

BIRMINGHAM AREA CABLE BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, December 19, 2018 at 7:45 am

***Village of Beverly Hills

Council Chambers***

18500 West 13 Mile Road

1. Roll Call
2. Approve Meeting Minutes For Cable Board Meeting of November 14, 2018-M
3. Public Comments
4. Multi-Bank Securities (MBS) Presentation
5. Audit Presentation for Fiscal Year 2017-18
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Cable Action Committee
 - b. PEG Committee
7. Executive Director's Report
8. Provider Related Topics
 - a. Comcast
 - b. AT&T
 - c. WOW
9. BAPA/BAMA Report
10. Old Business
11. New Business
12. Public Comments
13. Board Comments
14. Adjourn

PEG Committee meeting immediately following BACB meeting

Present: Abraham, Eick, Fenberg, McLain, Shand - Birmingham
Bayer, Borgon, Bresnahan
Ettenson – Bingham Farms
Stakhiv - Franklin

Absent: Gugni – Beverly Hills

Also Present: White – BACB Executive Director
Currier – Attorney for Cable Board
Rota – Bloomfield Community Television
Jim Creech – Administrator, Village of Franklin
Dwight Levens – Executive Director of Technology, Birmingham Public
Schools
Kyle Mazurek – Comcast Representative

McLain called the meeting to order at 7:50 AM in the Village of Beverly Hills Municipal Building at 18500 W. Thirteen Mile Road.

Due to the delayed arrival of the representative of the Baldwin Public Library, McLain requested that item 6. PEG Grant Request – Baldwin Public Library be considered later in the agenda.

Motion by (?), seconded by Stakhiv(?) to amend the agenda to postpone consideration of **6. PEG GRANT REQUEST – BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY** until later in the agenda.

Motion Passed (10-0)

APPROVE MINUTES OF CABLE BOARD MEETING HELD October 17, 2018.

Motion by Borgon, seconded by Eick to approve the minutes of the Regular Cable Board Meeting on October 17, 2018 as presented.

Motion Passed (10 -0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

MUNICIPAL SUPPORT SERVICES GRANT REQUEST – VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN

Jim Creech, Administrator, Village of Franklin, referred to his letter, Report of Use of Grant Funds and Request of Grant Funds, dated October 20, 2018, documenting the expenditures from the 2017-2018 grant funds. The letter also requested a 2018-2019 grant to fund the cost of website support at \$150/mo. (\$1,800/yr.), monthly Comcast services for the Village Hall (Broughton House) at \$138.69/mo. (\$1,664.28/yr.) and monthly Comcast services for the Kreger House (Franklin Community Center) at \$213.36/yr. (\$2,560.32/yr.). The total amount requested is \$6,024.60.

Ettenson inquired if the Village had providers in the Village other than Comcast. Stakhiv responded that AT&T was available in portions of the area but was unsure if it was available at the Village Hall or Kreger House.

Borgon was interested in the Village's opinion of Revize, the company which redesigned its website. Creech was very complimentary of its work and stated that the website was very easy to use.

Motion by Stakhiv, seconded by Fenberg to approve a Municipal Support Services grant in an amount not to exceed \$6,024.60 to the Village of Franklin for website support and Comcast services for the Village Hall (Broughton House) and the Kreger House (Franklin Community Center) for 2018-2019.

McLain confirmed with White that this was a routine grant and part of the line item in the budget under Municipal Support Services.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion Passed (10-0).

PEG GRANT REQUEST – BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

White reported that Dwight Levens, Executive Director of Technology, Birmingham Public Schools, was unable to attend this morning's meeting; however, had attended last month's PEG Committee meeting. He is requesting a grant to improve the quality of its equipment. Levens sent a letter with a detailed quote for the new high school TV equipment. The total amount requested for the PEG grant is \$39,324.00.

Borgon referred to the detailed discussion the committee had had with Levens about this at its last meeting. The committee did its due diligence on the subject and recommends approval of this request.

Motion by Borgon, seconded by Eick to approve a PEG Grant request in an amount not to exceed \$39,324.00 to the Birmingham Public Schools to improve the quality of its technical equipment, as specifically presented in Dwight Levens' memo, Birmingham Public Schools Support, dated October 10, 2018.

Stakhiv was concerned that no representative was available at this meeting to speak to this issue, as has been the case for other requests of such sizable amounts of money. McLain explained this was done at the PEG Committee meeting since Levens had indicated he would not be able to attend this meeting. She added that he had been at the last BACB meeting.

