

Present: Heldt, Kelly, McAlear, McLain - Birmingham  
Borgon, Burry, Heyman, Schneider – Beverly Hills  
Ettenson – Bingham Farms

Absent: Verdi-Hus – Beverly Hills  
Stakhiv – Franklin

Also Present: White - Executive Director  
Currier - Attorney for Cable Board  
Rota - Bloomfield Community Television  
Galbraith – Birmingham Public School representative  
Amanda Thomas – Birmingham staff  
Leslie Brogan – Comcast  
Celeste Oberhausen – WOW representative

McLain called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m. in the Village of Beverly Hills municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

#### **APPROVE MINUTES OF CABLE BOARD MEETING HELD JULY 16, 2014**

Motion by Heldt, second by Ettenson, that the minutes of a regular Cable Board meeting held on July 16, 2014 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Birmingham resident Michael Fenberg related that he had a fire at his house on July 4 and had to move into temporary living quarters while his home was being rebuilt. He said that dealing with Comcast was one of the most difficult things he and his wife encountered. Fenberg related difficulties experienced with transferring his Comcast service and email account to a temporary residence. It took 10 days and many phone calls to Comcast to have their email account restored. Fenberg complained of poor customer service and difficulty with escalation attempts. He mentioned that Executive Director White was helpful in assisting him with a billing issue.

Chairperson McLain answered questions from Fenberg regarding Board members' access to complaints. She clarified that email sent to [info@birminghamareacableboard.org](mailto:info@birminghamareacableboard.org) goes to Executive Director Cathy White.

Leslie Brogan representing Comcast apologized for this resident's protracted resolution of these issues. She outlined company policies when there is a fire and addressed other issues experienced by Mr. Fenberg. Brogan will take his address and phone number in order to look into this issue further.

#### **GRANT REQUEST – VILLAGE OF BINGHAM FARMS**

Kathryn Hagaman, Clerk/Administrator for Bingham Farms, was present requesting the continuation of a grant in the amount of \$1,440.00 from the Birmingham Area Cable Board to offset the costs of maintaining the Village website in addition to costs incurred for ordinance hosting as well as search capabilities for Village minutes and ordinances.

Motion by Ettenson, second by Heldt, that the Birmingham Area Cable Board approve a grant request from the Village of Bingham Farms in an amount not to exceed \$1,440.00 for FY 2014/15 to cover annual costs related to maintaining the Village website and costs incurred for ordinance hosting as well as search capabilities for Village minutes and ordinances. This amount will come out of the municipal services budget line item.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (9 – 0).

### **GRANT REQUEST - BASCC**

Kathleen Tillson, Interim Executive Director for the Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council, was present requesting a grant in the amount of \$1,835 to cover basic cable service for the television in the BASCC lobby, the projector in the activity room, plus Internet for the computer lab, My Senior Center, and the MediaCast TV. Tillson stated that there is a slight increase in this year's grant request due to an increase in the cost of cable and Internet service. There is a small amount of money allocated for light bulbs and maintenance of projectors.

Ms. Tillson introduced newly appointed Executive Director Chris Braun. Braun remarked that she is looking forward to working with the Cable Board.

Member Bob Borgon recused himself from voting on this grant request for the reason that he is an officer of the BASCC Board of Directors. Beverly Hills Council Liaison Greg Burry will also abstain from voting based on his membership on the BASCC Board.

Motion by Heldt, second by Ettenson, that the Cable Board approve the grant request from the Birmingham Area Seniors Coordinating Council (BASCC) in the amount of \$1,835.00 to cover the cost of cable service and Internet service for the Senior Center.

Roll Call Vote:

McLain	- yes
Borgon	- abstain
Heyman	- yes
Schneider	- yes
Burry	- abstain
Ettenson	- yes
Heldt	- yes
Kelly	- yes
McAlear	- yes

Motion passed (7 yes - 2 abstentions – 0 no).

### **GRANT REQUESTS – VILLAGE OF BEVERLY HILLS**

Beverly Hills Liaison to the Cable Board Greg Burry outlined three grant requests from the Village of Beverly Hills for fiscal year 2014/2015 (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015). The first grant request is in the amount of \$79.75 per month totaling \$957.00 to cover Internet services for the Village Offices. The Beverly Hills Department of Public Safety respectfully requests a grant in the amount of \$958.80 to cover Internet services for the Department.

