

NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

February 17, 2016
6:00 p.m.

**SPRING LAKE PARK CITY OFFICES
1301 81st Avenue NE
Spring Lake Park, Minnesota**

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
2. CONSENT AGENDA **pp. 1-9**
 - 2.1. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting, January 20, 2016
 - 2.2. Approval of the January financial reports and bill lists
3. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD
4. NORTH METRO TV REPORT **pp. 10-15**
 - 4.1. Monthly update
5. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE **pp. 16-19**
 - 5.1. Disbursement of 2015 Franchise Fees to Cities
 - 5.2. Election of 2016 Executive Committee
6. REPORT OF OPERATIONS COMMITTEE **pp. 20-21**
7. REPORT OF LEGAL COUNSEL
 - 7.1. Monthly Report
8. REPORT OF COMCAST
9. REPORT OF CENTURYLINK
10. NEW BUSINESS
11. OLD BUSINESS
12. REPORT OF DIRECTORS
13. COMMUNICATIONS **pp. 22-29**
14. ADJOURN

NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Commission Meeting – January 20, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Chair D. Swanson called the regular meeting of the North Metro Telecommunications Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Spring Lake Park city offices.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Dick Swanson; Blaine, Carin Payment; Lexington, Al Parranto; Ham Lake, Steve King; Centerville, Jeanne Mason; Spring Lake Park, Melissa Maher; Lino Lakes

Absent: Matt Percy; Circle Pines

Others Present: Heidi Arnson; Executive Director, Rose Valez; Admin. Asst.

Comcast Rep:

CenturyLink Rep:

CONSENT AGENDA

- **Minutes, Bill List, Financial Reports**

The December 16, 2015 minutes, and the December bill list and financial reports were approved as presented. **Motion for approval made by J. Mason. Second, C. Payment. Motion passed.**

REPORT OF NORTH METRO TV

H. Arnson reviewed the North Metro TV report as presented in the packet. A summary was also given of activities for the months of December and January. Topics included:

- The North Metro TV home movie transfer service continues to be very popular. NMTV can now transfer 16 millimeter film, Super 8 and 16 millimeter sound film, reel to reel audio tape, cassette tapes, Betamax, 3/4" and Hi 8 tapes. In December alone, 104 tapes and 41 film reels were transferred to DVD. This service has attracted an untapped demographic for NMTV. People who might not be interested in making their own TV show, are still finding value in North Metro TV.

- The NMTV Video Club has produced another seven episodes of Video Tips & Tricks. The short instructional videos can be found on the website and include such topics as microphone usage, finding copyright free music, and portable lighting.
- Instructor, Eric Houston, put together a very fun evening for his Video Club. He hosted a Mystery Science Theater viewing party as part of the celebration surrounding the home grown Minnesota show's return to TV later this year. He worked with a Mystery Science Theater representative in Los Angeles to plan the party and officially licensed an episode to screen. He also talked with Mystery Science Theater host and creator Joel Hodgson, who provided an exclusive video greeting for the evening. Along with Video Club regulars, the event attracted ten people who had never been to North Metro TV before.
- Long time North Metro TV public access producer, Bukola Oriola, has been appointed by President Obama to the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking. Bukola, who is a survivor of human trafficking, produces a program series entitled Imprisoned.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Legal Counsel, M. Bradley, reported on the following items:

- Recommended changes to the Joint Powers Agreement were reviewed. Language specific to the bonding and refinancing for the construction of the North Metro facility was removed and more general language regarding the ability to borrow money, with Cities approval was added. The requirement that franchise fees remitted to Cities be spent on "cable related expenses" was changed to "citizen communications related expenses." Questions were asked regarding the reasoning behind changing a Cities ability to spend franchise fees on citizen communications related expenses, instead of specifically cable related expenses. It was noted that there is a lot of cross-over between types of communication, such as City Meetings being available via the website. The change gives Cities more discretion on how they use the money.

MOTION: To recommend that a resolution be sent to the Member Cities amending and restating the Joint Powers Agreement, to amend the Commission's authority to issue bonds, obligations and other forms of indebtedness and to modify the member Cities' use of certain franchise fees. **Motion for approval made by: J. Mason Second: C. Payment. Motion approved.**

- ▶ The Commission recommended that a resolution prepared by the City of Circle Pines bonding attorney, and reviewed by Commission Legal Counsel, be sent to Member Cities for their consideration. The City of Circle Pines is willing to allow the Commission to bond for the \$2,000,000 HD upgrade, through the City. Bonding through Circle Pines would result in a lower interest rate and the ability to purchase the equipment tax free, resulting in approximately \$250,000 in savings for the Commission and the Member Cities. The annual bond payment would be about \$226,000 annually for a ten year loan. It was noted that average capital expenditures over the last five years have been \$388,000. So this would be considerably less. The bond would be paid with franchise fees. Language is included in the Bonding Resolution as to Member Cities responsibility for their portion of the debt, should franchise fees not be sufficient to pay the debt. This is similar to the language that the Cities adopted when the Commission bonded for the construction of the North Metro facility.

MOTION: To recommend that the bond resolution prepared by the City of Circle Pines bonding attorney, allowing the Cable Commission to bond for an HD equipment upgrade and outlining Member Cities financial responsibilities for the debt, should franchise fees not be sufficient to cover it, be sent to Member Cities for their consideration. **Motion for approval made by: J. Mason. Second: A. Payment. Motion approved.**

REPORT OF LEGAL COUNSEL

M. Bradley reported on the CenturyLink franchises in the Twin Cities. He stated that staff would be organizing the first quarterly meeting for early April 2016. Commission members were invited to attend. It was recommended that a joint meeting of the Cable Commission and Operations Committee be held for the first quarterly meeting.