Abraham inquired about how the equipment was distributed between the two (2) high schools. Borgon responded that the high schools almost equally share the equipment. Therefore, the grant is for both high schools. McLain added that the experts who do the infra-structure, as well as those who run the classes were consulted on how those resources would be used.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion Passed (10-0).

PEG GRANT REQUEST – BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Borgon explained this item had been discussed and the grant request detailed at the last PEG meeting. The Library would be taking some of the financial responsibility by paying for part of the upgrade out of its own budget. He felt it was a fair and equitable request and the PEG Committee supported this endeavor and recommended the forwarding of this item to BACB for its approval.

Doug Koschik, Director of the Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham, which serves Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and the City of Bloomfield Hills was present at the meeting. He provided some historical background of the current equipment in the Library's Rotary Room which is used for recording and live broadcasting of Library Board meetings, other municipal meetings, programs and author visits. The equipment still worked but was getting old and was in need of replacements. The Library is requesting a grant not to exceed \$45,000 to install the new recording equipment, as Borgon had referenced. The actual bid amount is for more than the requested grant; however, the Library would make up the difference out of its budget. Four (4) different vendors were contacted for bids and it was decided to award the project to a local company, Advanced Lighting & Sound. This is also the same company which has provided equipment to other sites in the area, an arrangement BCTV prefers. Borgon added that the Library was the only facility in the area broadcasting local access television which did not utilize the more upgraded equipment. The PEG Committee has requested that Rota become involved with the Library project.

Stakhiv inquired if the PEG Committee had received any paperwork supporting the request as the Cable Board members had not received anything in its monthly packet. McLain confirmed the committee was in receipt of such documentation and that several meetings had been held, one of which had included Koschik. She agreed with Stakhiv and also noted the importance of receiving detailed information concerning the bids and providing evidence that due diligence had been done.

Fenberg encouraged the board members and the public to visit the Library to see all the assets which it has to offer.

White complimented the Library in its generosity in the scheduling of BACB meetings in the facility.

Motion by Borgon, seconded by Fenberg to approve the PEG Grant request in an amount not to exceed \$45,000.00 to the Baldwin Public Library to facilitate the upgrade of equipment in the Library's Rotary Room for the recording and live broadcasting of Library Board meetings, other municipal meetings, programs and author visits.

McLain noted this was in keeping with the appropriate spending of PEG funds.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion Passed (10-0).

MULTI-BANK SECURITIES (MBS) PRESENTATION

Charles Kipp, Senior Vice President, Multi-Bank Securities, Inc. had not arrived due to traffic. McLain skipped this item.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cable Action Committee

Eick reported that White and McLain had final conversations with Muniweb about the design, colors and content and it was finishing the build of the website. White confirmed they had answered the final questions from Muniweb and are waiting for the final product. McLain thanked all those who contributed to this process with their suggestions and comments. She reiterated the goals the committee wanted to accomplish with the new website, including the design concept and the user friendly elements. She thanked Bayer for all her IT professional expertise and gave a short background of some of the “Google Analytics” of the area they had researched and implemented. Hopefully, the launch date will be January 1, 2019.

Bayer emphasized the importance that the new name, “BACB.org” be disseminated. She stated that everyone should be able to do a review of the website a week before it goes live. Shand requested that White send everyone a reminder email of when that preview period begins.

Eick reported that the next CAC meeting will be Thursday, December 6.

PEG Committee

Borgon reported there would be a short meeting following this one. At the last meeting there had been discussions about the two (2) PEG grants which the Cable Board had voted on and approved. At the upcoming meeting the BCTV contract, which will be coming up in June, will be discussed and possible recommendations made as well as the revising of BCTV’s Policies and Procedures.

Rota requested that the six (6) Winter Sports to be filmed be considered at this meeting. He listed those events and known dates.

Motion by Borgon, seconded by Stakhiv to approve payment to BCTV in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.00 (\$2,500 each) for the filming of six (6) winter sporting events, beginning December 13, 2018.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion Passed (10-0).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

White referred to her monthly report dated November 8, 2018. There were two (2) new complaints since the October meeting. The first (1st) complaint came from a Beverly Hills resident through the website who had a concern about the Board. The parties at issue have

discussed the situation which was resolved without any intervention by the provider. The second (2nd) complaint was on the same day as the Michigan State vs. Michigan football game. It came from a Bingham Farms subscriber who had lost connection due to low dangling Comcast cables in his side yard easement. As a result, the resident lost cable, phone and internet service. Service was restored when the Comcast lines were placed as high as possible in order to maintain safe clearance for DTE lines. This complaint is closed.

