meridian also agreed to a new uniform franchise agreement with Comcast. Meridian will continue to receive 5% Franchise Fees and collect an additional 1% PEG Fee off Comcast's annual gross revenues. This new amount will result in over \$100,000 of additional revenue for the Cable TV Special Revenue Fund. Meridian led an AT&T group audit for the time period of January 2012 to December 2013, resulting in Meridian receiving a settlement agreement in the amount of \$11,369. During the second quarter, the Communications Department completed six of six cable complaints/cable Inquiries and one follow up to a previous complaint.

Township Events, Marketing and Print Material Updates:

- Celebrate Downtown Okemos Event:

The Communications Department created the event program guide, PSA's, website updates on celebratedowntownokemos.com and meridian.mi.us, social media campaign, press releases and live cut-ins throughout the event. Recently HOMTV acquired a TVU pack 8100 for testing. Once the device was connected and recognized by the HOMTV network, the TVU pack provided LIVE audio and video of the event on-air with only a small amount of latency. The TVU pack was also used for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the Okemos Pedestrian Pathway Bridge and two reports within the Meridian News Now program at 5:30 on Monday evenings. These live cut-ins have been the most advanced live shots that HOMTV has ever done in its history. We're excited to continue covering Township events and stories live from the field, as they happen.

- Pedestrian Pathway Bridge

An official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, including live coverage with the TVU pack, a formal printed invite, press releases, web and social updates, as well as a news story were all provided by the Communication Department.

- Meridian Monitor in print and online digital (flipbook) formats, a special feature under production.
- Introduction of Flipbook (online digital content)

Two versions of the Meridian Monitor; a guide to the parks and a sneak peek at summer events and a Communicators Toolkit flipbook as a blog alternative was created. These flipbooks were sent out to all employees and posted to social media. An additional flipbook is in the works to feature the new Central Fire Station, as a historical reference.

- The Senior Center Newsletter was created and published twice.
- The Communications Department informed the public regarding the deer that tested positive for Chronic Wasting Disease. Information was provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Meridian Township Police Department to post on the Meridian Township website and social media accounts explaining efforts being taken to test local deer and prevent the spread of the disease.
- The HOMTV Program guide was updated and reprinted.
- The Skyline Hills Neighborhood Association requested 35 copies of the Parks and Recreation Family Fun Guide, the fall/winter edition of the Meridian Monitor, the summer edition of the Meridian Monitor, the Meridian Asset brochure and the HOMTV Program Guide.
- The Communications Department oversees monthly blogs from the Township Manager and the HOMTV Interns, as well as quarterly or major event blogs from the Communications Director.
- Photos were added to the Meridian Township Flickr account for ribbon cuttings, grand openings, ceremonies, promotions, events and ground breakings.
- Four (4) new Social Media Campaigns beginning in July – 'Sisterhood of the Traveling HOMTV Mug', #HOMtostay and National Parks and Recreation Month in Meridian #JulyPRM30, #GolfFest

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and #Marketwednesday. For #HOMtostay, take a picture of your HOMTV mug while you are out and about, traveling or visiting a historical site and tag the photo with #HOMtostay. For Parks and recreation, take a picture of you visiting the parks and tag the photo with #JulyPRM30.

- Analytics for Flickr, along with most photo storage websites is not available. However, during the period of April – June, there have been **11 new albums uploaded to the Meridian Township Flickr account, with a total of 343 photos.**

Website Updates:

- Meridian Township:
Brandie Yates, Communications Specialist and Andrea Smiley, Communications Administrative Assistant worked with the Treasurer's Office on creating and posting new fillable tax forms on the Township website. Yates also assisted the Clerk's Office on creating a section and posting the updated documents and forms for the new FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) requirements on the Township website. Yates continues to work with the Engineering Department, the Parks & Recreation Department and the Communication Department on updating and adding all 2015 Township Projects to the 'Township Projects' section on the Township website, including the Township Website Redesign, the Comcast Franchise Review and Transfer, Parks Projects, a search process for Legal Services, the Central Fire Station Replacement (updates on progress of construction), the Pathway Project (updates on the new Pedestrian Pathway Bridge) and the Stormwater Management project. She also provided training to the Treasurer's Office on how to utilize this aspect of the website.

Andrea Smiley, Communications Administrative Assistant worked with the Clerk's Office and the Township Manager's Office on creating searchable documents for the Township meeting packets. Also, two (2) computers received updated PDF software in order to create those searchable documents. Additional software updates are coming soon. Coty Kenneth, Communications Assistant, posted daily updates to the Celebrate Downtown Okemos website and shared on the Township website, as well as on Social Media.

- New Meridian Township Website:
Deborah Guthrie, Communications Director, Yates and Smiley, along with the assistance of the IT Director, Stephen Gebes, created a RFP for a New Website Design and notified the public, as well as sent out to 24 companies; 9 of which are from the Lansing area. The New Website Design Committee reviewed the RFPS and narrowed down the 8 proposals submitted to the top four (4) companies; two of which are from Michigan. Interviews with those companies have been scheduled for late July.

Equipment Updates:

HOMTV's VSAN (Video Storage Area Network) stopped functioning on all Mac Pro computers on 4/22/15. FibreJet, the software program that allows access and use of our VSAN, was not accessible because it could not find a database partition to load our network's appropriate settings. FibreJet was restored on 5/15/15. Darkus Beasley, Sr. Studio Producer and Lynn Meikle, Freelancer have scheduled a meeting to discuss how the VSAN was restored, as well as continued maintenance of the hardware and software.

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Social Media Performance Summary:

Meridian Township				
	Fans/Followers June		Total Reach/Views	# of Posts
	April start	end		
Facebook	1,532	1,740	84,266	188
Twitter	1,161	1,273		no stats
Pinterest	57	125		no stats
LinkedIn	159	173		no stats
Youtube	25	26		4
Flickr	11 new albums and 343 photos added			
April Manager's Blog: Groundbreaking			175	4.2.15
May Manager's Blog: Reinvesting in Meridian			496	5.12.15
June Manager's Blog: Building Foundation			117	6.26.15

HOMTV				
	Fans/Followers June		Total Reach/Views	# of Posts
	April start	end		
Facebook	903	1,003	15,626	308
Twitter	1,034	1,109		no stats
LinkedIn	591	660		no stats
Instagram	100	117		no stats
Youtube	23	26		1
HOMTV Intern Blogs			1,276	50
HOMTV Live Stream Views		1,041		
HOMTV On Demand Views		1,474	2,515	

Meridian Township Fire Dept.				
	Fans/Followers June		Total Reach/Views	# of Posts
	April start	end		
Facebook	513	566	14,738	67
Twitter	266	292		no stats

Meridian Township Parks				
	Fans/Followers June		Total Reach/Views	# of Posts
	April start	end		
Facebook	462	533	8,434	152
Twitter	422	459		no stats

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Downtown Okemos				
	Fans/Followers		Total	# of Posts
	April start	June end	Reach/Views	
Facebook	466	503	9,962	106
Celebrate Downtown Okemos site			4,482	6.8 - 6.13

Meridian Senior Center				
	Fans/Followers		Total	# of Posts
	April start	June end	Reach/Views	
Facebook	468	483	1,153	180

Green Meridian				
	Fans/Followers		Total	# of Posts
	April start	June end	Reach/Views	
Facebook	233	268	1,311	70
Twitter	205	241		no stats

CAMTV				
	Fans/Followers		Total	# of Posts
	April start	June end	Reach/Views	
Facebook	211	213	159	8
Twitter	210	211		no stats

Social Media Top Posts:

Meridian Township- May 26th

[Michigan DNR](#) and MDARD have confirmed that a free-ranging deer in [#MeridianTownship](#) has tested positive for chronic wasting disease, a fatal neurological disease that affects white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk and moose. For more information on this announcement, please visit the attached link.

17,464 People Reached; 451 Likes, Comments & Shares; 491 Post Clicks

Meridian Township Parks & Recreation- June 16th

The sand volleyball courts at North Meridian Road Park are open and ready for you to serve, spike and dig a great summer of play! Leagues start playing tonight, the weather is beautiful out and the sands are groomed!

1,365 People Reached; 38 Likes, Comments & Shares; 145 Post Clicks

Meridian Senior Center- April 23rd

Feel-Good [#QuoteOfTheDay](#) "Take Time To Do What Makes Your Soul Happy."

232 People Reached; 14 Likes, Comments & Shares; 9 Post Clicks

HOMTV- June 3rd

Meet one of the newest additions to the HOMTV team, Rookie Reporter, Jazmin Biernat! Jazmin is currently an undergraduate at [Central Michigan University](#), majoring in Broadcasting and Political Science. Jazmin is just beginning an internship at HOMTV, but has been involved in CMU's news program, News Central 34, as a reporter, anchor and producer. Jazmin is also employed at

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WCMU Public Radio as a general reporter. She has been interested in news ever since she was a little girl all thanks to her father. When not being a news junkie and tied to her cell phone, she's probably playing with her cute puppy named Toby. Her ultimate goal in life is to become an in field correspondent for a political news station.

1,655 People Reached; 118 Likes, Comments & Shares; 223 Post Clicks

Meridian Fire Department- May 15th

Join us, Monday May 18 from 4pm to 10pm at [Culver's](#) or Culver's off the highway in [#Okemos](#) to help raise money for a [#Haslett](#) man in need. A fire truck and ambulance will be there from 5:30 to 7:30 for the kids. [HOMTV](#) did a nice story on our cause and how we could really use your help. Thank you! <http://bit.ly/11FV7Tr>

4,188 People Reached; 254 Likes, Comments & Shares, 738 Post Clicks

Celebrate Downtown Okemos- June 7th

JAM THE VAN

Help us "Jam the Van" at the Celebrate Downtown Okemos block party this Saturday, June 13 at the northeast corner of Hamilton and Okemos Roads. Okemos Community Church and Two Men and a Truck have teamed up to fill the Okemos Emergency Food Pantry.

4,550 People Reached; 87 Likes, Comments & Shares; 64 Post Clicks

Green Meridian- June 12th

The University of Michigan's Energy Institute and its Institute for Social Research discovered via surveying that 60 percent of consumers are concerned about the impact of energy on the environment. That's higher than the 54 percent that express concern about affordability. Is it time for Michigan to get serious about renewable energy? Read the article from MLive attached for more insight!