REPORT OF COMCAST

No report was presented.

REPORT OF CENTURYLINK

No report was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS

No reports were presented.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m. **The motion to adjourn was made by J. Mason. Second, C. Payment. Motion approved.**

The next meeting of the NMTC will be held on **Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.** at the city offices of Spring Lake Park.

Jeanne Mason; Secretary, NMTC

NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATION
BILL LIST
JANUARY 2016

Date	Check #	Payee	Amount
JANUARY	COMBINED	PAYROLL	39,192.05
JANUARY	COMBINED	IRS/US PAYABLE	13,503.05
JANUARY	COMBINED	MN REVENUE PAYABLE	2,145.22
JANUARY	COMBINED	PERA PAYABLE	7142.77
12773	1/8/16	CenterPoint Energy	162.89
12774	1/8/16	AT&T Wireless	370.40
12775	1/8/16	Comcast	5.02
12776	1/8/16	Sam's Club	325.00
12777	1/8/16	Republic Services	91.77
12778	1/8/16	Fleet One LLC	121.85
12779	1/8/16	Assurant Employee Benefits	780.01
12780	1/8/16	Richard D. Larson	375.00
12781	1/8/16	Eric Houston	37.32
12782	1/8/16	DVS RENEWAL	116.00
12783	1/8/16	DVS RENEWAL	210.00
12784	1/20/16	Comcast	54.48
12785	1/20/16	City of Blaine-utilities	54.13
12786	1/20/16	City of Spring Lake Park	69.88
12787	1/20/16	HealthPartners	9,683.26
12788	1/20/16	Grass Hopper Lawn & Snow	525.00
12789	1/20/16	Metro Sales, Inc.	675.09
12790	1/20/16	Dept of Empl and Eco Development	121.42
12791	1/20/16	Connexus Energy	1,558.97
12792	1/20/16	Nat. Assn Officers & Advisors	1,960.00
12793	1/20/16	Alpha Video & Audio, Inc	2,035.38
12794	1/20/16	U.S. Bank Card Service	623.17
12795	1/20/16	Comcast	275.92
12796	1/20/16	POPP TELECOM	825.07
12797	1/20/16	Print Central	53.56
12798	1/25/16	MN Assoc Comm Tele Admin	255.00
12799	1/25/16	CenterPoint Energy	340.71
12800	1/25/16	Comcast	56.21
12801	1/25/16	Alpha Video & Audio, Inc	76.08
12802	1/25/16	Bradley Hagen & Gullikson, LLC	5,775.00
6509 DUP	1/2/16	Ashley Haynes	387.87
6527 DUP	1/2/16	Ashley Haynes	73.88
DEC SALES TAX	1/14/16	MN Dept. of Revenue	371.00
EFILE	1/26/16	American Express	7.95
EFILE	1/5/16	Authorize.Net	26.50
EFILE	1/1/16	Discovery Benefits	22.50
EFILE	1/2/16	Discovery Benefits	495.00
EFILE	1/4/16	Discovery Benefits	15,000.00
EFILE	1/16/16	Discovery Benefits	495.00
EFILE	1/30/16	Discovery Benefits	495.00
EFILE	1/4/16	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	15.90
PEACH	1/5/16	Peachtree/Sage Software	20.80
PEACH	1/8/16	Peachtree/Sage Software	1.60
PEACH	1/19/16	Peachtree/Sage Software	20.80

107,030.48

North Metro Telecommunications Comm

Combined Balance Sheet

January 31, 2016

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash - Checking Account	\$	2,169,384.60
Cash - Savings (Media Ctr)		472,205.81
Cash - Savings (Commission)		3.36
Petty Cash		150.00
A/R - Media Center		187,825.82
A/R - NMTC		15,000.00
Due from (to) Commision		(1,195,550.39)
Due from (to) Media Center		1,195,550.39
Prepaid Insurance - Media Ctr		8,859.15
Prepaid Insurance - NMTC		3,234.65

Total Current Assets 2,856,663.39

Property and Equipment

Studio Equipment - Media Ctr	1,802,649.77
Office Equipment - NMTC	239,449.66
Accum Deprec - Media Ctr	(1,379,111.83)
Accum Deprec - NMTC	(805,279.69)
Accumulated Amortization	(79,102.61)
Bond Setup Fee	92,700.15
Bond Setup Fee 2012	15,000.00
Building-Polk/125	1,503,204.17
Land-Polk/125	225,700.00

Total Property and Equipment 1,615,209.62

Total Assets \$ 4,471,873.01

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current Liabilities

A/P - NMTC	\$	8,862.00
Accrued Vacation		97,470.99
Accrued Wages		151.20
Franchise Fee App		819,046.21
Note Payable-Bond		355,000.00

Total Current Liabilities 1,280,530.40

Capital

Net Equity - Media Ctr	(103,121.67)
Net Equity - NMTC	2,905,390.70
Net Income	389,073.58

Total Capital 3,191,342.61

Total Liabilities & Capital \$ 4,471,873.01

North Metro Telecommunications Comm
Combined Income Statement
 For the One Month Ending January 31, 2016