McLain thanked Mazurek from Comcast who was at this meeting for the exceptional response and personal intervention in the restoration of the service to the Bingham Farms resident. Ettenson mentioned that Bingham Farms had experienced numerous power outages in the last 60 days. McLain noted that the public should be aware that Ettenson is the representative who responds to business owners in Bingham Farms. Contact Ettenson through the Cable Board phone (248-336-9445) and leave a message for him.

White echoed those compliments to Comcast.

The account balances for the MBS, BBCU and Beverly Hills accounts as of October 31, 2018 were provided to the Board.

Since the last meeting White has written two (2) checks on behalf of the BACB to the Charter Township of Bloomfield for the quarterly contract payment to BCTV and also the BCTV filming of four (4) sports events in October.

Additional Notes

In an article on October 29, 2018, Forbes Magazine reported that cable providers currently face a steep challenge from the wireless companies. However, when Disney launches its streaming services in 2019, the cord cutting will be even worse as the company's ultimate plan is to challenge the wireline and cable TV industry. The competition between wireless and cable is heating up as the next generation 5G networks will offer speeds 100 times faster.

White included with her report an updated Board Member Roster and a list of the 2019 regular Cable Board Meeting dates. The Cable Action Committee meetings will continue to be the first Thursday of every month at 4:30 PM at the Baldwin Public Library in Birmingham

White commented that the fund balances were getting high. She will be looking at upcoming bills and those checks which have not cleared to determine if a transfer to the Credit Union would be advisable.

McLain pointed out that the Beverly Hills Liaison was not re-elected this past November. Borgon attended last night's Council Meeting; however, the new President has not yet appointed a new Cable Liaison. McLain thanked Delaney for all of his assistance and due diligence on behalf of the Cable Board.

Motion by Stakhiv, seconded by Ettenson to approve the Cable Board regular meeting dates for 2019.

Roll Call Vote:
Motion Passed (10-0).

PROVIDER RELATED TOPICS

a. Comcast

Kyle Mazurek, Comcast representative, updated the Cable Board on some of the items which White may have already passed on to the Board: The Internet Essentials program is low cost internet for low income families costing \$10 internet/month and the option to purchase a laptop or desktop computer for \$150. The 8th anniversary of this “Back to School” program was just celebrated and this past fall the program was expanded to include low-income Veterans. In mid-July internet speeds in the area were increased and an even faster speed was rolled out this past week. Many options are available in the area.

With the changing landscape in telecommunications, McLain advised residents that now was the time to educate yourself and partner with your provider to get the information you need or consider other options.

Answering Abraham’s question concerning the availability of the different speeds, Mazurek explained that this was due to the usage of the different devices and their connectivity. He also expanded on the qualifications for low income Vets. The InternetEssentials.com website has been set up with more information on the program. Fenberg suggested and both McLain and Mazurek confirmed that the school district was aware of this program. McLain added that the new BACB website would also have this and other resourceful information on it.

b. AT&T/Uverse/Direct TV

There was no representative present and McLain did not receive any new updates.

c. WOW

There was no representative present and McLain did not receive any new updates.

McLain mentioned that in the Michigan legislature there were a number of new small cell initiatives coming up for a vote after the holiday break. Currier listed all the pertinent ones and added that he had sent written forms objecting and protesting against these activities to McLain for distribution. He urged communities to voice their objections to these initiatives, as they may be just the beginning of such activities.

BAPA/BAMA REPORT

Rota referred to his memo to BACB dated November 7, 2018. He listed the completed **BAMA** Programs which were six (6) regularly scheduled municipal meetings, the BACB Meeting, the Parks and Rec Board Meeting, the Multi Modal Meeting, the Zoning Board Meeting and the Advisory Parking Committee Meeting.

For the **BAPA** Programs, from the BACB area individual producers and organizations, twenty-one (21) programs were taped, all of which he listed.

PRODUCER WORKSHOPS and/or CAMERA WORKSHOPS- BCTV is offering a one-on-one session for those who are interested in producing their own show and for those who want experience behind the scenes. Please call 248-433-7790 and BCTV will schedule a date and time for you.