135 People Reached; 2 Likes, Comments & Shares; 2 Post Clicks

Downtown Okemos- May 22nd

In honor of Memorial Day, the "Flags over Meridian" are officially up in Downtown Okemos.

[The Kiwanis Club Of Haslett](#) will put a Flag in front of your home, business or other location, on each of these important days: Memorial Day, Flag Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, 9/11 & Veterans Day. The cost of this flag service is \$36.00 a year, 100% of the proceeds go towards supporting the children & families in our community.

1,913 People Reached; 63 Likes, Comments & Shares; 87 Post Clicks

CAMTV Capital Area Media- June 2nd

Soldiers test out a new Light Tactical All-Terrain Vehicle. Catch the new episode of In the Fight every day at 3:30pm on CAMTV.

30 People Reached

Press Releases:

The Communications Department created and distributed **40 press releases, with half of which were picked up by news outlets.**

April

- Stewardship Awards Winners (4/6/15)
- Chili Cook-Off for Charity (4/6/15)
- Earth Week Cleanup (4/6/15)
- Strike Out for A Cause (4/6/15)
- Meridian Recycling Event (4/6/15)
- Meridian Recycling Event Flyer (4/6/15)

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- Strike Out for A Cause (4/13/15)
- Adult Softball Registration Open in Meridian Township (4/13/15)
- Adult Softball Registration Open in Meridian Township (4/14/15)
- Harris Nature Receives Grant (4/14/15)
- Meridian Recycling Event (4/20/15)
- Call for Vendors Celebrate DT Okemos (4/20/15)
- Spring Farmers' Market (4/20/15)
- Earth Week Cleanup (4/20/15)
- Okemos Road Pedestrian Bridge Nearing Completion (4/27/15)
- Adult Sand Volleyball (4/27/15)
- MSUFCU & Meridian Township Join Hands to Plant Trees (4/27/15)

May

- 2015 Smart Commute Challenge (5/4/15)
- Recycling Event Results (5/4/15)
- BBQ Pit Permit (5/4/15)
- Celebrate Downtown Okemos 5K Registration (5/4/15)
- Celebrate Downtown Okemos Event (5/12/15)
- 21st Memorial Day Service (5/11/15)
- Celebrate Downtown Okemos 5K Registration (5/11/15)
- Park Commission Hosts Appreciation Night (5/12/15)
- Road Closure May 29-31 for Installation of Okemos Pedestrian Bridge (5/18/15)
- Celebrate Downtown Okemos Event (5/18/15)
- 21st Memorial Day Service (5/18/15)
- Meridian Fire Department Recognized as Department of the Year (5/21/15)

June

- Wednesday Market Lunch Parties (6/2/15)
- Vegetation Ordinance Amendment (6/2/15)
- Vendor Ordinance Amendment (6/1/15)
- Ribbon Cutting Event for New Pedestrian Bridge (6/8/15)
- Robbery in Okemos (6/12/15)
- Local Business Helps Raise Funds for Fireworks Celebration (6/15/15)
- Music in the Village (6/15/15)
- Meridian Township Celebrates July 4th (6/15/15)
- Capital Improvement Projects (6/29/15)
- Meridian Township Celebrates July 4th (6/29/15)
- GolfFest (6/29/15)

HOMTV Stories:

1. Change Coming to Clean Commute; Bus Rapid Transit Update 6/30/2015
2. SAW Grant Brings Improvements to Meridian Township Sewer Systems 6/30/2015
3. Capital Improvement Projects-What's To Come? 6/29/2015
4. Lake Lansing Road Construction Progress 6/29/2015
5. 2nd Annual Landing Blitz Raises Invasive Species Awareness 6/29/2015
6. New Fire Station Goes Vertical 6/29/2015
7. Traffic Delays on Okemos Road 6/29/2015
8. Doggy Daycare and Spa Now Open in Okemos 6/29/2015

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9. Culver's Supports Meridian Township Fireworks Celebration 6/26/2015
10. Possible Long-Term Health Defects Due to Kids Using Technology 6/25/2015
11. 145 Deer Have Been Tested Negative for Chronic Wasting Disease 6/25/2015
12. Lansing United Ranked First in the League 6/24/2015
13. Governor Snyder's 2016 Budget Increases Road Funding 6/24/2015
14. Changes to FOIA Guidelines and Procedures 6/24/2015
15. Garlic Mustard Challenge 6/24/2015
16. Township Board Wants Taller Buildings for Redevelopment Project 6/23/2015
17. Meridian to Receive Road and Sidewalk Improvements 6/22/2015
18. Find Out How to Invest in Your Child's Future Early On 6/19/2015
19. New Bill to Increase Living Conditions in Mobile Home Parks 6/19/2015
20. Lansing Derby Vixens VS. Sarnia Chin Straps 6/19/2015
21. Okemos High School Hoop Camps in Full Swing 6/19/2015
22. Lugnuts Win 5-3 Over Bowling Green with Mother Nature's Help 6/19/2015
23. Greater Lansing Women's Center Celebrate Their 10th Anniversary 6/19/2015
24. Quadricycles Receive New Regulations In Michigan 6/19/2015
25. Great Turnout at Music in the Village Despite Rainy Conditions 6/18/2015
26. The Finishing Touches on Courtesy Ford's New Showroom 6/18/2015
27. Mr. Soccer, DeJuan Jones, and Okemos' Erin Doster headline the Mid-Michigan Seniors All Star Games with MVP wins 6/18/2015
28. Ingham County Services Commission Recommends Consultant for Trails Millage 6/18/2015
29. Township Board Will Let Legal Process Handle Foreclosed Properties 6/17/2015
30. Bringing Out the Best In Meridian Township 6/17/2015
31. The Ribbon Has Been Cut and the New Pedestrian Pathway Bridge is Now Open 6/17/2015
32. Local Businesses Give Back to the Community in the Form of Haircuts 6/17/2015
33. Governor Snyder Signs Religious Freedom Adoption Bill into Law 6/16/2015
34. Changes Are Coming to the Park Lake Roundabout 6/16/2015
35. Fishing Away 6/15/2015
36. Harris Nature Center Offers Summer Camps to Help Kids Better Connect with the Outdoors 6/15/2015
37. The Time to Bid for Foreclosed Properties Is Now 6/15/2015
38. Finding the Perfect Bike for You 6/15/2015
39. Meridian Township Takes On Smart Commute Challenge 6/15/2015
40. Rotary Club Heroes vs. Heroines Fundraiser 6/15/2015
41. Join HOMTV LIVE at the Celebrate Downtown Okemos Event on Saturday 6/12/2015
42. Blood Drives Help Save Lives 6/12/2015
43. Local Schools Receive More Money And School of Choice Applications Roll In 6/12/2015
44. Taking a Stroll Through Central Meridian Uplands Preserve 6/11/2015
45. Okemos High School Ranked One Of The Best In The State 6/11/2015
46. Safety improvements on Kinawa Drive Will Cost an Estimated \$50,000 6/11/2015
47. Should Some Programs Not Be Available to Homeless Veterans? 6/11/2015
48. Potential Partnership with Local Business Could Get Okemos High School's Tennis Courts Back in Shape 6/11/2015
49. Deer Culling Program Taking Place to Help Reduce Spread of Chronic Wasting Disease 6/11/2015
50. Police Attend Homicide Training in Lansing 6/11/2015
51. Lake Lansing Road Closed for Construction 6/11/2015
52. The Park Commission Seeks Your Input for the Future of Central Park 6/10/2015
53. Erickson Learning Center Was Demolished to Make Room for New Townhomes 6/10/2015
54. Planning Commission Denies Request for "The Avenue" Project 6/10/2015

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55. Deer Culling Program Taking Place in Meridian Township to Combat CWD 6/10/2015
56. New Pedestrian Bridge Opening Soon 6/10/2015
57. Lansing Catholic QB Commits to Minnesota 6/10/2015
58. Lansing United Remains Undefeated at Home in NPSL League Play 6/10/2015
59. Star Wars Day at Cooley Law School Stadium 6/10/2015
60. Rain Delays for New Fire Station 6/10/2015
61. Meridian Police Provides Safety Checks for Child Car Seats 6/10/2015
62. Lugnuts Crush Chiefs as D. J. Davis Ties Franchise RBI Record 6/10/2015
63. Tower Gardens Lift Station Receives Updates 6/10/2015
64. Gordmans, Doggy Daycare Set to Open in Late June; Aldi & Whole Foods Making Progress
6/8/2015
65. Restaurant and Apartment Complex Could Occupy Site of Former Central Fire Station 6/8/2015
66. Tech Minute: Genius iPhone Repair 6/5/2015
67. Sparrow That Calls Davis-Foster Land Preserve Home Is Endangered 6/4/2015
68. Revenue Sharing Bill Passes Through House and Moves on to Governor Snyder's Desk 6/4/2015
69. People Continue to Make Meridian Township Their Community of Choice 6/4/2015
70. Okemos Girls Lacrosse Falls Facing Three-Time Defending Champs, East Grand Rapids, in State
Semis 6/4/2015
71. Okemos Boys Lacrosse Off to State Championship 6/4/2015
72. Forsberg Family Will Be Constructing A New Hot Spot For The Community 6/4/2015
73. Body Cameras May Be in Store for Meridian Township Police 6/4/2015
74. The Rezoning of Ember Oaks Subdivision Sparks Controversy at Planning Commission Meeting
6/3/2015
75. DNR Confirms Case of Chronic Wasting Disease found in Meridian Township Deer 6/2/2015
76. Okemos Lacrosse Handles Haslett, 19-5, for First Ever Regional Title 6/2/2015
77. Lansing United Takes Down Detroit FC 3-1 6/2/2015
78. Rezoning Requests for Eyde Properties Approved at Township Board Meeting 6/2/2015
79. Dewitt Soccer Dominates St. Johns 4-0, Clinches CAAC Division 6/2/2015
80. Resident Grass Height Limit in Meridian Changed From 12 to 8 Inches 6/2/2015
81. Okemos Annihilates Everett, 16-0, in District Semis 6/1/2015
82. New Pedestrian Bridge Installed on Okemos Road 6/1/2015
83. The Community Honors Killed and Injured Bicyclists 6/1/2015
84. A Day to Remember 6/1/2015
85. Township Board Adopts Changes to Vendor Ordinance 6/1/2015
86. Michigan Supreme Court Denies Autumn Park Condominium Appeal Against Meridian Township
Fire Station 5/29/2015
87. Detours in Store for Traffic on Okemos Road as New Pedestrian Bridge is Put in Place 5/29/2015
88. I Do Solemnly Swear... 5/29/2015
89. Dewitt Shuts Down Haslett in Regional Championship 5/29/2015
90. Meridian Firefighters Prepare To Build Resident New Garage 5/28/2015
91. Sleepwalker is the Brand You May Have Been Sleeping On; LEAP Hosts Tour Event of Local
Entrepreneurs 5/27/2015
92. 3rd Graders Help Create A Monarch Butterfly Habitat in Hartrick Park 5/27/2015
93. Okemos Lacrosse Finishes Season; Highlighted by Senior Blake Grewal- Turner 5/27/2015
94. Get Active!: Senior Events and Activities 5/27/2015
95. Get Active!: Meridian Parks 5/27/2015
96. Get Active!: Township Events and Activities 5/27/2015
97. The Haslett Kiwanis Club Sets Flags Waving over Meridian Township 5/27/2015
98. Self Defense Tactics & Safety 5/27/2015
99. Okemos Girls Sweep East Lansing, Cruise into Districts 5/27/2015

