

BIRMINGHAM AREA CABLE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 16, 2015 –
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Present: Heldt, McAlear, McLain – Birmingham
Stakhiv – Franklin
Ettenson – Bingham Farms
Borgon, Heyman – Beverly Hills

Absent: Schneider, Verdi-Hus – Beverly Hills

Also Present: White – Executive Director
Currier – Attorney for Cable Board
Rota – Bloomfield Community Television
Ken Parson – WOW Representative

McLain called the meeting to order at 7:47 AM in the Village of Beverly Hills municipal building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

APPROVE MINUTES OF CABLE BOARD MEETING HELD AUGUST 19, 2015

Motion by Heldt, seconded by Ettenson to approve the minutes of the Regular Cable Board Meeting on August 19, 2015.

Stakhiv clarified that in the Executive Director's Report the Franklin resident's problem with the Comcast phone outage was due to a Comcast coding problem not with the resident's phone.

Motion by Heldt, seconded by Ettenson to approve the minutes of the Regular Cable Board Meeting on August 19, 2015, as amended.

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BEVERLY HILLS MUNICIPAL SUPPORT SERVICES GRANT REQUEST

This item is a carry-over from August's meeting as there was no one in attendance who could elaborate on the issue of the web streaming doubling in cost.

Ellen Marshall, Asst. Manager/Clerk Village of Beverly Hills, presented the Village's request for a grant for its support services. She explained in her memo (9/9/15) to the Cable Board that since January, 2008 the Village had been web streaming the bi-monthly Village Council meetings and the monthly Cable Board meetings. Stream Dynamics, LLC had prepared a proposal for FY 2015/16 that included an annual fee of \$1200.00 for data transfer and storage of the meetings, an annual fee of \$1200.00 for technical support along with an annual cost of \$65.00 to aid in the ability to manage live and On Demand media. Earlier in 2015 there was a transition to an H264 system which enabled delivery of the meetings to viewers utilizing both Desk Top and Mobile devices. This transition resulted in the doubling of costs.

McLain commented that all communities are upgrading their systems to provide such delivery of meetings.

Motion by Heldt, seconded by Stakhiv to approve a Municipal Support Services grant to the Village of Beverly Hills in the amount of \$205.42 per month for Fiscal Year 2015/2016 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016) totaling \$2,465.00 to cover the hosting and live broadcast costs associated with web streaming Birmingham Area Cable Board and Village of Beverly Hills Council meetings.

Roll Call Vote
Motion Passed (7-0)

CABLE ACTION COMMITTEE REPORT

White stated that there was no meeting in September due to the Labor Day holiday. The next meeting will be held on October 1 at 6:00PM at the Baldwin Public Library.

Borgon reported that two weeks ago the Beverly Hills Council asked him if, due to the new technology, the Cable Board was going to or would consider updating its 2 year old research study on the audience government programming and viewership. McLain responded that the Board might want to consider it. The Council also asked that since the Board meetings are early in the morning and public participation low if it had ever considered entertaining public online questions or comments during the meeting and having an answer/discussion section at the end of the meeting. The Village is thinking about doing it. McLain questioned Currier if there were any guidelines in regards to the Open Meeting Act and entertaining questions/comments from those who are not in the room and actively participating in the meeting. Currier responded that there had been some changes but he would have to do some research so as to be more definitive.

PEG COMMITTEE

McAlear reported that at last month's meeting it was decided that a BCTV would film six fall sporting events. Unfortunately, last week's Boys' Tennis event had been rained out. It was the wet slick courts, not lightning that prevented the crew from filming. Thus, there was a charge for \$1250 (1/2 the regular fee). He inquired if the Board wanted to vote on whether to cover the make-up session next month and incur the fee of \$2500? This would be an additional \$1250 to what was voted on at last month's meeting or abstain and have a savings of \$1250.

Motion by McAlear, seconded by Ettenson to approve the funding for filming the Boys' Tennis make-up match in the Fall in an amount not to exceed \$2500.

Roll Call Vote
Motion passed (7-0)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

White received four (4) complaints since the last Board meeting. One complaint came from a Birmingham resident about Comcast removing certain stations from her package without notifying her. Initially Comcast told her that adding Showtime would cost her an additional \$5.00 per month. A subsequent call from Comcast priced the addition to be \$10/per month. She asked for assistance in getting Comcast to honor the original \$5.00. The problem was resolved. Another Birmingham resident had issues with Comcast concerning a charge for service calls and 7 days being without service. This has been resolved. A Bingham Farms resident of a newly constructed home complained that Comcast wanted to charge her \$881.00 to extend service to her home via a plant extension. Fred Eaton was contacted and resolved the issue. (Ettenson asked that more details of the resolution be provided at the next meeting) A Birmingham Commissioner expressed his concern about WOW's service reliability as he personally has experienced two (2) outages in a 1 ½ month period. He requested a representative contact him to discuss the matter. Ken Parson will follow up on this matter.

Financial information was emailed to all members. All are up-to-date (August 31, 2015) with the exception of Franchise Fees and PEG Fund Balances as of July 31, 2015 because she needed clarification of August's revenue amount from Beverly Hills. This information will be included in next month's

packet. Due to running out of paper, copies of July's Revenue & Expense Budget Performance by Class (PEG and Franchise) reports were not included. They, too, will be in next month's packet.