The grant was approved for the Baldwin Public Library for new cameras and sound and he would be working with the Library and Advanced Lighting and Sound. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by early next year. McLain thanked Rota and Kowalski, et al., for all their involvement in this project which is not part of BCTV's contract with BACB but is evidence of their commitment to the partnership with the various communities and their desire to produce exceptional quality programming.

Borgon noted that Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin have not requested that some of their meetings be taped.

OLD BUSINESS

McLain mentioned that when watching what is happening in the State Legislature, please note how your elected representatives are being informed of all sides of the issues.

NEW BUSINESS

McLain acknowledged and congratulated BACB member, Rosemary Bayer, who was elected to the State Senate.

White pointed out to the Board that the Auditors would be added to the December meeting agenda. The audit is in the process of being completed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BOARD COMMENTS

Ettenson shared a personal "Kudo" to AT&T involving the loss on Friday and restoration of his landline on Saturday. He found a resource, <https://www.elliott.org>, which worked. This is the website of a "...non-profit organization that offers free advice and advocacy for consumers" and lists contacts in various categories. Under "Telecommunications" he found AT&T, found an email address for the head of customer service, he sent an email and within an hour received a call from the President's office at AT&T asking how they could help. A technician was dispatched Saturday morning and resolved the problem of the "mouse-eaten" wires. He is concerned for a senior citizen who might have a similar problem, cannot dial 911 and does not have a cell phone back-up. Yesterday he received a call from the office of AT&T's President asking if his problem had been resolved.

McLain noted that the MBS presentation scheduled for this meeting would be re-scheduled and placed on December's meeting agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 AM.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 13, 2018

TO: Board Members

FROM: Cathy White

Re: Monthly Report

CUSTOMER COMPLAINTS

We have received two (2) complaints since the date of my last report. Complaint No.2018-35 was received from one of our Board Members who lost all of her Comcast service (cable, internet and phone) and, although she was able to restore it for one day using the XFINITY app, she lost service again the next day and could not even get into her XFINITY app. Comcast has successfully restored her service and her account was credited for the intermittent service (which will appear on her 12/18/18 billing statement). This complaint is now closed.

Complaint No. 2018-36 was filed on behalf of a Bingham Farms resident who is not an AT&T subscriber but has a wire belonging to AT&T that is dangling 2 to 3 feet above the ground between her house and her neighbor's house. She tried calling AT&T about this but it has not been fixed. I have contacted AT&T to get an update on this complaint but it is still pending at this time.

FINANCIAL

The account balance for the MBS, BBCU and Beverly Hills accounts as of November 30, 2018 will be e-mailed to all Board members. This information will also be provided via hard copies at the meeting, as well as budget to actual figures.

CHECK DISBURSEMENT

Since the date of our last meeting, I have written three (3) checks as follows:

1. Baldwin Public Library (PEG Grant for equipment upgrade): \$45,000.00
2. Birmingham Public Schools (PEG Grant for equipment upgrade): \$39,324.00.
3. Village of Franklin (Municipal Support Services Grant): \$6,024.60

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

1. Fortune Magazine reported on November 15, 2018 that after a decade of rapid increases, the average cable TV bill barely budged this year. Subscribers to pay TV, which also includes satellite service, paid an average of \$107 per month, up less than 1% from 2017, when bills rose 3%. The slowdown reflects the growing influence of cord cutters, who are dropping pay TV altogether, and so-called cord shavers, who are reducing their costs by cutting the number of channels they receive.
2. Michigan NATOA, along with several other communities and entities including MML, MTA, PROTEC, Meridian Township and Bloomfield Hills, filed comments with the FCC opposing the FCC's proposed rules that would significantly reduce cable franchise fee revenue for local governments and impact other cable franchise obligations, in particular PEG channels.
3. The Wall Street Journal reported on November 19, 2018 that one of the largest seasonal drops ever involving consumers who canceled their cable TV or satellite subscriptions occurred in the past quarter. Although the traditional cable TV companies have increasingly turned to streaming services and partnerships with digital video startups to staunch the loss of pay TV subscribers, these tactics have failed to offset the erosion of what used to be the entertainment industry's most profitable businesses.