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100. One Step at a Time — A Walk to End Alzheimer's. 5/24/2015
101. Michigan State Police Enhance Seatbelt Checks for Holiday Travel 5/22/2015
102. Planning Commission Invites Locals to Share Ideas For Community 5/22/2015
103. Meridian Township's Fire Department EMS Unit Named Department of the Year 5/21/2015
104. Event in Detroit Honors, Remembers the Missing in Michigan 5/21/2015
105. Lansing United Drops Game Two to Louisville City 5/21/2015
106. Curt Squires named Meridian Township Police Officer of the Year 5/21/2015
107. Okemos Girls Water Polo Celebrates Senior Night and Splash Show Dominance, 20-5, Over Mason 5/21/2015
108. Meridian Township Fire Department Promotes Three Employees 5/21/2015
109. MSUFCU Gives Green to Go Green 5/20/2015
110. Township Board Approves Changes to Lake Lansing Road 5/20/2015
111. Okemos Family Keeps Son's Memory Alive with Scholarships 5/19/2015
112. 14 Local Roads Shall be Repaved 5/19/2015
113. Historic Meridian Endowment Fund 5/19/2015
114. Sex Offender Registry Haunting or Helping? 5/19/2015
115. Health Plan Expansion Covers Dental 5/19/2015
116. Ready to Walk Again 5/19/2015
117. Warming Temps Serve as Reminder of Dangers of Hot Cars 5/18/2015
118. Meridian Firefighters Go Beyond Search and Rescue 5/15/2015
119. Staying Safe in the Water During the Summer Months 5/15/2015
120. Proposed Project in Meridian could bring a community mixture of business entrepreneurs and residents to the area 5/15/2015
121. Two Okemos Tennis Players Sign Letters of Intent 5/14/2015
122. Ingham County Animal Control, Michigan Humane Society Team Up for Animal Cruelty Task Force 5/13/2015
123. MARC Property Receives Bids 5/12/2015
124. Township Board Approved to Improve Kinawa Drive Safety 5/11/2015
125. Finding the Perfect Bike 5/11/2015
126. Michigan Voters Didn't Like Proposal 1, What's Next For Road Funding? 5/11/2015
127. People from All Michigan Counties Rally to Support Mental Health Care 5/8/2015
128. Spring Farmers Market Opens on May 2nd 5/8/2015
129. Bring Spring Home by Planting Native Plants 5/8/2015
130. Smith Drain Needs a \$35,000 Study 5/8/2015
131. Newly Introduced Amendment Limits Grass Height to 6 inches 5/8/2015
132. Okemos 5th Grade Girls Basketball Talks About Undeclared Season, Life Off the Court 5/8/2015
133. Preparation and Proactivity Essential for Severe Weather Awareness 5/8/2015
134. Michigan State Students Present Ideas for Development of Haslett Village Square 5/8/2015
135. Haslett Baseball Drops Two in Doubleheader 5/8/2015
136. Okemos Golfer, Lacrosse Player Sign Letters of Intent 5/8/2015
137. Okemos Athletic Hall of Fame Links Past to Present 5/8/2015
138. Alzheimer's Association Advocate Support for Alzheimer's Disease 5/8/2015
139. Pass It Forward Passes Along Kindness 5/8/2015
140. LEAP Strives To Inspire Creativity With Public Art Grants 5/8/2015
141. Meridian Recycling Center Helps Residents Spring Clean 5/8/2015
142. Police Cars Provide Safety For Police Dogs In Meridian Township 5/8/2015
143. Religious Freedom Reformation Act had a hearing on Tuesday 5/8/2015
144. Sell Your Crafts at the Meridian Arts and Crafts Marketplace! 5/8/2015
145. It is Important to Keep BBQ Pit Rules and Ordinances In Mind This Summer 5/8/2015

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146. Music Fills the Air at the Historical Village This Summer 5/8/2015
147. MSU Football Returns for Spring Game, White Wins 9-3 5/8/2015
148. Planning Commission Allows for Kroger Gas Station 5/8/2015
149. Haslett Girls Soccer Tie Rival Mason, 2-2 5/8/2015
150. First Comic Convention Comes to Capital City 5/8/2015
151. Lansing Derby Vixens 5/8/2015
152. Making Lunch And Snack Time Quick And Easy For Students, Faculty and the Community 5/8/2015
153. What to Work on When Working Out 5/8/2015
154. Art for Charlie 5/8/2015
155. Magic Johnson Raises One Million Dollars for Lansing Promise 5/8/2015
156. Firefighters Gather for Hands On Hazmat Training 5/8/2015
157. Meridian Township Welcomes New Police Officer, Promotes Another 5/8/2015
158. Are Gun Free Zones Really Gun Free? 5/8/2015
159. New Legislature is Being Proposed to Fix "Loophole" in Gun Law 5/8/2015
160. CATA Promotes Clean Commute Day 5/8/2015
161. A New Standardized Test, but Some Choose to Opt Out 5/8/2015
162. Local Residents Gathered at the State Capitol to Celebrate Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Day 5/8/2015
163. Teachers Use Common Core to Help Transition Grade Levels and Implement Knowledge 5/8/2015
164. Okemos High Student Gets National Recognition for Alzheimer's Research 5/8/2015
165. Ducky and The Rock: This Week's Pets of the Week! 5/8/2015
166. Stealth Drop First Pre-Season Game 5/8/2015
167. Okemos Lacrosse Dominates East Lansing 5/8/2015
168. Okemos Legend and University of Minnesota Star Amelia Marsh Rejoins High School as Trainer 5/8/2015
169. Chippewas Chip Away, 7-0, Deficit, Walk-Off, 8-7, Over MSU 5/8/2015
170. Grand Ledge's Tyler Waldrop Serves the Complete Game Shutout, 7-0, Over Okemos 5/8/2015
171. Okemos Star Athlete, Conner George, Heading to Michigan State to play for Tom Izzo 5/8/2015
172. What is Proposal 1? 5/5/2015
173. Aldi Project is Underway in Meridian 5/4/2015
174. Spring Dance Performance by Children's Ballet Theatre This Weekend 5/1/2015
175. Road and Sidewalk Upgrades in Store for Meridian Township 5/1/2015
176. Michigan Could Be The Next State To Ban Powered Alcohol 4/30/2015
177. Meridian Township Hoping To See A Push For More Building Permits 4/30/2015
178. Preliminary Exam Set for April 23rd for Man Charged With Sexual Assault 4/29/2015
179. Increasing "Adopt A Park" Opportunities Was Main Topic In Front of Park Commission 4/29/2015
180. Permits Regarding Gilden Woods Daycare Tabled at Planning Commission Meeting 4/28/2015
181. Behind-the-Scenes Look at Ellison Brewery and Spirits; Coming Soon to Meridian 4/27/2015
182. Lugnuts Win Season Opener 4/24/2015
183. Jen Swanchara All-Access Feature 4/24/2015
184. Sparty Wins Day 1 at Comerica Park 4/24/2015
185. Changes to FOIA Coming This Summer 4/24/2015
186. MSU Kicks Out Relationship Violence One Stride at a Time 4/24/2015
187. From Expensive Hobby to Food Allergy Haven 4/24/2015
188. Independence Through Accessibility 4/24/2015