White updated the Board that Beverly Hills has not filled the position of Finance Director but the Auditors, who came in the day after Labor Day (9/7), were aware of the situation. In the meantime she has been working with the Beverly Hills Treasurer. She also informed the Board of the six (6) checks she had written on behalf of the Board in the past month. She noted the large quarterly payments to BCTV and the grants awarded last month to the City of Birmingham, Village of Beverly Hills, and NEXT.

Additionally, in July Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) which handles the liability insurance, sent the Cable Board two refund checks: \$2,399.00 represented the Board's share of the distribution of excess assets from the State Pool Loss Fund and \$3,744.00 which represented the Board's share of the distribution of excess net assets to Members. The National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) has informed her that Comcast has introduced a new over-the-top (OTT) Internet video service called Stream. It will debut in three (3) cities later this year and in other Comcast markets in 2016. Comcast has indicated that it considers this to be a cable service and will pay franchise fees and carry PEG channels. However, the FCC needs to research the services and how it should or should not be regulated.

White advised the Board that Comcast has added WJBK BUZZR (channel 292) on the Limited Basic channel lineup and effective August 27, 2015, WDIV Me TV (channel 298) will also be available on the Limited Basic channel lineup.

White updated the Board about the Audit. The Auditors were on-site in Beverly Hills Tuesday and Wednesday, 9/7-8. There are a few outstanding questions which need to be answered. Once the revenues from Franklin are received, this information will be transmitted to the Auditors.

PROVIDER RELATED TOPICS

a. Comcast

There was no representative present. Refer to Executive Director's Report for an overview. McLain added that all the complaints are in process and the turnaround is very fast.

b. AT&T/Uverse/Direct TV

There was no representative present. McLain noted that, according to what she had been told, it is not their policy to attend meetings. However, the turnaround on complaint resolution is also fast.

c. WOW

Ken Parson representing WOW was present. He reported that in July WOW had had a state-wide outage due to outside internet hackers. It happened three (3) weeks in a row with the last week being the biggest. FBI and local police were involved. A device was installed which subsequently stopped an attack the following week. There has been a rate increase of \$15 per line of business (phone, internet, and/or cable) in the last month but this time there weren't as many complaints as in the past. The increase is due to former programmers. WOW doesn't have the same capabilities as other cable providers when it comes to pricing so WOW is charged more. Those customers who have called in have had their bill lowered and kept in the same range.

Ettenson asked if WOW might have a similar OTT streaming service as Comcast is proposing. Parson acknowledged it might in the future but at the moment WOW is testing a TIVO-like box which might be introduced within the year. It is official that service will be expanding to Livonia and he will look into Franklin and Bingham Farms. He will email White with the information.

BAPA/BAMA REPORT

Steve Rota referred to his memo to BACB, dated 9/9/15 and pointed out the 6 completed **BAMA** Programs were regularly scheduled municipal meetings: Multi-Modal Transportation Board meeting, Board of Zoning Appeals, and the BACB meeting. The On Location programs were: City of Birmingham: W. Maple Road Trial Project; Village of Franklin: Labor Day Parade; and Baldwin Public Library Lecture.

For the **BAPA** Programs, from the BACB area there were 9 individual producers and 6 organizations involved: one being the postponed boys' tennis match. The make-up match will be Monday, September 28.

The next Volunteer Producer Workshop has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 27, 2015 from 10AM to Noon or 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Call 248-433-7790 and sign up. If interested in doing anything behind the scenes, i.e. camera or in the production area, call the same number and a one-on-one session can be scheduled. The upcoming Sports Shoots will be Water Polo 9/29/15, Soccer 10/3/15, Swim and Dive 10/8/15, Volleyball 10/22/15, and the re-scheduled Tennis Match on 9/28/15. The Birmingham/Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra is scheduled for next week.

Last month BACB approved the equipment purchase for BCTV. AVI and BH Photo were the chosen vendors and PO's have been sent to them.

Rota re-iterated the need for volunteers to operate the cameras, a floor manager to be in the studios to give cues to the host, someone to do the audio and run graphics, and others who would be behind the scenes in the control room. He offered to do a one-on-one session for those interested in behind the scenes.

Borgon asked if there was any type of training to work on the truck. Rota explained the differences and ramifications. Borgon also brought up the idea of having protective ponchos with a logo for the crew in case of inclement weather. According to Rota the subject had been brought up in the past but was never acted upon. Heyman even suggested some sort of BCTV sports uniform/T-shirt in a consistent color so as to identify crew members. Rota suggested that the subject be put on next month's agenda for a discussion.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Bob Borgon announced that two (2) weeks ago he had been appointed to the Village of Beverly Hills Council. He has resigned his position on the Cable Board but is now the liaison from the Council to the Cable Board. Last night Council announced to the public that there is an opening on the Cable Board for Beverly Hills. Applications are online or can be picked up in the Village Office. The Selection Committee will be reviewing them and a decision will be made at the next meeting.

There was a general discussion of the importance of filling the vacant seats. It has become difficult to have a quorum and thus conduct business. It was suggested that former members of the Board might be interested in returning.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

Stakhiv added to the discussion about Board vacancies by stressing that technically there should be thirteen (13) members on the Board and apparently, in the last six (6) months to a year it has been a difficult task to find seven (7) available members. She finds it to be a big issue and wished people would step up.

McAlear reminded the Board that a couple of months ago it had been suggested that a Board meeting be held at the Educational Offices at Groves High School. McLain stated that the meeting would not be able to be seen live.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30AM.