

BIRMINGHAM AREA CABLE BOARD MEETING MINUTES – May 18, 2016

Present: Bozell, Eick, Heldt (arrived at 7:47 AM), McAlear, McLain – Birmingham
Burry, Maly, Schneider, Verdi-Hus – Village of Beverly Hills
Ettenson – Village of Bingham Farms

Absent: Stakhiv – Village of Franklin

Also Present: White – Executive Director
Currier – Attorney for Cable Board
Kowalski – Bloomfield Community Television

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

APPROVE MINUTES OF CABLE BOARD MEETING HELD April 20, 2016

Motion by Heldt, seconded by _____, to approve the minutes of the Regular Cable Board Meeting on April 20, 2016, as presented.

Maly corrected the minutes on page 3, as he is not a Board Member of NEXT. The first sentence of the discussion about the NEXT fundraiser should read, “*McLain, Burry, and Borgon, Board Members of NEXT, relayed the information about its Golf...*”

Motion by Heldt, seconded by _____ to approve the minutes of the Regular Cable Board Meeting on April 20, 2016, as amended.

Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 BACB BUDGET

The Board was in receipt of the proposed 2016/2017 Cable Board budget as prepared by Executive Director White. She referred to the budget material and noted changes from the 2015/16 budget in **Board Expenses:** Administrative Grants reduced from \$197,763 to \$137, 639 (an estimate, as requested by the auditors); Advertising/Promotion reduced from \$1000 to \$700 (reduction due to low cost activities through the Birmingham/Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce); Bank Service Charges is a new account; Conferences reduced from \$6,000 to \$4,000; Contract Labor reduced from \$4,800 to \$4,000; Executive Director increased from \$39,000 to \$40,000. **Professional Fees:** Auditing (used to be referred to as Accounting) increased from \$8,200 to \$8,500.

PEG Revenue: Other Income: Interest Income reduced from \$500 to \$250; Other Income reduced from \$11,000 to \$5,000 (BCTV truck usage for non-BACB area community programing).

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PEG Operations: Cable Contractor reduced from \$250,000 to \$233,950; Equipment Purchase reduced from \$45,000 to \$10,000 (for possible studio equipment); Production Truck increased from \$24,000 to \$59,000 (for possible truck equipment); Production Crew Uniforms is a new category.

Verdi-Hus inquired about the Mileage Expense and Office Expense. In response White explained that the Mileage represents her cost to meetings but it usually didn't cost as much as the amount budgeted per year and the Office Expense covers ink, paper, and software updates.

Motion by Bozell, seconded by Ettenson, to approve the Birmingham Area Cable Board Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Roll Call Vote
Motion passed (10-0).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cable Action Committee

White reported that the committee discussed the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget proposal. Jeff Heldt, Jeff Bozell, Elaine McLain, Frank Maly, and she were present for the meeting. Verdi-Hus stated the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 2, at 5:30 PM upstairs in the Baldwin Library. The meeting is open to the public.

PEG Committee

McAlear, Chairman, stated there would be a PEG meeting following the BACB meeting this morning.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

White referred to her report dated May 11, 2016. Since her last report she has received three (3) complaints and all three (3) are now closed. One was submitted by the Beverly Hills resident who appeared at the last BACB meeting and related to her recent dealing with WOW regarding an offensive letter about some so-called "unpaid" bills that she had received. The resident has since spoken with a WOW representative who apologized and informed her that her balance was, in fact, paid in full. The representative also gave her one (1) month's credit and stated that he would look into the wording of the letter. McLain mentioned and thanked Ken Parson, WOW's representative to BACB, for personally handling the complaint. The second complaint was from a Birmingham resident who had two (2) problems with AT&T: cutting off his Netflix access on Sunday afternoons and charging him after changing out his modem. Both problems were resolved. The final complaint was from a Birmingham resident who claimed to be unable to receive the audio portions of Birmingham Board and Commission meetings. BCTV investigated the claim and found there was an encoder problem which was then reset.

The account balances for the MBS, BBCU, and Beverly Hills accounts were provided to the Board. Since her last report, White has not written any checks on behalf of the BACB.

The Charter Communications and Time Warner Cable merger has been approved by the FCC with conditions, which White elaborated on in her report. She also included a quoted statement from the opposition group, StopMegaCable, in response to FCC's announcement.

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PROVIDER RELATED TOPICS**a. Comcast**

There was no representative present and there were no new announcements.

b. AT&T/Uverse/Direct TV

There was no representative present.

c. WOW

There was no representative present.

Even though the representatives were not at the meeting, McLain noted that all recent complaints were personally handled by the respective representatives.

Ettenson mentioned that WOW has been sending mailings to residents in areas where its service cannot be accessed. He suggested WOW use zip codes. To which McLain explained that WOW does use the zip codes but there is a small residential overlap. She asked that White speak with Ken Parson about this matter.

BAPA/BAMA REPORT

In Steve Rota's absence, Greg Kowalski, BCTV, gave the report. He referred to Rota's Memo to BACB, dated 5/11/16, and pointed out the seven (7) completed **BAMA** Programs which were regularly scheduled municipal meetings, Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, Baldwin Library Board and Trust Meetings, Birmingham Advisory Board Meeting, Multi Modal Board Meeting, the BACB meeting, the Annual Celebrate Birmingham parade, and a Baldwin Library Lecture.

For the **BAPA** Programs, from the BACB area individual producers and organizations, twenty-eight (28) programs were taped. He listed all the programs.

Regarding the **PRODUCER WORKSHOP**, Kowalski reminded the Board that one-on-one sessions are offered for those who are interested in producing their own show and to those who want to experience the "behind the scenes" process. Residents can contact BCTV at 248-433-7790 to schedule an appointment date and time.

Kowalski noted the station submitted a few programs to be judged in the 37th Annual Telly Awards and won two (2) Bronze awards: Soup and Company and Beyond the Box Score 2015 Seaholm Girls Golf Team.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

McLain stated that she had received a phone call from Sharon Tischler, Southfield Township Clerk, who had questions about internet support and possibly coming to the Cable Board for a grant. In the past Southfield Township has received internet access through Oakland County and as of July, 2016 that would no longer be the case. Tischler was curious as to whether the Cable

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Board could provide a Municipal Support Services grant which is a line item in the Franchise Fee budget and is provided to the four (4) communities it serves. Currier will research the technicalities of the request, taking into consideration that Southfield Township is not a member of the agreement of the Birmingham Area Cable Board, does not contribute any funds to the consortium, its boundaries are much greater than this consortium, and more. He will report back to the Board with his findings at its next meeting. McLain noted that the Cable Board might be able to assist Tischler as she investigates different options that might be amenable to the Township. Currier suggested that Tischler begin by contacting BACB's escalation teams of all three (3) providers. White will contact Tischler with the phone numbers.

Eick stated that he had a PEG request from Derby Middle School. This would be discussed at the PEG meeting immediately following this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

McLain stated that this would be Pat Schneider's last meeting with the BACB. Due to employment responsibilities, she will be traveling more. On behalf of BACB, McLain thanked her for all her input and expertise over the years, all of which were greatly appreciated.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 AM.