The Village of Beverly Hills is requesting a grant in the amount of \$100.00 per month totaling \$1,200.00 to cover the hosting and live broadcast costs associated with web streaming Birmingham Area Cable Board and Village of Beverly Hills Council meetings.

Motion by Heldt, second by McAlear, that the Birmingham Area Cable Board approve three grant requests from the Village of Beverly Hills for fiscal year 2014/2015: Internet service for the Beverly Hills Village offices in the amount of \$957.00; Internet services for the Beverly Hills Public Safety Department in the amount of \$958.80; and a grant in the amount of \$1,200 to cover hosting and live broadcast costs associated with web streaming BACB and Beverly Hills Council meetings. The total cost of the grant request is not to exceed \$3,115.80.

Roll Call Vote:  
Motion passed (9 – 0).

On behalf of the Village of Beverly Hills, Burry thanked the Cable Board for the grant to update the Cable TV control room in the Beverly Hills municipal building. The new cameras and equipment were installed and are up and running.

#### **ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF CONTROL FROM COMCAST TO NEWLY-FORMED COMPANY**

Cable Board Attorney Tim Currier distributed material including a letter from Beier Howlett sent to Comcast in July asking specific questions to be answered relative to the 394 Transfer process. The franchising authority is permitted to ask questions of the cable providers about the transaction within the first 30 days of receipt of FCC Form 394. Comcast responded to this request on July 24, 2014. Executive Director White has distributed a proposed Resolution Granting Consent to the Transfer Control of the Cable Television System. Currier related that, earlier this week, Comcast Senior Director of Government & Regulatory Affairs Leslie Brogan provided him with a redlined version of what she would like to see in this Resolution. Currier distributed the redlined copy of that document.

Currier related that he spoke with Leslie Brogan this morning about a couple of items that will affect the resolution and will need clarification. Brogan has been authorized to provide the municipalities with an extension for consideration and adoption of this transfer resolution. That will put the end date at November 17 to consider the 394 Application.

Currier commented that information on the transaction and official filings can be viewed on the corporate.comcast.com website under the Time Warner Cable transaction link. There have been 26 official filings with the FCC and SEC. The actual closing date of the transaction is scheduled for February 15, 2015 provided that each party has the ability to extend it for six months waiting for all approvals from the Federal government. Brogan suggested taking the date noted in the Resolution out to August 2015, a full six months after February.

Another area of confusion was the name of the entity the municipalities are dealing with. Currier stated that Greatland Connections will be the anticipated name of the post-transaction company. Midwest Cable is the working name at the present time. The resolution Currier prepared for review cited Midwest Cable; the resolution presented at the next Cable Board meeting will

indicate Greatland Connections. Currier asked the Cable Board to take action to approve a 30-day extension of the Transfer Agreement Resolution.

Motion by Borgon, second by Ettenson, that the Birmingham Area Cable Board approve a 30-day extension of the Resolution Granting Consent to the Transfer Control of the Cable Television System.

Leslie Brogan commented on the Transfer process and the redlined resolution.

Motion passed (9 – 0).

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Cable Action Committee**

White reported that the Cable Action Committee did not meet last month because there was no Board meeting held in August due to the lack of a quorum. The next CAC meeting will be held on October 2 at 5:30 at the Baldwin Library.

### **PEG Committee**

Heldt stated that Bloomfield Community Television is in the midst of taping high school athletic events. The Birmingham School District has requested a total of seven sporting events to be taped and broadcast, two of which have already occurred. Before the Board is a request to authorize an expenditure for seven high school sporting events this Fall.

Motion by Heldt, second by Borgon, that the Birmingham Area Cable Board authorize an expenditure for the taping of seven High School sporting events by Bloomfield Community Television at a cost of \$2,500 per broadcast.

Roll Call Vote:

Motion passed (9 – 0).

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director White highlighted a few complaints from August that have been resolved and one pending complaint. Four new complaints received since August were reviewed with resolution pending. White has received complaints from people who have experienced outages due to the number of severe storms this summer. Two outages involving Comcast are pending.

Financial information from all three accounts was included in the report. One check was written in the last month. Beverly Hills has submitted a summary of grant monies spent in 2013-14, a copy of which was provided in the August meeting packet. Evette Hollins has replaced Robert Jones as the AT&T representative to the Cable Board.

Bingham Farms has requested that the BACB pay the cost of its PROTEC dues for 2014-15 in the amount of \$138.88.

Motion by Ettenson, second by Heldt, that the Cable Board pay the cost of Bingham Farms PROTEC dues for 2014-2015 in the amount of \$138.88.