Most cable companies are reluctant to invest in their own skinny online bundles-also known as over-the-top packages-because they lack a nationwide customer base. But they are embracing on-demand video providers they once considered a threat. Comcast, for instance, is offering its customers access to Netflix, YouTube and Sling TV International through its X1 set-top box. The company recently announced it would offer customers the ability to add Amazon Prime to that system.

But skinny bundles are not as lucrative for providers and the profit margins have been estimated to be a negative 6%, versus a positive 38% for traditional pay TV packages. Even in absolute subscriber numbers, streaming TV's growth is not enough to offset the decline for traditional pay TV.

4. According to TV Technology, a new study revealed that consumers are more likely to recommend online pay TV to their friends than traditional pay-TV services. There is still a clear split between older and younger households when it comes to their loyalty to pay TV- with younger households being more loyal to OTT service and older households standing firm with traditional providers. As stated by the senior director of Parks Associates (the firm that conducted the study): "A key challenge for pay TV providers is to design and launch services that will inspire loyalty among younger households."

5. Comcast has notified us that prices for certain services and fees (including the Broadcast TV Fee and the Regional Sports Fee) will be increasing beginning January 1, 2019. For example, the Broadcast TV Fee will increase from \$5.75 to \$6.50 and the Regional Sports Fee will increase from \$6.75 to \$8.25. I will distribute a list of the price changes at the meeting.

6. Comcast has notified us that it will be offering some new XFINITY channels. For Digital Preferred customers, AFRO will be available which is a 24-hour polycultural black network mainly broadcasting top-rated Nollywood and black movies, dramas, sitcoms, music, talk and late night comedy shows. In addition, CLEO TV is a new channel from TV One which provides viewers with 24-hour lifestyle and entertainment programming targeting Millennial and Gen X women of color. Comcast is also launching i24NEWS for its Digital Preferred customers which is an Israeli International 24-hour news and current affairs television channel broadcasting in French, English and Arabic. In mid-December, Comcast is launching Newsmax TV on both its Digital Preferred and Instant TV Sports & News genre pack. Newsmax TV is an American-based news and opinion network currently reaching over 50 million homes.

Comcast has also indicated that its programming agreement with Fuse expires on December 31, 2018 and it will no longer be able to distribute Fuse's programming after that date. Comcast regularly informs its customers in their bills and annual notices that it maintains an updated website (<https://my.xfinity.com/contractrenewals/>) and toll free number (866-216-8634) to reflect the programming contracts that are set to expire in the coming months and the channels that Comcast might lose the rights to continue carrying.



Bloomfield Community Television

Memorandum

Bloomfield Township

To: BACB

From: Steve Rota

Subject: Report November 15th, 2018 through December 19th, 2018

Date: December 13th, 2018

Cc: Greg Kowalski; Cathy White; Elaine McLain

BAMA Programs

During this time period we've completed nine regularly scheduled municipal meetings, the BACB meeting, the Parks and Rec Board meeting, Zoning Board meeting and two Baldwin Public Library Board meetings.

BAPA Programs

From BACB area individual producers and organizations we've taped 30 programs. From individuals:

- ❖ Two *Inside Birmingham City Hall December and January Edition* hosted by Joe Valentine.
- ❖ Five *Patriot Lessons* hosted by Leah and Michael Warren.
- ❖ Three *Managing Problems of Daily Living* hosted by Linda Sircus.
- ❖ Three *Making A Difference at TCH* hosted by Bill Seklar.
- ❖ Six *Eye on Oakland* hosted by David Potts and Chuck Moss.

From BACB area organizations:

- ❖ TCH Senior Men's Club Lecture.
- ❖ *Birmingham Musicale*.
- ❖ *Birmingham Concert Band*.
- ❖ BACB Sports *Wrestling*.
- ❖ BACB Sports *Boys Basketball*.
- ❖ *Spectrum Orchestra*.
- ❖ Annual *DAR Good Citizens Award Ceremony*.
- ❖ *Berkshire Middle School Improv* show.
- ❖ *Plant Based Nutrition Support Group* Lecture.
- ❖ First Presbyterian Church *Dessert and Discovery* Lecture.
- ❖ First Presbyterian Church *Lunch and Learn* Lecture.

PRODUCER WORKSHOP

We are offering a one on one session for those who are interested in producing their own show and to those who want experience behind the scenes. Please call 248-433-7790 and we can schedule a date and time with you.

UPCOMING SPORTS EVENTS

Boys Swim and Dive
Boys and Girls Hockey
Girls Basketball