

**Cable Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**August 29, 2019**  
**Cloquet City Hall Council Chambers**  
5:40 p.m.

**Commission Members Present:**

Cloquet: Frank Yetka & Pete Radosevich

Thompson Township: Rhonda Peleski (Clerk)

Carlton: Jody Johnson

Scanlon: Scott Boedigheimer

Also Present: Eric Lipponen, James Barclay; Patty Murto; Timothy Soden-Groves; Carol Conway (Carlton Clerk); Lori Stigers (Scanlon Clerk) and Roger Maki (Cloquet Mayor)

**Update/History of Cable Commission**

Frank Yetka outlined the history of the Cable Television Franchise dating back to 1978-79 and the passing of a Joint Powers resolution by the involved municipalities that authorized the City of Cloquet to act on their behalf concerning the franchise agreement that read in pertinent part: “That the Cities of Scanlon, Carlton, and Thomson Township shall assign and do assign the responsibility to the City of Cloquet for purposes of establishing a franchise, negotiating necessary contracts, and such other requirements of law to effect the intent of this resolution.”

Frank went on to explain that in 1992 a Cable Television Commission was formed of which he has been a part of since its inception. He further explained that the Cable Commission met approximately 2 to 3 times a year to give general advice, direction and assistance to the CAT 7 operator regarding programming ideas and remained involved to review and approve the various franchise agreement renewals and terms with the Cable Company’s providing cable services in the service areas.

In 2015 the Commission developed a proposed Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) that was circulated and signed by the various communities but was never formally implemented and presented to the existing Cable Commission as required in the JPA, which reads:

“A municipality may enter into this agreement by resolution of its Council or Board and the duly authorized execution of a copy of this Agreement by its proper officers. Thereupon, the clerk or other appropriate officer of the municipality shall file a duly executed copy of this Agreement, together with a certified copy of the authorizing resolution, with the Cable Commission.”

Frank explained that in his legal opinion, since no entity formally followed through with this requirement, and since the copy signed by the Cloquet Mayor was not properly dated and attested to as required by statute, that the current Cable TV Commission remains operating under the original authority granted by the parties in 1979.

Frank explained that if the commission wants to move forward with this JPA it would take all four entities to complete the actions described above to formally implement the JPA. The proposed JPA also would require unanimous participation to be given to have legal effect. If one or more chose not to participate then we would continue to operate under the current 1979 Joint Powers Agreement.

Some discussion was had, and it was determined that more information was needed to make an informed determination. Data was requested for the next Commission meeting.

### **Status Update of CAT 7 to Include Move and Full Function Time Frame**

Eric Lipponen, Cable Station Director, gave the Commission an update on the current status of the CAT-7 station indicating that “change is coming fast.” Since approximately May 16, 2019, CAT-7 has been off the air. Eric indicated that CAT-7 is currently up and running but with very little programming. Eric stated that with the move he is having to rebuild the programming library and the slides that run between the shows. He stated that full programming should be up shortly after the Labor Day weekend to include programming, editing capabilities for locally produced shows and the ability to produce shows in-house.

### **Future Agenda Items**

- Impact of recent legal changes to franchise fees and impact on \$ received
- Budget of CAT-7 to include expense charged to account by City of Cloquet for services and equipment provided

### **Schedule Next Meeting**

Next meeting of Cable Commission was set for September 26, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. in the Cloquet City Hall Council Chambers.

### **Adjourn**

Hearing no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned 7:05 p.m.