	Media Center (y-t-d)	Commission (y-t-d)	NMTC Total (y-t-d)
Revenues			
PEG Fees - Comcast	\$ 0.00	\$ 188,207.18	188,207.18
Franchise Fees - Comcast	0.00	297,580.74	297,580.74
Interest Income	0.00	143.60	143.60
Miscellaneous Income	0.00	1,153.86	1,153.86
Contributions	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bond-Refinance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Revenues	0.00	487,085.38	487,085.38
Expenses			
Equipment Grants - Cities	0.00	461.75	461.75
Wages - other/accrued vac/com	0.00	33,095.06	33,095.06
Employee Benefits	0.00	34,155.09	34,155.09
Building Security	0.00	4,748.45	4,748.45
Legal - General Matters	0.00	5,775.00	5,775.00
Advertising/Marketing	0.00	2,864.58	2,864.58
Gas & Oil	0.00	447.85	447.85
Mileage Reimbursement	0.00	1,375.64	1,375.64
Depreciation	0.00	12,900.00	12,900.00
Studio Equip Purchases	0.00	2,188.38	2,188.38
Total Expenses	0.00	98,011.80	98,011.80
Net Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 389,073.58	389,073.58

North Metro Telecommunications Comm
Cash Receipts Journal
For the Period From Jan 1, 2016 to Jan 31, 2016

Date	Transaction Ref	Line Description	Debit Amn	Credit Am
1/4/16	LATE POST-VM	CREDIT CARD LATE POST Credit Card Sales	90.00	90.00
1/11/1	DECEMBER PAYPAL	DECEMBER PAYPAL PAYPAL	11.35	11.35
1/13/1	LATE POST-AUTH	CREDIT CARD LATE POST Credit Card Sales	14.56	14.56
1/22/1	4TH QTR FRAN FEE	4TH QTR FRANCHISE FEES Comcast-commission franchise	297,580.74	297,580.74
1/22/1	4TH QTR PEG FEES	4TH QTR PEG FEES Comcast-media ctr peg fees	188,207.18	188,207.18
1/29/1	INTEREST	INTEREST-COMMISSION CHECKING INTEREST - COMMISSION	143.60	143.60
1/31/1	JAN CC SALES-VM	CREDIT CARD SALES - VIRTUAL MERCHANT Credit Card Sales	936.00	936.00
1/31/1	JAN CC SALES-AUT	CREDIT CARD SALES - AUTHORIZE NET CREDIT CARD COSTS Credit Card Sales	3.05 101.95	105.00
			<u>487,088.4</u>	<u>487,088.4</u>

North Metro Telecommunications Comm
General Journal
For the Period From Jan 1, 2016 to Jan 31, 2016

Date	Reference	Trans Description	Debit Amt	Credit Amt
1/1/16	ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SIC	ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK	98,364.50	98,364.50
1/1/16	ACCRUED WAGES	ACCRUED WAGES ACCRUED WAGES	21,025.17	21,025.17
1/1/16	PRELIMINARY 2015 AD	PRELIMINARY 2015 AUDIT A PRELIMINARY 2015 AUDIT A PRELIMINARY 2015 AUDIT A	169,451.01	69,344.90 100,106.11
1/30/16	ACCRUED DEPRECIATION	ACCRUED DEPRECIATION ACCRUED DEPRECIATION	12,900.00	12,900.00
1/30/16	ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SIC	ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK	97,470.99	97,470.99
	Total		399,211.67	399,211.67

North Metro TV

January 2016 Update

Program Production

In December, a total of **91 new programs** were produced utilizing the North Metro facilities, funds, and services. This constitutes **73:15:00 hours of new programming**.

- 48 programs were produced by the public
- 20 programs were produced by NMTV staff
- 23 programs were produced by City staff



Van Shoots

The van was used for **45:30:00 hours of production**. The following events were videotaped:

- Girls Basketball: Park Center vs. Centennial
- Boys Hockey: Totino Grace vs. Spring Lake Park
- Girls Hockey: Centennial vs. Blaine
- Boys Hockey: Centennial vs. Blaine
- Boys Basketball: Spring Lake Park vs. Centennial
- Girls Basketball: Centennial vs. Blaine
- Wrestling: Irondale vs. Spring Lake Park/St. Anthony
- Gymnastics: Maple Grove vs. Centennial



Workshops

Workshop	Instructor	Organization	Students
Intro Meetinsw	Eric Houston	BHS BPA	2
Editing	Eric Houston	General Public	1
Into Meeting, Team 2	Eric Houston	BHS BPA	3
Planning Session	Eric Houston	BHS BPA	3
Camera	Eric Houston	General Public	1
Camera	Eric Houston	BHS BPA	6
Editing	Eric Houston	General Public	1
Individualized Workshop	Eric Houston	DaVinci Academy	1
Editing	Eric Houston	General Public	1
Individualized Workshop	Eric Houston	DaVinci Academy	7
Editing	Eric Houston	General Public	1
Movie Class	Eric Houston	Video Club	4
Individualized Workshop	Eric Houston	DaVinci Academy	6
Individualized Workshop	Eric Houston	DaVinci Academy	8
Camera	Eric Houston	General Public	1
Studio B	Eric Houston	General Public	3

Workshop cont.	Instructor cont.	Organization cont.	Students cont.
Individualized Workshop	Eric Houston	DaVinci Academy	7
Individualized Workshop	Eric Houston	DaVinci Academy	9
Studio A	Eric Houston	General Public	7
21 Workshops			76 Students

Home Movie Transfers

Home movie transfers have become one of our most popular services. Residents can transfer their family videos at North Metro TV themselves for free, or pay NMTV to do it. Most participants want to do it themselves. January set a record for most hours, most fees collected, and most individual pieces of media transferred.

Hours Transferred	Tapes	Film	Fees Paid
262.25	137 tapes	54 Reels	\$950

Public Usage Stats

For statistical purposes, the public access department documents total numbers of unique individuals and total hours of usage of the facility by the general public, every month. These numbers include regular users, class participants, individuals transferring videos, people who attend events, and any other public usage of the facility.