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189. "We can all do something, we just do it a little differently" 4/24/2015
190. Drive High, Get a DUI 4/24/2015
191. Delta Dental Parking Lot has Controlled Burn 4/24/2015
192. Ingham County Sheriff's Office Hosts Media Shoot-Out 4/24/2015
193. Police Prepare for Prom Season 4/24/2015
194. Being Prepared for Flood Season 4/24/2015
195. Supporting Michigan's Proposal 1 4/24/2015
196. 'Dobie Road' Care Facility Moves Forward with \$20 Million Renovation and Expansion 4/24/2015
197. Task Force Aims for Tobacco-Free MSU Campus 4/24/2015
198. Watch Township Meetings on HOMTV 4/24/2015
199. Okemos' Record Season Comes to Disappointing End 4/24/2015
200. Safe Digging Month Encourages Homeowners to Call 8-1-1 Before They Dig 4/24/2015
201. Opening Day Walk-Off Gives Haslett, 4-3, Victory Over East Lansing 4/23/2015
202. Township Looks to Amend Vendor Ordinance 4/23/2015
203. Eyde Rezoning Discussed at Township Board Meeting 4/23/2015
204. Okemos Road Pedestrian Bridge to Open in May 4/23/2015
205. Okemos Road Streetlights Are Working Again; But is This Fix Permanent? 4/23/2015
206. Celebrate Earth Week and Help Make the Parks Shine 4/23/2015
207. The Meridian Fishing Derby is Quite The Catch! 4/22/2015
208. Connect Your Children to Nature this Summer with The Harris Nature Center! 4/22/2015
209. Kinawa Drive Could Be Made Safer for Pedestrians By Adding Flashing Lights 4/22/2015
210. Some Sidewalks are Getting Repaired around Meridian Township This Year 4/21/2015
211. Committee Takes Efforts for Marijuana Reform in 2016 4/20/2015
212. Okemos and Haslett Split Saturday Doubleheader 4/20/2015
213. Spring Springs Up Pollen Allergies 4/20/2015
214. Why Some Oppose Proposal 1 4/20/2015
215. MSU Science Festival Receives Hundreds of Visitors 4/20/2015
216. Spartans Serve Around the World 4/20/2015
217. Haslett Has Taste and Talent 4/20/2015
218. Mobile Dental Center Set To Hit The Streets 4/20/2015
219. Tutoring and After-School Centers Aid in Implementing the Common Core Standards 4/20/2015
220. "Strike out for a Cause" Fundraiser Assists Those in Need 4/20/2015
221. Ingham Park Task Force Looks for Consultant 4/20/2015
222. Solar Parks are a Possibility for Meridian Township 4/20/2015
223. Progress is Being Made on New Central Fire Station Construction 4/20/2015
224. Lake Lansing Road Construction Aims to Improve Community Transportation 4/17/2015
225. A Look Into Michigan's Conceal Carry Permit and Current Procedures 4/17/2015
226. 2014 Most Harvested Year for Township Managed Deer Hunt Program 4/17/2015
227. 400 People Received Free Health Checks at CATA's Health Fair 4/17/2015
228. Chiefs Kaleigh King Leads by Example 4/17/2015
229. Vikings Hurler Erin Panter a Humble Leader on the Field 4/17/2015
230. MSU Safe Place Gets Ready For Annual Race For The Place 5K 4/17/2015
231. Meridian Township Welcomes New Police Officers 4/17/2015
232. MSUFCU Requests Variances for Two Branches in Meridian 4/17/2015
233. Township Vendor Ordinance May Face Small Changes 4/17/2015
234. Meridian Township Parks & Recreation Department Looks to Expand Local Park 4/17/2015
235. Explore the Wonders of the Universe at Michigan State University's Science Festival 4/17/2015

Communications Department/HOMTV
Quarterly Report
April - June, 2015

236. Three Requests Regarding the Smith Drain Were Brought Before the Township Board 4/17/2015
237. Property For Sale Offers Potential for Downtown Development 4/16/2015
238. Changes to Come for Okemos Pointe Project 4/16/2015
239. Public Hearing Held Before Planning Commission on New Gas Station at Kroger 4/16/2015
240. Kroger Requests to Build a Gas Station in Meridian 4/16/2015
241. Severe Weather Awareness Week Geared at Educating Citizens 4/16/2015
242. Women Rally At The Capitol For Equal Pay Day 4/14/2015
243. Free Five-day Science Festival Takes Place This Week 4/14/2015
244. Severe Weather Awareness Week Begins 4/13/2015
245. Harris Nature Center Receives Grant from Flagstar Bank 4/9/2015
246. Potholes Causing Problems For Drivers 4/9/2015
247. Run a 5K for MSU'S Race For The Place to Help Victims of Relationship Violence 4/8/2015
248. Screening of "The Hunting Ground" for Sexual Assault Awareness 4/8/2015
249. Okemos Sends Four Football Players to the Next Level 4/7/2015
250. Everett Semifinal 4/7/2015
251. Spring Cleaning with Green, Healthy Cleaning Products 4/7/2015
252. LCC Holds Voter Registration Drive 4/7/2015
253. Two Dead Dogs Found in Dansville 4/7/2015
254. MSU Professor Comes Up With 'The Navigator' To Help Teachers With Common Core Tools 4/7/2015
255. Police Department to Facilitate Safe Craigslist Transactions 4/7/2015
256. How Can You Stay Connected with Meridian Township? 4/7/2015
257. Michigan State Fan Reaction: Sweet 16 Edition 4/7/2015
258. April 6th is the Last Day to Register for May Elections 4/7/2015
259. Meridian Township Family Struggles Due To Lack of High-Speed Internet 4/7/2015
260. Development Projects Around Township May Impact Traffic 4/7/2015
261. Okemos Boys Lacrosse Crushes Haslett 17-0 4/6/2015
262. Camp Kesem Will Send More Children to Free Camps This Summer 4/6/2015
263. Haslett and Okemos Public Schools Receive Grant To Improve School Safety 4/6/2015
264. Meridian Township Held Latex Paint Recycling Day 4/6/2015
265. Destroying Traffic Signs May Result in \$10,000 Fine Under Newly Introduced Bill 4/6/2015
266. MSU Sexual Assault Program Celebrates 35th Anniversary 4/6/2015
267. Okemos Softball Ready for 2015 4/6/2015
268. Police Awards Honor Exceptional Service 4/6/2015
269. Haslett Softball Opens Season with Doubleheader Loss to East Lansing 4/6/2015
270. Police Awards Recognize Citizens as Heroes 4/6/2015
271. Development Projects Making Progress 4/6/2015
272. Township Residents Recognized For Their Dedication 4/6/2015
273. 70th Basic Fire Investigation School Trains New Arson Detectives 4/6/2015
274. Meridian Spring Farmers' Market Coming in May 4/6/2015
275. Keep Trails in Meridian Township Healthy This Spring! 4/6/2015
276. Stay Informed about Flooded Roads this Spring 4/6/2015
277. Taxis vs. Uber, which will you choose? 4/6/2015
278. Youth Citizens' Academy Prepares Meridian Township's Future Law Enforcement Workers 4/6/2015
279. Ingham County Sheriff Honored For Human Trafficking Prevention Efforts 4/6/2015
280. Vendors and Volunteers Needed for Celebrate Downtown Okemos 4/6/2015
281. Strike Out for a Cause with the CRC 4/6/2015
282. M-STEP Ends the MEAP's 40-plus Year Reign this Spring 4/6/2015

Communications Department/HOMTV
Quarterly Report
April - June, 2015

- 283. A New Bill May Create More Opportunities for the State and Local Township's to be Reimbursed for Felonies 4/6/2015
- 284. Keeping Your Home Safe While Away 4/3/2015
- 285. New Legislation Could Require Schools to Post Vaccination Rates 4/2/2015
- 286. Environmental Commission Reviews Wetland Use Permit for New Daycare 4/2/2015
- 287. Calumet Upsets Previously Undefeated Laingsburg, 30-26, in State Semis 4/1/2015
- 288. AP's No. 9 Lansing Everett Stuns, Destroys No. 2 Muskegon, 75-52 4/1/2015
- 289. Haslett Handles High-Flying Benton Harbor, 63-52, Makes First Ever Trip to State Finals 4/1/2015
- 290. Controlled Burn Restores Natural Habitat 4/1/2015

Programming on HOMTV:

Along with the new Social Media feature added to the HOMTV programming (introduced in March, 2015), two additional features have been added to the lineup, Social Hour and Pet of the Week; allowing viewers the ability to engage through social interaction on television.

- HOMTV is partnering with the Capital Area Humane Society and Ingham County Shelter on the Pet of the Week feature to help find forever homes for the animals.

HOMTV has partnered with the Meridian Senior Center to host the monthly "Senior Living" program on-site at the Senior Center with four lively seniors as the producers and hosts of the show. The 1st episode with this new format will begin on Monday, July 13, 2015.

April

- 8 Official Township Meetings Televised live – Township Board, Planning Commission, Environmental Commission, ZBA and Park Commission
- 29 New Programs Produced – All Access, Beyond the Badge, Meridian News Now and Meridian News Now Update; Meridian News Now, All Access and Beyond the Badge Promos and a Topical Promo.

May

- 9 Official Township Meetings Televised live – Township Board, Planning Commission, Environmental Commission, ZBA and Park Commission
- 16 New Programs Produced – All Access, Beyond the Badge, Meridian News Now, Meridian News Now Update; Meridian News Now, All Access and Beyond the Badge Promos, Topical Promos and 2 Special Features.

June

- 7 Official Township Meetings Televised live – Township Board, Planning Commission, ZBA and Park Commission
- 32 New Programs Produced – All Access, Community Connection, Meridian News Now, Meridian News Now Update; Meridian News Now, All Access and Community Connection Promos, Topical Promos and 2 Special Features.

Programming on CAMTV:

April

- 18 New Programs – Battle of Ideas, Democracy Now, Inspirational Corner, Poetree-n-Motion, Novella and In the Fight.

May

- 17 New Programs – Battle of Ideas, Democracy Now, Inspirational Corner, Novella, MHD, UM Wolverine Caucus and a Syndicated Special Feature.

Communications Department/HOMTV
Quarterly Report
April - June, 2015

June

- 28 New Programs – Battle of Ideas, Democracy Now, Event Coverage, Inspirational Corner, Poetree-n-Motion, In the Fight, Novella, live Cut-Ins and Promos/PSAs.