Roll Call Vote:  
Motion passed (9 – 0).

Schneider requested to receive the financial reports in advance of the monthly meeting day. Cathy White responded that she will email that information to members by the day before the meeting. Questions from Borgon on financial reports were addressed by White.

This year's National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) conference will be held in St. Paul, Minnesota from September 29 to October 2, 2014. The costs include registration at \$650, hotel rooms at \$121 per night plus tax, plus the cost of airfare and meals. White requested Board authorization of an amount not to exceed \$2,000 (the same amount authorized last year) to cover the costs for the Chairperson to attend. Funds are available in the 2014-15 BACB budget for this purpose.

Members commented on the benefit of Board representation at this conference in terms of information received and networking opportunities. It was requested that the Chairman prepare and file a written report following her attendance at the NATOA Annual Conference.

Motion by Heldt, second by Ettenson, that the Birmingham Area Cable Board authorize an expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$2,000 for registration, travel and related expenses for Chairperson Elaine McLain to attend the NATOA conference in St. Paul, Minnesota from September 29 - October 2, 2014 on behalf of the Cable Board. Funds are available in the 2014-2015 Cable Board budget.

Roll Call Vote:  
Motion passed (9 – 0).

White related that, even with the purchase of new equipment this year, Board insurance costs for next year have gone down by 1.1%. The Board's contribution this year will be \$4,825.00. In addition, the distribution from MMRMA will be \$2,975.00, more than \$1,000.00 more than last year.

## **PROVIDER RELATED TOPICS**

### **Comcast**

Leslie Brogan updated the Board on the Internet Essentials program that Comcast operates for low income families to receive broadband at home for \$9.95 per month with options to receive a low cost computer and online training. The program has been reenergized. The current offer is that any qualified person who signs up before September 20, 2014 is eligible for six months of free service.

### **AT&T**

There was no update on the merger between AT&T and Direct TV.

### **WOW**

Celeste Oberhausen from WOW had no updates to report.

Attorney Currier referred to the storms that occurred in the area this summer resulting in basements flooding and the loss of customers' cable boxes. In some cases, restoration companies

came in and disposed of these boxes. Carrier requested that each of the cable providers prepare information in writing that relays how subscribers should handle this dilemma.

Member Borgon thanked the CEO of WOW for running a public relations campaign including television commercials that address the issue of program costs. He viewed this as a needed public service.

Ettenson commented on the last wind storm on Friday, September 5 noting that AT&T suffered the most outages in the Bingham Farms business district.

### **BAPA/BAMA REPORT**

Steve Rota highlighted programming outlined in the written report from Bloomfield Community Television on programming taped for Municipal Channel 15 (BAMA), PA Channel 18 (BAPA), and programming from BACB area organizations during the last month (information included in BCTV monthly report for July 17th, 2014 through September 17th, 2014).

The next camera workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22 from 10 am to noon or 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Call 248-433-7790 to sign up.

The Beverly Hills cable control room equipment has been installed and is in working order. BCTV staff was trained on the new equipment at the end of July. Rota mentioned that the hard drive on the white board failed shortly afterwards. It was repaired by AVI Systems and will be in use within the next week or two.

The Program Development Committee met and approved two new series. Directors have been assigned and production will begin soon. One show is entitled Mediation and will use actors presenting actual mediations of real life disputes. The other show called The Rich Life is a talk show that deals with daily issues.

Rota announced that Greg Black has accepted a full-time Equipment Coordinator/Production Specialist position with Bloomfield Community Television. Greg has been a part of the BCTV team for the past three years as a part-time employee. He has a degree in Electronic Media-Film Studies & Creative Writing from Eastern Michigan University.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kevin Galbraith from Birmingham Public Schools commented that the school year is off to a good start. He thanked the BACB for its continued support of school district athletic events.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Beverly Hills liaison Greg Burry mentioned that, at last night's Council meeting, he initiated discussion of the power outage that occurred in the area earlier this month. It has been determined that lack of adequate tree trimming in the road rights-of-way has resulted in about

70% of the outages. A DTE Energy liaison for governmental units has been invited to attend the October 7 meeting of the Beverly Hills Council to discuss maintenance of large trees in the easements. That date will be posted on the Cable Board website when confirmed.

Executive Director White announced that member David Lurie from Birmingham has resigned from the Cable Board due to his work schedule and commitments.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 a.m.