Month	Unique Individuals	Total Usage Hours
January	100	746.75

Production Highlights

January Classes

January was an extremely busy month for classes, with a class being taught nearly every day, and more than one class on some days. In addition to regular classes for the general public, Eric Houston taught class series to two private groups. The first was a group of students from Blaine High School involved in the Business Professionals of America. The students will be submitting a news video for a national competition. Eric taught them how to use the studio and guided them in their efforts. The second private group was the DaVinci Academy. In late 2015, Eric sent out invitations to local schools inviting them to take advantage of his on-location video instruction service. Several schools have him signed up, but the first was the DaVinci Academy. Eric has been teaching a twice weekly class, as an optional after-school activity for the students. So far he has trained the students on the use of the camera, tripod, and microphones. He worked with them to shoot and edit a short dialog scene from the movie Ghostbusters. The school has scheduled Eric for another round of classes in April.

Blaine 50th Anniversary Wrap-Up

NMTV was approached by Blaine Recreation Manager, Shari Kunza, to set up a video booth at the Blaine's 50th Anniversary Party. Throughout the evening folks could record their memories of life in Blaine. The videotapes have been edited into 13 short videos featuring Blaine residents telling stories of the City's history. The short videos have been compiled into one program for air, and the individual shorts have been posted on YouTube



and on the North Metro TV website. A promotional DVD was created for each participant, including multiple copies for hand-outs at City Hall and participating businesses like Paul's Barbershop, Pioneer Cycle, and Mrs. B's Dolls. The DVDs also include a recent Blaine High School Coach and Captain's segment and news coverage of the anniversary. Free copies of the DVD are also available at North Metro TV.

Anoka County Highway Project

T.J. Tronson has wrapped up his work with Anoka County on the Highway 10 project with three final flights. Anoka County hired NMTV to produce video records for the project utilizing the drone.

Johnsville Elementary School Project

T.J. helped Johnsville Elementary School teacher Jen Bobbe with a video project. She needed help pulling photos from a power point presentation about diversity, and then editing them, along with music, into a short video presentation for a live school presentation and placement on the web.

Centennial Elementary School Project

Centennial Elementary School teacher Kelly Boarder asked NMTV to produce DVDs of the school's annual talent show. T.J. produced the show with two cameras and is finalizing the editing of the project.



PR bits and pieces

- More shooting and editing for Make.
- Attended Chamber meetings.
- Shot Legislative reception and interviewed local politicians for short program.
- Communicated with Mike Ericson via phone and email to arrange meeting regarding city promos.
- Met with Jill Brown and Richard from Crestview to work on video for them for the channel and their website.

Production equipment consulting for cities and schools

Circle Pines

- City channel scan converter failed. Installed a temporary replacement. Tested bad converter in shop. Failed in shop as well. Recommend purchasing new converter.

Blaine

- Working with Roark Haver/coordinating plans for City to convert to HD.

Computer/Networking consulting for cities and schools

No assistance was requested.

City Channel 16 Playback Stats

City	Number of Times Programs Played	Hours Programmed on Channel
Blaine	146	169:25:40
Centerville	11	17:10:59
Circle Pines	147	125:09:55
Ham Lake	53	32:09:21
Lexington	77	21:16:10
Lino Lakes	27	16:48:55
Spring Lake Park	102	67:06:23
Totals:	563 Program Playbacks	439:07:23 Hours of Video Programming on Channels

Programs Produced by the Public

Title	Producer	Runtime
The Imprisoned Show (2 episodes)	Bukola Oriola	01:50:55
It's Only Food: Spanish Steaks	John Politte	00:08:00
Off Constantly	Dave Bauer/Tim Dold	00:37:57
His Legacy TV: Never Again	Nonie Tanner	00:34:52
Chit Chat With Bukola Oriola	Sharon Carlson	00:22:20
A Fresh New Day	Anita Wardlaw	00:12:35
NMTV At The Movies (9 episodes)	Eric Houston/Video Club	16:25:29
Blaine's 50th Anniversary	Eric Houston/Video Club	00:19:15
Blaine's 50th Anniversary Individual Stories (13 episodes)	Eric Houston/Video Club	00:19:28
Cornerstone Church (3 episodes)	Rick Bostrom	01:17:52
Lovepower (4 episodes)	Ann Sandell	04:00:00
The Power of Love (5 episodes)	Rick Larson	02:30:00
Rice Creek Watershed District Meeting (2 episodes)	Theresa Stasica	02:15:55
Hope Church	Cindy Hardy	00:41:00
Sunday Senior Moments (3 episodes)	David Turnidge	02:34:55
48 New Programs		35:10:33 New Hours

Programs Produced by NMTV Staff

Title	Producer	Runtime
Anoka County Statutory and Organizational/Regular Board Meeting (1/5/16)	T.J. Tronson	00:44:39
Anoka County Board Meeting (1/26/16)	T.J. Tronson	00:36:00
North Metro Cable Commission Meeting	T.J. Tronson	00:25:58
Just Kidding Just Fine Trailer	T.J. Tronson	00:01:14
North Metro TV News (4 episodes)	Danika Peterson/Ben Hayle	01:28:00
Girls Basketball: Park Center/Centennial	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	01:44:11
Boys Hockey: T Grace/Spring Lake Park	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	01:57:58
Girls Hockey: Centennial/Blaine	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	02:00:12
Boys Hockey: Centennial/Blaine	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	02:16:05
Boys Basketball: Spring Lake Park/Centennial	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	01:38:11
Girls Basketball: Centennial/Blaine	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	01:43:24
Wrestling: Irondale/Spring Lake Park/St. Anthony	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	00:57:13
Gymnastics: Maple Grove/Centennial	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	02:39:53
Sports Den (4 episodes)	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	01:57:59
20 New Programs		20:10:57 New Hours