HOMTV Internship Program:

- HOMTV Interns contributed approximately **2971 hours** during the months of April, May and June. April hours, **totaling 1261**, were dedicated to the Spring Semester, while May and June hours are dedicated to the Summer Semester.
- **15 applications** were submitted for the HOMTV Internship Program between April-June.
- Staff conducted **33 intern interviews** during the month of April for the 2015 summer semester.
- The 2015 Summer Internship program kicked off on May 18 with 12 new Rookie interns and 11 returning interns.
- Staff conducted **19 intern performance evaluations** during the month of May.
- Staff conducted **14 Intern training workshops** during the months of May and June. Staff also conducted **88 intern training exams** during that time.
- HOMTV Internship recruitment efforts continued during the month of June to prepare for the 2015 fall semester:
 - Staff posted the internship job opportunity to new college and university job boards, created a digital flipbook recruitment brochure, as well as a new print brochure and flyer to promote the program.
 - Staff sent emails to professors and advisors at MSU, LCC, CMU and various other colleges to encourage student applications.
 - The internship program is also promoted via social media using photos of the interns at work and through the use of video testimonials, as well. Two new video testimonials were recorded.
- Media sponsorship agreements were created for the following upcoming events:
 - Michigan Parkinson Foundation 'I Gave My Sole for Parkinson's Walk-a-thon & 5K Run' on August 8, 2015
 - American Heart Association '2015 Greater Lansing Heart Walk' on October 10, 2015Sponsorship agreements include in-kind donation of pre-event promotion across multiple platforms, as well as coverage at the event.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

**CABLE COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

PROGRAMMING

Andrea Smiley

From: Deborah Guthrie
Sent: Monday, August 03, 2015 10:18 AM
To: Brandie Yates; Brandon Wirth
Cc: Andrea Smiley; Lynn Meikle; Darkus Beasley; Coty Kenneth
Subject: RE: PSA for Channel

Brandie has asked a question regarding programming on the channel. In my reply, I want to include everyone so we are all on the same page regarding policies and procedures. Thank you Brandie for sending this inquiry my way. I will make contact with the appropriate people in regards to this request. I would approve the airing of the psa if there was not a request for money. If it were an awareness campaign like the ad council psa's, we could air it. If they will let us cut out the request for money portion of the PSA, we can air it. I will contact WILX regarding this. Thanks, Deborah

In making a judgement regarding airing programming we follow the HOMTV Operating Policies and Procedures:

The Communications Director shall use any of the following criteria to make judgments regarding the denial of new programming:

D. The programming shall include no direct appeals to purchase commercial goods or services.

While I would love to air the PSA, this PSA asks people to give money and we cannot air anything that asks people to give money. If that section were edited out and it was an awareness psa, we could air it.

We also follow the CAMTV Operating Policies and Procedures:

Programming content must not include the following:

1. Commercial time or Commercial Content- No commercial content is allowed. Commercial content includes, but is not limited to product placement, solicitation, advertising, bartering or promotion of commercial advertisement and service descriptions provided in exchange for value of any kind or nature. Commercial content also includes promotion of any individual business, partnership or corporation by direct or indirect reference or testimonial for the purpose of commercial exploitation

And a third set of criteria according to our uniform franchise agreement with the State of Michigan:

VII. Public, Education, and Government (PEG) Channels

G. A PEG channel shall only be used for noncommercial purposes.

While the policies seem unclear about donating and soliciting donations to nonprofits, I don't want to take a risk. But, I do believe the intent of the language is that we do not solicit explicitly. We don't air any psa's with requests for donations.

From: Brandie Yates
Sent: Monday, August 03, 2015 9:28 AM
To: Deborah Guthrie <Guthrie@meridian.mi.us>; Brandon Wirth <wirth@meridian.mi.us>
Subject: PSA for Channel

On Friday, Chief Hall called me to see if we were able to air a 60 second PSA spot called "Small Talk" that WILX produced. It is about local law enforcement and doctors talking to children about sexual assault. The PSA is promoting that they need funding (it is attached).

I told Chief Hall that all these decisions go through Deborah and I will pass along. Becky Pena from WILX emailed me the PSA and info below after Chief Hall spoke with me, I let her know that someone will contact her today if the Communications Director approves this to air on the channel.

Thanks,
Brandie

From: Becky Pena [mailto:becky.pena@wilx.com]
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2015 11:32 AM
To: Brandie Yates <yates@meridian.mi.us>
Cc: David Hall <hall@meridian.mi.us>
Subject: FTP

Hi Brandie, can I FTP to you? If so send me your instructions and I will. If not would a we transfer work? It is the Small Talk :60 spot that I have attached.

Becky Peña
WILX Media Senior Account Executive
500 American Rd. Lansing, MI 48911
W: 517.393.0110 / C: 517.712.7203 / F: 517.393.8555
www.wilx.com



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**VIEWERSHIP/
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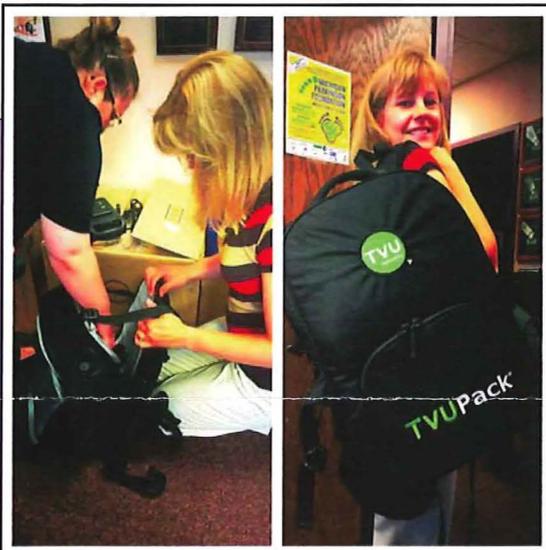
HOMTV Makes History with Comcast By: Deborah Guthrie (96)



Meridian Township has signed a uniform franchise agreement with Comcast effective June 9, 2015.

The new agreement continues the 5% Franchise Fee and includes an additional 1% PEG

Fee from Comcast annual gross revenues for a period of 10 years from the date it is issued. The inclusion of the PEG Fee is an increase in annual revenue of over \$100,000. HOMTV and the Cable Communications Commission is looking at reallocating funds for much needed HOMTV equipment replacements and upgrades. The new agreement also includes authorization from Comcast for HOMTV to be on the program guide system. We expect to be on the guide system by the end of this year.



Darkus Beasley (12) and Lynn Meikle

HOMTV Traveling Mug Social Media Campaign #HOMtostay



We would love to see all the wonderful places you visit this summer!

Take a picture of your HOMTV mug, while you are out and about, traveling or visiting a historical site and tag the photo with #HOMtostay on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.



Erica Francis (14), Amanda Chodnicki (13), Rachel Droze (15), and Aaron Jordan (14)

Alumni Award Winners!

Congratulations to all the recent Michigan Association of Broadcasters and Michigan Emmy award winners!

HOMTV alumni continue achieving excellence! Featured photo from the MAB Conference in March, 2015. For all the latest updates visit:

www.flickr.com/photos/homtv

Live on Remote with HOMTV! By: Darkus Beasley (12)

On a not so typical Thursday afternoon, two boxes marked "TVU" arrived in the HOMTV corridor. They sat untouched, untarnished and the contents inside - disconnected. The packages screamed, "set-up snafus!" and "live broadcast excitement" simultaneously. We dug in, got it up and running, and now, we're a live backpack away from bringing you the latest ribbon cutting or township event - AS IT HAPPENS.

So far, we successfully aired live cut-ins from the Celebrate Downtown Okemos event, the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Okemos Pedestrian Pathway Bridge, Meridian Fire Legislative Tribute and live shots from out in the field during Meridian News Now. The video and audio were clearer than HOMTV's ever seen with a live cut-in; becoming a part of our normal operations. Now, that's something to write HOM about!

Celebrating the HOM Team!

We're happy to announce our new HOMTV/Meridian Communications team members:

- Andrea Smiley is our Administrative Assistant**
- Coty Kenneth (14) is our Communications Assistant**
- Brandon Wirth (14) is our Video Programmer**

Darkus Beasley (12) was promoted to Senior Studio Producer, completing the team of Deborah Guthrie (96), Communications Director; Lynn Meikle, Graphic Designer and Brandie Yates (07), Internship Coordinator/Communications Specialist.



Lynn Meikle, Deborah Guthrie (96), Brandie Yates (07), Darkus Beasley (12), Coty Kenneth (14), Brandon Wirth (14) and Andrea Smiley

ALUMNI IN THE BIZ



Jordanne Jaskiw (14) and Jennifer Hutchins (98)

Connections Help Alum Land Two (2) Jobs in Cali

Before Jordanne Jaskiw (14) moved out to California, she began making connections; meeting up with CMU and HOMTV alumni to network and get her foot in the door. Jordanne was able to land a job within weeks. HOMTV Alum, Jennifer Hutchins (98) hired Jordanne to work on a movie set with Madalyn Productions, "Time Toys". The director, Mark Rosman, also directed "A Cinderella Story".

Jordanne will also begin working at CityTV Channel 16 in Santa Monica, CA.

Real World Experience Launches Reporter from HOM to Market 39

Erica Francis (14) landed her dream job as a General Assignment Reporter at WXMI Fox 17 in Grand Rapids, Market 39, straight out of college. She came HOM to visit and this is what she had to say.

"I can proudly say that every day I go to work, I re-live that dream over and over again. From the moment I wake-up until I go to sleep, there has never been a doubt in my mind that this wasn't the right career choice. My passion in life is to give a voice to the voiceless, and I'm able to do so with this job. My daily routine includes heading into the morning meeting, pitching stories, making calls, then heading out to tackle the day. I love every moment of this crazy, wild ride and although being a reporter is stressful at times, I wouldn't trade this job for the world. I'm so lucky to have such great mentors at FOX 17 News and I'm even luckier to have found even better friends, and to be living my dream. My advice to interns: It's going to be hard, you're going to want to quit and you're going to fail. You're also going to succeed, you're going to make a difference in someone's life and it'll all be worth it. Don't ever give up on your dream, even if someone puts you down. This is a tough business, it can eat you alive...but keep your mind on the prize and you will succeed."

"The things you are expected to do in the real world is nothing compared to this, but this is the only internship that's going to give you this real-world experience that you need to make it in the industry. Looking back, yeah I was busy here and yeah it did take over my life, but I loved every second of it, it's what I love doing and it is 100% worth it." For more alumni testimonials visit: <http://bit.ly/AlumniTestimonials>



Erica Francis (14)



HOMTV Studio with Erica Francis (14)

Amanda Chodnicki (13) is a Morning Reporter at WEVV CBS Channel 44 in Evansville, IN.

Rachel Droze (15) is a Reporter at MMJ TV6 & Fox UP in Marquette, MI.

Kiara Farrell-Starling (14) is in sales/social media at Yelp! in Phoenix, AZ.

Joe Gebhardt (13) is an Assistant at Jackson Radio Works, Jackson, MI.

Chloe Hill (12) is the Producer of the 6pm show at WMMT CBS 3 in Kalamazoo, MI.

Brett Kast (14) is a Sports Intern at WDIV Local 4 in Detroit, MI.

