

Present: Heldt, Kelly, McLain - Birmingham  
Burry, Heyman, Verdi-Hus – Beverly Hills  
Ettenson – Bingham Farms  
Stakhiv – Franklin

Absent: McAlear, Lurie - Birmingham  
Borgon, Schneider – Beverly Hills

Also Present: White - Executive Director  
Currier - Attorney for Cable Board  
Rota - Bloomfield Community Television representative  
Valentine – Birmingham staff representative  
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 MAY 21, 2014**

Motion by Ettenson, second by Heyman, that the minutes of a regular Cable Board meeting held on May 21, 2014 be approved as submitted.

Motion passed.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **Cable Action Committee**

White reported that the Committee talked about the June 1, 2014 webinar put on by the Michigan Municipal League regarding the Comcast/Time Warner merger. The session addressed the fact that the merger would combine the first and second largest cable providers in the country; the deal is valued at \$45 billion; the merger will give Comcast control of 57% of the cable television market across the country.

The first half of the webinar described the transactions, including plans for Comcast to sell a large number of Time Warner subscribers to Charter Communications and to spin off 2.5 million subscribers to a new company (currently referred to as “Spinco”) which will receive services provided by Charter. The creation of Spinco is dependent upon approval of the Comcast/Time Warner merger by the FCC and the Department of Justice. It is anticipated that the federal process will take at least until the end of the year to be concluded. If the merger is approved, the impact in Michigan will be substantial since most major markets in the Midwest (with the exception of Chicago) will become controlled by Charter either by acquisition or through its ownership interest in Spinco.

The second half of the webinar described why this should be considered a local issue, including concerns such as rate and service discrimination, discrimination against local community

programming, discrimination against high-cost regions/customer groups and anti-competitive treatment of over builders. The presenters suggested steps that Michigan local governments can take to protect against potential harm to their communities and consumers including filing comments with the FCC and examining individual franchises to determine if there is local review authority and what sort of changes of control are subject to review. The provisions of Public Act 480 in Michigan allowing transfers and the impact of the Detroit v Comcast decision should also be taken into consideration.

Attorney Tim Currier stated that, traditionally, the transfer of a cable company involves a 394 application process to approve the transfer. The communities have an opportunity to examine the ability of the company to deliver cable service as well as their financial capacity. Area communities have been through this previously. Currier referred to the recent name change of Comcast Corporation to Comcast of the South and Comcast LLC. It appeared not to require a 394 transfer agreement by the communities because there was no change in actual stockholders. The consortium communities will be awaiting whatever paperwork it receives from Comcast.

Verdi-Hus stated that the next meeting of the Cable Action Committee is scheduled for Thursday, July 3 at 5:30 p.m. at the Baldwin Library.

#### **PEG Committee**

Heldt had nothing substantive to report. There will be a PEG Committee meeting immediately following today's meeting of the Cable Board.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director White outlined a number of complaints that were pending after last month's meeting, all of which have been resolved. Five new complaints received since the last report were summarized. Two of those complaints are pending. The Executive Director's report included monthly financial reports, check disbursement information, and two channel change notifications from Comcast.

White related that cable prices are outpacing inflation four to one according to a new report from the Federal Communication Commission. The increase was recorded in the 12 months ending January 1, 2013, and was the most substantial rise since 1995.

#### **PROVIDER RELATED TOPICS**

##### **Comcast**

There was no representative present from Comcast. Member Stakhiv stated that a Comcast crew arrived at her house at the request of DTE to work on the cable box in her rear yard. She thought that Comcast should notify a property owner before sending someone to work in a residential back yard even if the box is in the right-of-way. On the other hand, Stakhiv related an incident where a Comcast representative successfully and promptly addressed a complicated issue experienced by her son.

In response to an inquiry from Currier, Stakhiv stated that the Comcast employee working in her back yard was wearing an identification badge. Currier remarked that the cable providers have a right to ingress and egress across property to reach their specific easement. If there is a "no

trespassing” sign posted, notifying the municipality would head off a call to the police by the citizen.

**AT&T**

There was no representative present from AT&T. McLain related that she has no additional information on the AT&T merger with Direct TV.

**WOW**

Celeste Oberhausen had no current updates from WOW but was available to answer questions.

**BAPA/BAMA REPORT**

Cathy White read the report from Steve Rota highlighting Bloomfield Community Television 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 May 22, 2014 – June 18, 2014).

The next camera workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am to noon or 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Call 248-433-7790 to sign up.

Control room equipment has been purchased for the Village of Beverly Hills. A tentative install date will be scheduled for the end of June or early July.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**BOARD COMMENTS**

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 a.m.