Programs Produced by City Staff

Title	Producer	Runtime
Blaine City Council Meeting (1/7/16)	Blaine Staff	01:37:16
Blaine Planning Commission Meeting (1/12/16)	Blaine Staff	01:15:54
Blaine City Council Meeting (1/21/16)	Blaine Staff	00:51:05
Blaine Park Board Meeting (1/26/16)	Blaine Staff	01:08:17
Centerville City Council Meeting (1/13/16)	Centerville Staff	02:02:41
Centerville City Council Meeting (1/27/16)	Centerville Staff	00:43:03
Circle Pines Park Board Meeting (1/5/16)	Circle Pines Staff	00:08:31
Circle Pines City Council Meeting (1/12/16)	Circle Pines Staff	00:41:54

Title cont.	Producer cont.	Runtime cont.
Circle Pines Utility Commission Meeting (1/20/16)	Circle Pines Staff	01:10:41
Circle Pines City Council Meeting (1/26/16)	Circle Pines Staff	00:55:47
Ham Lake City Council Meeting (1/4/16)	Ham Lake Staff	01:06:45
Ham Lake Planning Commission Meeting (1/11/16)	Ham Lake Staff	00:12:44
Ham Lake City Council Meeting (1/19/16)	Ham Lake Staff	00:24:33
Ham Lake Park & Tree Commission Meeting (1/20/16)	Ham Lake Staff	01:04:57
Ham Lake Planning Commission Meeting (1/25/16)	Ham Lake Staff	00:19:35
Lexington City Council Meeting (1/7/16)	Lexington Staff	00:12:26
Lexington City Council Meeting (1/21/16)	Lexington Staff	00:21:11
Lino Lakes City Council Meeting (1/11/16)	Lino Lakes Staff	00:32:43
Lino Lakes Planning & Zoning Meeting (1/13/16)	Lino Lakes Staff	00:52:01
Lino Lakes City Council Meeting (1/25/16)	Lino Lakes Staff	00:30:42
Spring Lake Park City Council Meeting (1/4/16)	Spring Lake Park Staff	00:57:03
Spring Lake Park City Council Meeting (1/19/16)	Spring Lake Park Staff	00:27:52
Spring Lake Park Planning Commission Meeting (1/25/16)	Spring Lake Park Staff	00:28:03
23 New Programs		18:05:44 New Hours

If you have any questions or comments regarding this monthly report please contact Heidi Arnson at 763.231.2801 or harnson@northmetrotv.com.

NORTH METRO TV
Production Statistics 2016

	J	F	M	A	M	J	JU	A	S	O	N	D	15 Total	15 Average
Programming Statistics														
Cablecast Programs	2675.00												2675.00	222.92
Cablecast Hours	1820.00												1820.00	151.67
Programs Produced - Public	42.00												42.00	3.50
Program Hours Produced - Public	29.50												29.50	2.46
Prog. Produced - Affiliated Public	6.00												6.00	0.50
Prog. Hours Produced - Affil. Public	5.50												5.50	0.46
Programs Produced - City Staff	23.00												23.00	1.92
Prog. Hours Produced - City Staff	18.00												18.00	1.50
Programs Produced - NMTV Staff	20.00												20.00	1.67
Prog. Hours Produced - NMTV Staff	20.25												20.25	1.69
Total Public Programs Produced	48.00												48.00	4.00
Total Staff Programs Produced	43.00												43.00	3.58
Total Internal Programs Produced	91.00												91.00	7.58
% Staff Produced Programs	47.25%												47.25%	47.25%
% Public Produced Programs	52.75%												52.75%	52.75%
External Programs Submitted	34.00												34.00	2.83
External Program Hours	22.50												22.50	1.88
Total New Programs	125.00												125.00	10.42
Equipment Usage Statistics														
Facility Hours Available	219.00												219.00	18.25
Public Field Equipment Uses	9.00												9.00	0.75
Studio A	115.25												115.25	9.60
% of Available Time	52.63%												52.63%	52.63%
Studio B	15.25												15.25	1.27
% of Available Time	6.96%												6.96%	6.96%
Public MAC A Edit Suite	159.75												159.75	13.31
% of Available Time	72.95%												72.95%	5.98%
Public MAC B Edit Suite	96.25												96.25	8.02
% of Available Time	43.95%												43.95%	43.95%
Public MAC C Edit Suite	187.75												187.75	15.65
% of Available Time	85.73%												85.73%	85.73%
Production Van Statistics														
Production Hours	45.50												45.50	3.79
Number of Van Shoots	8.00												8.00	0.67
Average Hours Per Shoot	5.69												5.69	0.32
Number of New Volunteers	7.00												7.00	0.58
Volunteer Hours	58.00												58.00	4.83
Public Access Statistics														
Number of Workshops	21.00												21.00	1.75
Number of Students	76.00												76.00	6.33
PAP Volunteer Hours	266.50												266.50	22.21
Total Public Facility Usage Hours	746.75												746.75	62.23
Tours	0.00												0.00	0.00
Tour Attendees	0.00												0.00	0.00

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting of February 3, 2016

Executive Cmte. Present: Dick Swanson; Blaine, Matt Percy; Circle Pines

Absent: J. Mason, Spring Lake Park

Others Present: Heidi Arnson; Executive Director, Rose Valez; Admin. Asst.,

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the January 6, 2016 Executive Committee meeting minutes was made by M. Percy. Second, D. Swanson. Motion approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Staff reviewed materials related to the 2016 disbursement of 2015 franchise fees to Cities. It was noted that the fees had increased over the previous year. The new percentage of individual City income related to total Member City income was noted. Franchise fees will be disbursed to Cities on Thursday, February 18th, after Commission approval.