Miguel Martinez-Valle (14) is a Daytime Reporter at KINC Univision 15/KELV UniMás 27 in Las Vegas, NV.

Chance McBride (14) is a Photographer at WILX NBC Channel 10 in Lansing, MI.

Lauren Ragan (12) is a Producer at WXMI FOX 17 in Grand Rapids, MI.

Anthony Sabella (11) is a Reporter at WJRT ABC 12 News in Flint, MI.

Chris Sherban (02) is a Videographer/Editor at WJBK FOX 2 in Detroit, MI.

Alex Tekip (15) is a Production Intern at ESPN Headquarters in Bristol, CT.

Congratulations!

Aimee (Longato) Gudme (95) had a baby girl, Isabella.

Annie (Horne) Hull (05) had a baby boy in December, 2014.

Ursula Zerilli (10) recently became engaged.

Morgan Hall (13) welcomed a new baby boy.

Kristina (Gurney) Leege (00) has a new baby born in June, 2015.

Email us updates at homtv@meridian.mi.us

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FYI

Deborah Guthrie

From: policy-bounces@lists.natoa.org on behalf of Steve Traylor <STraylor@natoa.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2015 10:42 AM
To: members@lists.natoa.org; policy@lists.natoa.org
Subject: [Policy] Joint Webinar on Exploring Local Broadband Initiatives May 14
Attachments: ATT00001.txt

Exploring Local Broadband Initiatives

- Date: May 14, 2015
- Time: 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm Eastern

Overview

Internet access is vital to a communities' ability to thrive in today's economy. It has empowered citizens and local communities by increasing civic participation, facilitating learning, and strengthening neighborhood businesses. With the availability of the Internet, city, county, and state governments are live streaming meetings for public viewing, publishing text of resolutions and other official documents, and communicating with their constituents directly online. Students can communicate with their teachers and with one another and can access immense databases of information from home, schools, libraries, and even neighborhood coffee shops.

Municipal broadband has become a crucial component of local economic development by providing Internet access where industry is not always able to. With both the public and private sectors working towards the goal of increased broadband access, the United States will be able to take full advantage of the opportunities that advanced communications networks can create in virtually every area of life.

The National League of Cities, National Association of Counties, and the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors are hosting this webinar to highlight some of models municipal broadband can take and how local governments are working with an array of stakeholders to provide high-speed broadband access to their residents.

Speakers

- Lev Gonick, Chief Executive, OneCommunity, Cleveland, OH
- Robert Wack, City Council President, Westminster, MD

To register, go to: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5507978576143437826>

FCC's Sohn: 25 Mbps a Snail's Pace in Fiber World

Says Broadband Nets Don't Meet Users' Needs

7/01/2015 9:30 AM Eastern

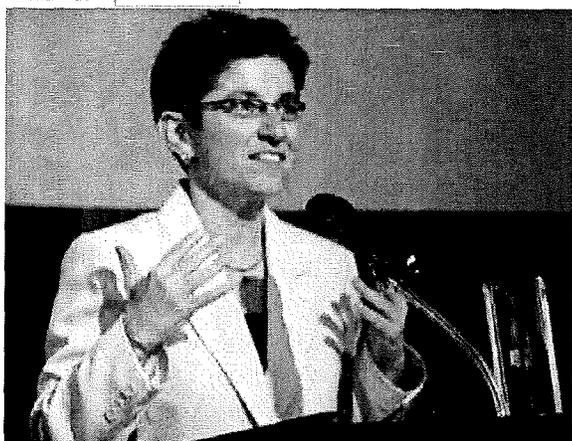


By: John Eggerton

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10



Gigi Sohn, counselor to Federal Communications Commission chairman Tom Wheeler, told a fiber-to-the-home conference in California this week that the FCC was ready to step in to preempt any more state laws that hampered municipal fiber buildouts and would give cities money to build them if the big telecom companies don't step up.

Sohn also made it clear she did not think commercial broadband networks were cutting it.

"It's not hard to see that current networks are not up to the task to meet the needs of today's Internet users," Sohn told the Fiber on Fire conference in Anaheim, Calif., June 30. Sohn spoke about people -- 1 in 6 Americans, she said -- who can't get 25-Mbps broadband, which she noted Wheeler has called table stakes for "full use" of the Internet.

She also pointed out that the FCC had upped its baseline for high-speed service to the 25-Mbps threshold, but added even that was a "snail's pace" in a world of fiber.

The FCC earlier this year preempted state laws limiting municipal broadband buildouts in Chattanooga, Tenn., and Wilson, N.C., where she said service had been substandard or nonexistent. Sohn said the FCC was ready to do so again if needed.

"The FCC respects the important role of state governments in our federal system, and we don't take preemption of state laws lightly," she said. "But when state laws directly conflict with federal laws and policy, we are not afraid to take action."

Sohn pointed to efforts that did not involve the FCC's intervention.

"In cities and towns where incumbent broadband access providers have not stepped up to provide their customers with the reliably fast service they need at a reasonable price, community leaders are taking matters into their own hands," she said.

The FCC is also ready to invest in those buildouts. Sohn said the FCC has Universal Service Fund subsidies that municipalities can access if the major telecoms, who get first crack at the funds, pass on the money.

"In our Connect America Fund order last December, we guaranteed broadband providers more than \$10 billion over six years for broadband deployment to underserved areas," she said. "If the price cap providers don't take advantage of these funds, other providers will be able to take their place, including municipal systems and electric cooperatives that want to deploy fiber networks."

Sohn is on a bit of a fiber road tour, having earlier in the week spoken at a fiber launch party in Maryland.

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TAGS:

Gigi Sohn FCC Tom Wheeler 25-Mbps broadband Municipal Broadband

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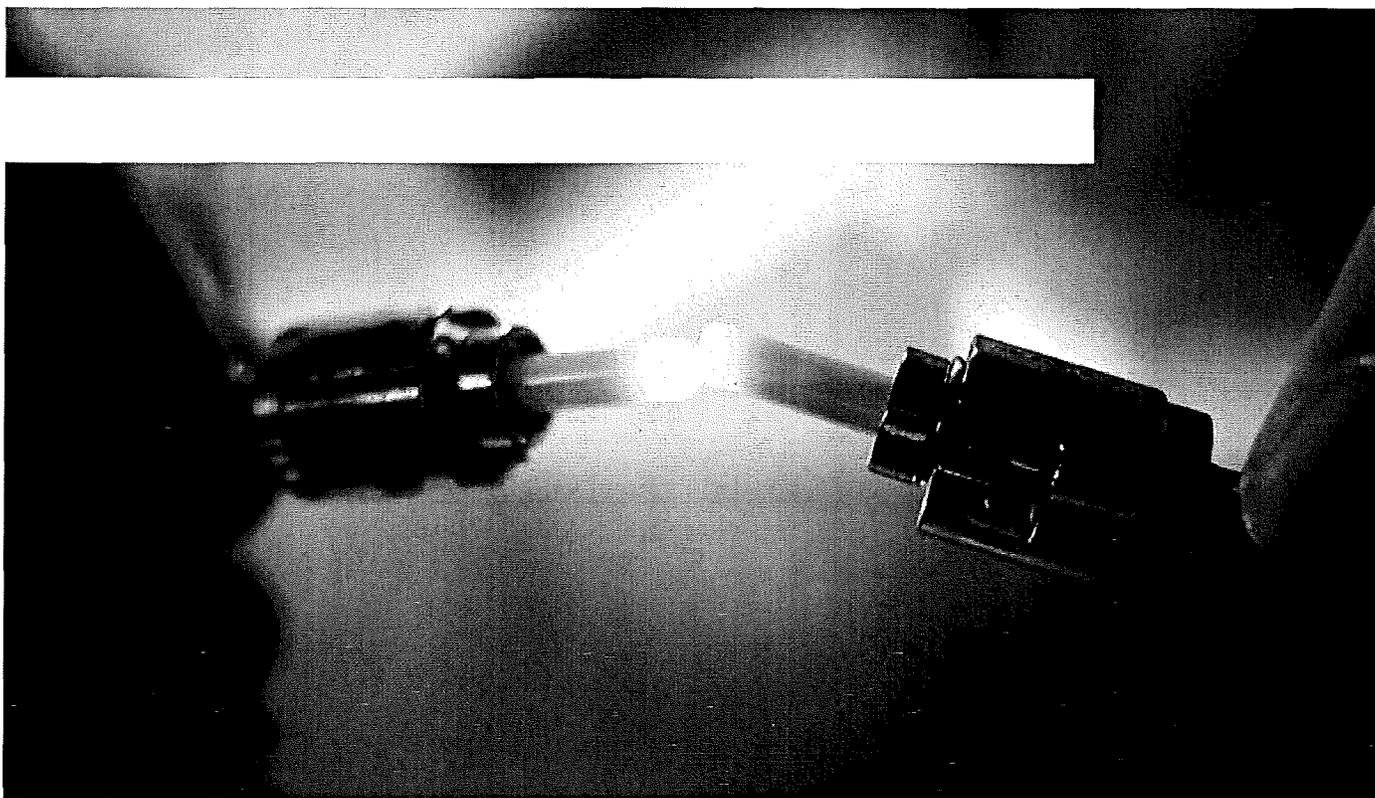
PR FEED: PREMIERE IN NETWORK HISTORY WITH 3.3 MILLION VIEWERS

Couldn't load plugin.

22 Massachusetts towns will build their own gigabit internet service

 by Jon Fingas | @jonfingas | 2 Hours Ago

6



The FCC made it clear that towns should have the freedom to build their own broadband services, and one cooperative group is determined to take advantage of that liberty. WiredWest has gained the support of 22 Massachusetts towns for a municipal broadband effort that will give them all fiber optic service. It won't be the cheapest option, but it'll be much faster than the pokey DSL, fixed wireless and satellite data that residents have had to settle for in the past. It'll start at \$49 per month for 25Mbps speeds, with 100Mbps and a

lightning-quick 1Gbps respectively available for \$79 and \$109 per month.

There's still work to go before this becomes a reality. The burgs have only racked up about \$34.5 million of the necessary \$79 million in funding, and town councils have to approve the costs. Another 10 towns have yet to formally join. If the effort succeeds, though, it'll go a long way toward not just improving small-town internet speeds, but legitimizing the very notion of city-run broadband. Telecom giants have spent years trying to outlaw municipal broadband in an attempt to stifle competition, even in areas they have no intention of serving -- if successful, this would show that the concept works.