MOTION: To approve disbursement of the 2015 franchise fees, retained by the Member Cities, as presented in the disbursement materials. **Motion made by M. Percy. Second, D. Swanson. Motion approved.**

- H Arnson reported that the Operations Committee had reviewed the materials intended for City Councils regarding the NMTV HD equipment upgrade bonding. Five Cities selected meeting dates to consider the project.
- Blaine City staff had reported that CenturyLink was selling their service door-to-door without a peddlers license. H. Arnson stated that she had contacted CenturyLink and they are working aggressively with their marketing department to make sure licenses are being obtained.
- H. Arnson is working to set up the first quarterly meeting with CenturyLink to review service territory and subscriber levels. The meeting will be scheduled in April, and will last approximately 90 minutes. It was discussed that a lunch-time meeting might work well. Several dates will be offered for consideration.

- Recommendations were made for members of the 2016 Executive Committee. Matt Percy, Dick Swanson, Jeanne Mason, and Carin Payment have all indicated a willingness to serve. If no other candidates express interest in the Committee, at the full Commission meeting, it is recommended that Matt Percy serve as Chair, Dick Swanson serve as Vice Chair, Carin Payment serve as Treasurer, and Jeanne Mason serve as Secretary.

MOTION: To approve Matt Percy as the Chair, Dick Swanson as the Vice Chair, Carin Payment as the Treasurer, and Jeanne Mason as the Secretary of the 2016 NMTV Cable Commission. **Motion made by D. Swanson. Second, M. Percy. Motion approved.**

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by D. Swanson. Second, M. Percy. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

**DISBURSEMENT OF 2015 FRANCHISE FEES
RETAINED BY CITIES**

TABLE I

	MEMBER CITIES FRANCHISE FEES		2016 COMMISSION BUDGET CONTR.		FRANCHISE FEES RETAINED BY CITIES
TOTAL:	1,150,156	-	830,156	=	320,000

TABLE II

CITY	2015 CABLE COMPANY REVENUE BY CITY ^①		TOTAL SYSTEM REVENUE ^①		CITY REVENUE AS % OF SYSTEM REVENUE
Blaine	\$12,388,996	÷	\$23,003,083	=	53.85798%
Centerville	\$767,944	÷	\$23,003,083	=	3.33844%
Circle Pines	\$1,101,366	÷	\$23,003,083	=	4.78791%
Ham Lake	\$3,210,799	÷	\$23,003,083	=	13.95812%
Lexington	\$413,332	÷	\$23,003,083	=	1.79685%
Lino Lakes	\$3,796,030	÷	\$23,003,083	=	16.50227%
Spring Lake Park	\$1,324,616	÷	\$23,003,083	=	5.75843%
TOTAL:	\$23,003,083	÷	\$23,003,083	=	100.00000%

TABLE III

CITY	FRANCHISE FEES RETAINED BY CITIES		CITY REVENUE AS % OF SYSTEM REVENUE		TOTAL FRANCHISE FEES RETAINED BY CITY
Blaine	\$320,000	x	53.85798%	=	\$172,345.54
Centerville	\$320,000	x	3.33844%	=	\$10,683.01
Circle Pines	\$320,000	x	4.78791%	=	\$15,321.31
Ham Lake	\$320,000	x	13.95812%	=	\$44,665.98
Lexington	\$320,000	x	1.79685%	=	\$5,749.92
Lino Lakes	\$320,000	x	16.50227%	=	\$52,807.26
Spring Lake Park	\$320,000	x	5.75843%	=	\$18,426.97
TOTAL:	\$320,000	x	100.00000%	=	\$319,999.99

^① All amounts are rounded to nearest dollar.

Possible Executive Committee Postions

Dick Swanson: Any except Chair

Matt Percy: Any except Vice Chair

Jeanne Mason: Any

Carin Payment: Any

Other Candidates: Any

**NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
UNAPPROVED OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES**

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 10:36 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

D. Buchholtz, B. Petracek, D. Krueger, M. Ericson, C. Arneson, J. Keinath, J. Karlson

MEMBERS ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

H. Arnson

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES

The meeting notes of January 5, 2016 were approved by consensus.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- Staff reviewed materials related to the 2016 disbursement of 2015 franchise fees to Cities. It was noted that the fees had increased over the previous year. The new percentages of individual City income related to total Member City income were noted. Franchise fees will be disbursed to Cities on Thursday, February 18th.
- Materials intended for Member Cities regarding the NMTV HD Upgrade were reviewed. The materials included a project summary, two resolutions, and a letter from Ehlers explaining the financing. The first resolution amends and restates the Joint Powers Agreement to remove language regarding the building bonding and replaces it with more general language regarding the ability to bond, with Member Cities approval. The first resolution also changes the requirement that Cities' franchise fees be spent on cable related costs only, amending it to allow expenditures of franchise fees on citizen communications related costs. The second resolution was written by the City of Circle Pines bond attorney and outlines Member Cities responsibilities regarding repayment of the bond, should franchise fees be inadequate. A question was asked regarding language in the Joint Powers Agreement that seems to put undue administrative responsibility on the City of Blaine should another City wish to join the North Metro Cable Commission. Staff will review and check with legal counsel regarding the language. Meeting dates were selected for Cities to consider the HD equipment bonding project.
- Blaine City staff reported that CenturyLink was selling their service door-to-door without a peddlers permit. H. Arnson stated that she had contacted CenturyLink and they were working aggressively with their marketing department to make sure licenses were being obtained.
- H. Arnson is working to set up the first quarterly meeting with CenturyLink to review service territory and subscriber levels. The meeting will be scheduled in April and will last approximately 90 minutes. CenturyLink has stated that the meetings are scheduled during regular business hours. It was discussed that a lunch-time meeting may be more convenient for Cable Commissioners, with jobs, who may wish to attend. Several dates will be offered for consideration.

OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

- There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Would You Pay \$36 a Month for ESPN?

By Peter Kafka

January 22, 2016, 8:43 AM PST

Last year, for the first time, you could [buy HBO on the Web](#) without paying for any other cable TV. That was a really big deal, and something that didn't seem possible just a few years earlier.

So now lots of people assume that the rest of the TV grid is going to go “a la carte,” too.

Don't hold your breath. While HBO went off on its own much sooner than most people thought, it will be very hard for the rest of TV to follow suit. That's because the TV model is based on the bundle — the idea that when you pay for TV, you get the channels you want, and lots of other channels you don't want.

What's that? You don't care about what the TV guys want? You just want the TV you want?

Alright. Let's play along. Short answer: You'll pay a lot more for the TV you want.

Here's a chart, via MoffettNathanson analyst Michael Nathanson, that tells you how much you'd have to pay to get some of the top TV networks on their own — if the networks wanted to replace the money they make selling their stuff wholesale to pay TV providers like Time Warner Cable.

Two important things to factor in here:

- Note that the chart doesn't include broadcast networks like CBS and Fox, which are technically available for free over the airwaves, but in practice now get hefty per-subscriber fees from the cable guys as well — now approaching a couple bucks per person. That price gets marked up and passed along to you, the pay TV subscriber. Factor in those networks and you can see why [Apple has spent years struggling to get a \\$30-per-month Web TV package together](#).
- It's not a coincidence that the two most expensive networks — ESPN and TNT — are the ones that have spent the most on sports programming (you should throw in TNT's sister network TBS to get a fuller picture, while you're at it).

In fact, you might argue that the chart above should be titled “Look How Expensive Sports Are.” [Which we always knew](#) but is always worth [pointing out again](#).

Or here's yet another alternate title: “Is There Any Practical Way to Imagine ESPN Going the HBO Route?”

Which, not coincidentally, is one of the things [I plan to ask ESPN boss John Skipper](#) about next month at our **Code/Media** conference. If you haven't bought a ticket, [you can do that here](#).

Blue Sky A La Carte Pricing

Network	Parent	Sub Fees \$	/ Reach %	Implied A La Carte Price \$
ESPN	DIS	6.10	16.81	36.30
TNT	TWX	1.50	16.76	8.95
DSNY	DIS	1.27	15.39	8.25
USA	NBCU	0.92	16.89	5.45
NICK/NAN	VIAB	0.68	13.64	4.99
TBSC	TWX	0.73	15.92	4.58
FX	FOXA	0.58	15.57	3.72
DISC	DISCA	0.42	12.34	3.40
LIF	A&E	0.33	10.41	3.17
SPK	VIAB	0.40	10.94	3.66
SYFY	NBCU	0.29	10.62	2.73
FAM	DIS	0.28	11.15	2.51
AMC	AMCX	0.38	14.71	2.58
AEN	A&E	0.30	13.91	2.16
TOON/ADSM	TWX	0.23	10.56	2.18
CMDY	VIAB	0.20	10.63	1.88
HIST	A&E	0.27	14.82	1.82
TLC	DISCA	0.21	11.51	1.82
FOOD	SNI	0.19	11.58	1.64
HGTV	SNI	0.17	11.96	1.42

Source: Company reports, MoffettNathanson estimates and analysis

POTs and PANs

Pretty Advanced New Stuff from CCG Consulting

[January 25, 2016](#)

Fighting Back Against the Programmers

Some of the biggest cable providers are finally fighting back against the high cost of programming. Programmers have been aggressively increasing the costs of buying their content for over a decade, and the cable companies have been passing on those cost increases to their customers. My clients report programming costs have increased historically at 7% to 9% per year and say that it's been even higher the last few years.

The first big provider to take an exception to programmers was Verizon. Last April they moved ESPN from the basic to the digital line-up. For them this meant a significant savings. If a network is carried in the basic line-up then a cable company must pay the programming fees for every cable customer. But if a program is shifted to the digital tier then the programming fees only apply to customers that buy the higher-priced digital tier. The percentage of customers that buy digital tiers varies widely, but most cable companies have between 40% and 60% of customers electing the higher tiers.

So if Verizon had a 50% penetration of digital tiers, then moving ESPN to the higher tier would have cut their ESPN bill in half. Some programmers try to make up for this sort of shift by charging more for the same network if it's carried in the digital tier instead of the basic tier.

Comcast just joined the same fray. Earlier this month they moved Spike, CMT, and POP (the TV Guide Channel) into the digital tiers. Viacom instantly complained about that and there is certainly going to be a lawsuit over the issue. Viacom says that their contracts require those channels to be carried in the basic tiers.

And that highlights another reason why cable rates keep rising. The programming contracts have tightened up over the last decade and programmers now demand to be carried in lower tiers as part of renewing a contract. They also often demand very specific channel placement, which is why you don't see a lot of differences between cable line-ups in different markets.

This insistence that programming be carried in the basic tier (which maximizes the revenue of the programmer) has gotten out of hand. I helped a client set up a new cable system just a few years ago and the programming contracts insisted on 85 channels being in the basic tier. A decade earlier the basic tier generally had no more than 60 channels, but more and more networks are being jammed into the more expensive placement.

Cable companies have been complaining about this for years and I can recall several pleadings to the FCC asking them to stop the practice. But the FCC hasn't tackled the programmers yet and so nothing ever came of this.

A company the size of Comcast might be able to beat this in court. I would imagine that this was something that was forced down their throat and that they fought this during contract negotiations. But from what I've seen the programmers are completely unwilling to negotiate and their programming contracts are mostly take-it-or-leave-it. At some point it's not a negotiation when one side won't budge.