[Image credit: Barta IV, Flickr]

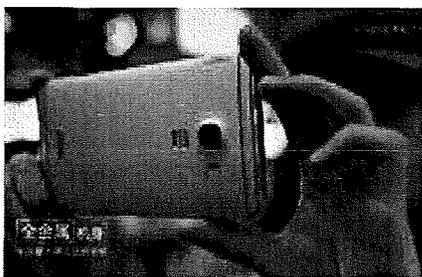
VIA: Motherboard

SOURCE: WiredWest

TAGS: broadband fcc fiber fiberoptic gigabit internet massachusetts municipalbroadband networking rural

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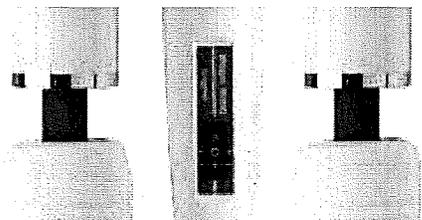
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**WHAT IS BINGE EATING DISORDER AND
HOW CAN YOU HELP ADULT PATIENTS MANAGE IT?**

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504067 02/15

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Executive Director, New Networks Institute

A Truly Bold Plan for New York City's Broadband Future

Posted: 07/01/2015 4:28 pm EDT | Updated: 07/01/2015 5:59 pm EDT

Summer Reading: *[The Book of Broken Promises: \\$400 Billion Broadband Scandal & Free the Net](#)*

This article is an excerpt from a proposal to NYC. Every city, in every state, should be contemplating similar actions.

=====

The NYC Mayor's Office of Tech & Innovation has asked for bold ideas and innovation to "help bring high speed Internet to all New Yorkers", including "more choices among ISPs", and "expanded service to underserved communities", which may require "policy changes".

We applaud the City's recent, long overdue audit of Verizon's commitment to deliver a series of fiber optic-based services under the brand name FiOS to 100 percent of housing units by July 2014. The real question is, however, whether the City will actually take bold steps to fix what's broken.

Our Goals:

- Get everyone in NYC wired with fiber optics from the incumbent utility company, Verizon.
- Lower the rates of Time Warner Cable's cable and broadband services.
- Get businesses, large and small, even in commercial buildings, wired with fiber optics.
- Open up Empire City Subway's hold on NYC's critical communications conduits.
- Open the incumbent networks to direct competition at all levels, allowing customers to choose which provider offers them broadband, Internet, phone or cable service.
- Help make NYC be a fiber-optic-based-Internet mecca that will attract new business.
- Fix the hold Verizon's wired services have on all wireless competitors.
- Fix egregious and deceptive communications billing practices.

Let's put some facts on the table.

Background: Verizon's Fiber Broadband Failures are Historic and Not News.

Verizon has not only failed to complete the upgrade of New York City but has never been held accountable in any meaningful way. In New York, as far back as 1993, Verizon (then NYNEX) claimed it would have over a million lines of fiber optic residential services completed by 1996, as told by their annual reports and press releases. There was even a NY State report, detailing a plan to have around 20 percent of the entire State upgraded with fiber optics by the year 2000, which was a replacement of the existing copper wires used as part of the State "PSTN", Public Switched Telephone Networks -- the State telecommunications utility. And, as we have documented over the last two decades, similar promises were made in every Verizon state, from Massachusetts to Virginia. Thus, the failure to properly upgrade New York City is not surprising, just predictable. What happens next is what matters.

What We Found (Using Verizon's own financial reports and statements, filings, etc., as well as state and federal regulatory documents and orders):

1) Verizon announced the deployment of FIOS in 2004 -- NOTE: FiOS is not the fiber optic wire but a group of services that travel over this fiber optic wire.

2) Verizon NY customers paid major rate increases for the deployment of FiOS -- In New York, Verizon was able to get rate increases of 84 percent since 2006 (and 100-300 percent on added services, such as non-published numbers) from the NY Public Service Commission (NYPSC) for a "massive deployment of fiber optics" and "losses". This language is taken from the State Orders for the rate increases.

3) The average New Yorker who had Verizon basic phone service paid over \$750.00 extra per line and hundreds of dollars extra for each added service, since 2006. In New York State, this comes to about \$5 billion dollars and counting. Thus, every low income family, senior citizen, residential or small business, paid for a fiber optic upgrade of the state utility network -- I.e., customers paid for services most will never get or even use.

4) Broadband coverage was never properly monitored -- At the end of the day, Verizon NY only has about 45-60 percent covered in NYC, (it is worse upstate). And the accounting by Verizon is manipulated; this is happening in every Verizon state.

5) Verizon NY claimed massive financial losses and paid no income taxes -- Verizon New York paid no income taxes for the last decade and, in fact, lost \$2.58 billion dollars in just 2014, in just New York. -- Isn't FiOS profitable?

6) FiOS fiber optic wires are a "Title II", telecom service and part of the State utility -- Verizon was able to have the State grant the rate increases because Verizon's entire fiber optic deployment is part of the state utility as a telecommunications service (commonly known as Title II), with common carriage obligations as told by the Communications Act of 1934. Verizon convinced NY State that the networks the FiOS services use were an extension of the existing utility Public Switched Telephone Network, (PSTN). And the irony, for those who follow the Net Neutrality debate, is that Verizon claimed Title II harmed investment; in this case, Title II is used to secure the investment.

7) Most of Verizon's other fiber optic deployments are customer-funded -- Verizon also decided that the other fiber optic build outs, like the fiber optic wires-to-the-cell towers and the "special access" wires should also be "Title II". Moreover, it appears that most of the construction expenditures for Verizon Wireless or Verizon FiOS TV was done through rate increases. In fact, the NY Attorney General's Office specifically said, in 2011, that of the construction budgets for the state utility, 75 percent had been diverted to cable TV and wireless.

8) The claimed losses were created through a financial shell game -- There has been a massive financial manipulation of the flows of money -- revenues and expenses -- to make the local service networks look unprofitable. Besides the diversion of the construction budgets, the affiliate companies have been able to not only pay less than market value for using the networks, but because they are "vertically integrated" (meaning that the incumbent phone company's wires can only be used by Verizon's other affiliate companies, like Verizon Online, to offer high speed Internet or cable service), the expenses have been manipulated so that local service has paid the majority of expenses, including corporate operations or marketing.

9) The local networks are profitable -- When the flows of money are adjusted to stop the excessive dumping of expenses into the state utility, or the affiliate companies are paying market prices, local service is profitable. It is clear that there are massive cross-subsidies of Verizon's other lines of business that need to be addressed-- and fixed.

10) Opening the networks -- The massive cross-subsidies and "vertical integration" demonstrate that Verizon has been able to give financial advantages to its own affiliates over all competitors and is now holding hostage the public networks that customers have been funding.

11) Empire City Subway's hold on NYC's critical communications conduits needs fixing. In 1896, ECS received a franchise for parts of New York City and in 2015 it controls (most, if not all of) the actual conduits located in the NYC subway that are used by Verizon as well as competitors. A wholly owned subsidiary of Verizon, it is time to revisit this agreement as the era of "horse and buggy" is over and it has, instead of building this business, used it to harm competitors and slow the growth of fiber optic networks in New York City. The contract calls for Verizon to pay the City once the profits reach 10 percent. Since, at least 1984, Empire City Subway has never reached this threshold.

12) Time Warner and the Social Contract -- The cable companies must also be dealt with. In 1995, the cable companies, including Time Warner, cut a deal with the FCC, known as the "Social Contract", an actual agreement, which expired in 2001. The companies were granted rate increases, adding up to \$5.00 a month per subscriber, to pay for the upgrading of the cable networks as well as to deliver high speed cable modem service to schools -- free of charge. By the end of 2014, Time Warner had collected an additional \$840.00 per subscriber, based on actual bills, as the charge was never removed once the contract expired; nor is there any evidence that Time Warner had actually wired schools. Moreover, as of 2014, Time Warner had an outrageous 97 percent profit margin on high-speed Internet service.

13) Deceptive advertising, combined with egregious communications bills -- Time Warner Cable's basic Triple Play has the advertised price of \$89.99; a price no customer can ever get as it leaves out 20-50 percent of the actual costs, including basic hard-dollar expenses, and a host of "made up fees", or taxes that are "passed through" to the customer. However, after only two years, this basic plan costs \$196.77, as every part of the service can increase at will. Moreover, there are actual mistakes and overcharging in the calculation of various taxes, fees and surcharges, helping to gouge customers further.

While the FCC's new Open Internet Order includes an attempt to clean up the bills and advertising, it does not fix most egregious acts and there are legal and regulatory actions that can be taken to fix some of these issues with the assistance of the Consumer Advocate's Office and the Attorney General's Office, not to mention actions taken at the FCC.

14) Overcoming problems of a lack of data -- The current information supplied by the City does not start to detail just how broken the NY City's communications services (and costs) have become. We believe that the City needs to undertake an in-depth survey that actually answers basic questions -- what services do business and residential customers have today, and what are they actually paying (not what the advertisement said). And this should not be done with a simple survey (or by placing a Survey Monkey questionnaire at a site).

15) Overcoming problems with jurisdictional issues -- Any current communications triple play or even local phone package is covered by multiple laws in multiple jurisdictions, and has multiple affiliate companies offering these services. Verizon has been able to use this multi-jurisdictional morass to help their own affiliate companies get financial perks that are not available to competitors, such as adding the costs of the wires to the cell towers to local service rate increases.

16) Throwing more money at the broadband problem is not the solution -- Gov. Cuomo's NY State plan, instead of investigating these claims, has been to simply throw more money at the problem. And some solutions, like the FCC's plan of giving customers a broadband "subsidy", means nothing when the set top box, cable modem or other added fees will just make the offer meaningless as it doesn't cover these expenses or fix the problems.

Conclusion: There are no market forces at play. We believe we know how to fix this.