Companies smaller than Comcast have no ability to take this on other than to decide to omit certain programming from their line-up. I reported in another blog how small cable companies had dropped the whole Viacom line-up after a huge rate increase in 2013. This removed the Viacom channels from over 600,000 homes.

So maybe Comcast and Verizon can shove a small wedge into the leverage currently held by the programmers. If the FCC won't take on this issue (and I'm not sure they have a legal way to do so), then it's going to take these big public fights between the cable companies and the programmers to change the paradigm.

likalaruku

[January 31, 2016 at 6:03 am](#)

Comcast is just being greedy. They have no intention of lowering the cable bill for those who decide not to give them an extra \$1,200 a year for Spike & CMT. They're also working hard to find loopholes in net neutrality to charge people who watch TV online or play MMOs even more money.

<http://potsandpansbyccg.com/2016/01/25/fighting-back-against-the-programmers>

Susan Crawford / Feb 4, 2016

<https://backchannel.com/what-if-we-built-a-c-span-on-steroids-4b014dd39f21#.it4hz4mnb>

What If We Built a C-SPAN on Steroids?

Newspapers are collapsing, statehouse coverage is on the wane and lobbyists are quietly filling the gap. Here's a solution.

In her recently released book, [Dark Money](#), Jane Mayer painstakingly traces the startlingly successful efforts by Charles and David Koch and their conservative allies to use their billions to shape American policies. Mayer's work pays special attention to state-level politics, and for good reason: For years, groups like [ALEC](#), the State Policy Network, and (more recently) the Franklin Center for Government and Public Integrity [have been focused](#) on nullifying any progressive national policymaking through state legislation.

These groups look like they're conduits for bottom-up, grassroots expressions of discontent with the role of government in American lives, but according to Mayer their money comes "from giant, multinational corporations, including Koch Industries, the Reynolds American and Altria tobacco companies, Microsoft, Comcast, AT&T, Verizon, GlaxoSmithKline, and Kraft Foods"—and the draft bills, "news" stories, and opinion papers generated by these groups are aimed squarely at promoting state policies that will bolster the bottom lines of those companies.

Whether or not you agree with the overall policy goals of the Koch brothers, we have a democracy problem: At the same time that state legislative activity has gained in importance, the number of traditional news reporters covering statehouses has plummeted. According to [numbers from the American Journalism Review and the Pew Research Center](#), less than a third of U.S. newspapers have a reporter present at the statehouse (either full- or part-time) and almost no local television stations assign a reporter to state politics.

Net result: the public's awareness of and access to the activities of state government is vanishing, at the same time that the decisions made by state-level actors are having greater effects on American lives.

The first step towards righting this asymmetry is access, and there's a good idea out there you need to know about: State Civic Networks are state-based, non-profit, independent, nonpartisan, "citizen engagement" online centers, and they should exist in every state. (Think C-SPAN, but way better, and focusing on statehouses.)

The plan is to make every legislative session, every committee meeting, every public hearing, every oral argument in court, executive branch public meetings and hearings, press conferences, and non-governmental public policy events around the state available live (and archived for later on-demand viewing). These multiple media streams would be accurate and balanced, professionally-produced, and stem from multi-camera coverage not subject to any government interference.

The resulting permanent, searchable online libraries, which would also contain all the public documents that related to any covered event, would be accessible through a

great user interface—making the job of understanding easier for citizens, legislators, scholars, and journalists alike.

Connecticut is poised to be the first mover on this plan, with legislation being readied for introduction in the next few weeks. (Several states, including Connecticut, already have state-level public affairs networks; the big idea behind the State Civic Network is to ensure these networks' independence, allow them to provide more robust resources, and make it clear that they are entitled to be seen by the public.)

What's the funding model for this state-level civic enterprise? Well, Congress already thought about that when it gave local authorities the power to require cable companies to support "public, educational, and governmental" programming as a condition of getting a franchise.

Back in 1991, when the Senate was considering the Cable Act, the Senate report accompanying the bill said that the statute "allows for a local 'mini C-SPAN,' thus contributing to an informed electorate, essential to the proper functioning of government." (C-SPAN [had been created in 1979](#) by the cable industry as a public service. They probably now wish it would go away.)

The ideal funding solution would be to accompany all high-speed Internet access subscriptions with a tiny sliver pass-through assessment (pennies a month) that could be devoted to supporting these kinds of civic networks.

Short of that, the [Cable Act clearly gives](#) state authorities the power to require America's cable companies to both pass through subscriber funding and provide State Civic Networks with channel capacity—and the team looking at this in Connecticut estimates that it would cost only about \$.40 per month per subscriber to fund such a statewide function (including equipment, infrastructure, and operations).

Nothing, really, particularly given that cable customers routinely pay \$100-\$150/month for bundled services (about [40% of which](#) is pure profit for Comcast and its brethren).

Whatever the vanishingly minimal burden carrying a State Civic Network would cause the cable operators is, the Senate long ago declared it is appropriate in order to "ensure that the public interest, convenience and necessity is served, while allowing the cable industry an opportunity to develop to its maximum potential."

Predictably, Comcast, Cablevision, and the cable trade association are loaded for bear on this one. They'll bring in an army of lobbyists to stop this from happening. Even though they've benefited hugely from access to public rights-of-way and revel in de facto exclusive public franchises that give them unlimited pricing power, they're undoubtedly feeling outraged that anyone is even contemplating burdening their private operations with public obligations.

But if we think about what's important, seeing through a nonpartisan lens what's going on in the nation's statehouses makes the list. We're now in the dark, and we shouldn't be.