Verizon's current plan is to "shut off the copper" utility networks and force customers onto their own more expensive wireless service instead of properly replacing these wires with fiber optics, even though Verizon was able to get rate increases to do these upgrades. Verizon was also able to manipulate the financials to create massive losses (and not pay income taxes) but also fund and cross-subsidize their other lines of business.

Simply put: Go after the money: Customers have been "defacto investors" for decades. Verizon has failed to fulfill its commitments under the FiOS cable franchise to have 100 percent of New York City wired by July 2014 -- And yet, Verizon was able to charge local phone customers over \$750.00 or more for network upgrades they will never get. And since business customers also paid rate increases for the "massive deployment of fiber optics" -- Verizon should also properly upgrade the commercial spaces.

And regardless of Verizon hype, the local networks are profitable, but using a massive financial shell game, Verizon made the networks look "uneconomical". Go after the cross-subsidies of the wireless and special access networks, and find out how Verizon NY lost \$2.58 billion in just 2014. Also, this analysis will prove the harms caused and can be used to open the networks.

Time Warner may have overcharged customers about \$840.00 for the wiring of schools, which appears to have never happened. When a contract ends, the billing of customers should have stopped. Audit the books and investigate whether the schools were wired, or the added fees were removed.

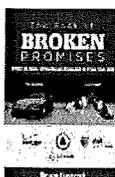
Billions of dollars are at stake and these are but a few areas that have directly impacted the fiber optic upgrades of the City New York over the last decade. And this impacts all of New York State's cities' as well, as many of these issues fall back to the State Commission.

"Bold" would be doing something extraordinary like holding the companies accountable and actually auditing the companies' books, or even doing a substantial survey to collect accurate data to ascertain just how bad the communications bills have become. It would also be "bold" to "do the right thing" and fix the problems, not simply pointing them out as if "business-as-usual" is OK.

MORE: [Verizon](#) [New York](#) [New York City](#) [New York State](#) [Net Neutrality](#) [Kushnick](#) [Fiber Optic](#) [Copper Wire](#) [Fios](#) [Time Warner](#) [Social Contract](#) [Fcc](#)

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pcrowley@crowleylegal.com; ronstyka@gmail.com; kiyaktun@bus.msu.edu;
benenson@msu.edu
Subject: Re: New York's Bold plan for broadband

While I like the Watchdog aspect, the challenge seems to be in requiring building owners to make changes, to bring aboard access, at their expense, so that folks have information and education. The latter seems beyond our responsibility. Suppose for example, Building Code requirements call for retrofitting for the safety of occupants. That seems like a reasonable and appropriate and more importantly a safety issue, for the benefit of all without the need for occupants to take specific action or think a certain way to benefit. It's passive. My question would be, to what extent is it the responsibility of government to mandate such structural change, such access, based solely on its own apparent determination that it is good for the folks? Yet, before we give in to the temptation that suggesting access to information is reason enough to compel all to take action, we should have a discussion about what role we have then for mandating that all things good, become mandatory. Because as soon as we embark on that perspective, we might invariably bump into the fact that we must keep some of the most obvious components of goodness separate from our work. So what's the discussion most likely to be? Likely it may be, simply doing the best we can. That said, I like the Watchdog aspect, with a keen awareness that there are many within the ranks of these Providers who care for a watch to be in place, because they too believe in fair standards. So perhaps we can let our common beliefs prevail, so we don't harden these folks to the point of only participating in the own defense. Don't be live for a second that these Providers don't want growth. Perhaps our guidance can help them know what are proper avenues...for this growth to take place , because in cooperation there can be even greater progress. -Just my thoughts...

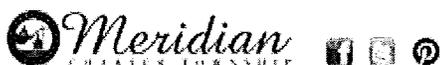
Sent by [Outlook](#) for Android

On Thu, Jul 2, 2015 at 5:29 AM -0700, "Deborah Guthrie" <Guthrie@meridian.mi.us> wrote:

This is timely considering the Commissions desires to discuss long term needs & ccc duties at the next meeting.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bruce-kushnick/-a-truly-bold-plan-for-ne_b_7708580.html

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Deborah Guthrie

From: Eric Frederick <efrederick@connectmi.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2015 8:31 AM
To: Deborah Guthrie
Subject: REGISTER TODAY: 2015 Michigan Broadband Conference!

[Click here](#) to view this message in a browser window.



REGISTRATION IS OPEN: 2015 Michigan Broadband Conference on October 20, 2015!

Building on the successes of the 2013 and 2014 Conferences, Connect Michigan is pleased to announce that the 2015 Michigan Broadband Conference will be on Tuesday, October 20 at the Lansing Center in Lansing, Michigan. Nationally recognized broadband and technology experts will join local leaders, sector champions, and state innovators to discuss best practices and insights into leveraging technology for improved community and economic development, education, digital literacy, healthcare, and workforce development. To register, visit <http://www.connectmi.org/broadband-summit>.

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Roundtable Discussion of Closed Captioning for Public Access and Governmental Programming

November 10, 2015, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM EST
445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554

The FCC will hold a forum on November 10, 2015, to promote discussion about closed captioning of public access and governmental programming shown on television. The event will include discussions about the benefits of captioning such programming, the relevant captioning obligations of programmers and stations, and effective captioning solutions. The event will engage local government professionals, policy makers, captioning vendors, consumer groups, engineers, representatives from the programming industry, and others as appropriate. The goal of this event is to raise awareness of the issues surrounding captioning of public access and governmental programming, and to ensure the accessibility of such programming for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing, as well as other individuals who may benefit from the availability of closed captions on this programming.

What: Tools for Expanding Closed Captioning of Public Access Programming
Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2015
Time: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM EST
Location: FCC Headquarters, 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554

Additional information about the event will be made available here and distributed to subscribers of DRO's "AccessInfo," a DRO service that provides regular e-mail updates on disability-related rulemakings, notices and events. To subscribe to AccessInfo, send an email to accessinfo@fcc.gov, and write "subscribe" in either the subject header or body of the e-mail.

The event will be free and open to the public. Live, captioned video of the event will be available at www.fcc.gov/live.

The meeting site is fully accessible to people using wheelchairs or other mobility aids. Sign language interpreters, open captioning and assistive listening devices will be provided on site. Other reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Requests should be made as soon as possible and include contact information. Last minute requests will be accepted, but may be impossible to fill. Contact fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at 202-418-0530 (voice), 202-418-0432 (TTY) for reasonable accommodation requests, or

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to request this press release or any other materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format).

For more information please contact Suzy Rosen Singleton of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at Suzanne.Singleton@fcc.gov or call (202)510-9446.



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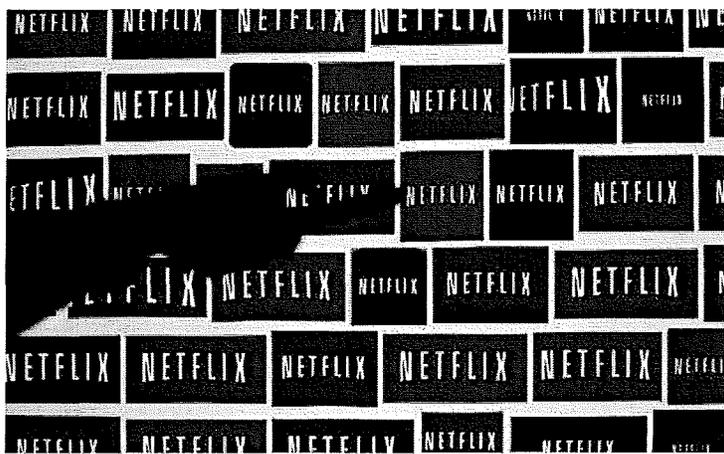
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Mike Blake/Reuters

Friday morning's editorial on the growing number of Americans who are giving up cable- and satellite-TV service resonated with many readers. A number of them said in comments on the piece and on Facebook and Twitter that they, too, had happily given up cable.

Sven Anderson, writing on Facebook, said: "The reason I cut the cable is because the price I was paying was just plain ridiculous. By cutting cable and boosting our Internet speed dramatically, I saved over \$100 a month."

Kevin from New York echoed that sentiment in a comment: "I cut my cable cords with Time Warner last month and I feel great about it. Cable in New York is astronomically more expensive than anywhere else in the country and quitting will save me \$1,700 a year! I couldn't justify the hefty monthly bill for just a few good channels I watched — now I'm perfectly content with catching all

ABOUT

Andrew Rosenthal, The Times's editorial page editor since January 2007, oversees the editorial board, the letters and Op-Ed departments, and Sunday Review. He has held numerous positions at The Times, including assistant managing editor for news, foreign editor, national editor and Washington editor.

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Anna North writes on cultural topics for the editorial page and is the editor of this blog.

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those shows on either Netflix, Amazon, HBO Go or Hulu. Never looking back.”

Pam White Mills wrote that she was chiefly motivated to ditch cable because of “the horrible, horrible customer service.”

Emily Dreyfuss, an editor at Wired magazine, agreed with Pam but added that she wanted to change how she watched TV:

But, as the editorial noted, most people cannot completely cut the cord because they still need broadband Internet service, which they generally get from their cable or phone company. Several readers, including Leigh from Boston, expressed frustration that the cost of standalone Internet service was no different with a cable-TV plan than without one.

“The cable company tells me they don’t have a basic charge for people who only need Internet access without television — why not?” Leigh wrote in a comment. “Yet another area where Congress fails the people once again.”

One reader from Paris who goes by HeyNorris said things look much different in Europe where there is a lot more competition in the telecom industry. This is because policy makers allow many companies to share access to the cables that connect homes and businesses.

“In France, the average consumer pays around \$35 per month for a package that includes high-speed internet access, basic cable TV, and unlimited telephone including overseas calls,” HeyNorris wrote. “And despite the low prices, the companies providing those packages remain profitable; proof enough that pricing in the United States is out of control.”

A handful of readers wrote in support of the cable-TV bundle. One commenter, wlg from New Jersey, acknowledged that he might be an “oddball” for being quite happy with his Cablevision service. “I consider myself to be a penny pincher and find that when I total up all of the services I get, it’s actually a bargain,” he wrote. “From the pervasive Optimum WiFi to the free McAfee for all my *many* computers, I save quite a bit of money which I need to consider when I look at the overall monthly cost.”

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