

Cable Commission Meeting Minutes January 14, 2015

Present: Kathy Hanson, Frank Yetka, Adam Kemptar, Nathaniel Wilkinson, Pete Radosevich, Brian Fritsinger, and Eric Lipponen.

FRANCHISE AGREEMENT

Mr. Fritsinger and Mr. Yetka provided some background on the research into the legal formation of the Commission. They clarified that they could find no formal action by the City related to a joint powers agreement or similar legal document with other member communities. Mr. Yetka explained that based upon the information he has seen the Commission is simply an advisory board to the Cloquet City Council. Discussion amongst the Commission took place regarding these findings.

The Commission agreed that the current franchise agreement should be used as the basis for the new franchise not the revised agreement proposed by Mediacom. Mr. Fritsinger will scan the old document and make updates to it based upon changes identified by the Commission. He will then forward that draft to Mr. Yetka for a legal review prior to the next Commission meeting. The Commission discussed the need for drops and clarifying the two-way nature of the drops. It was agreed that based upon the current understanding of the Commission these drops will be limited to Cloquet locations. The Commission also wants to maintain the channel 7 location on the lowest tier of service. The Commission also asked for maps showing current service areas of Mediacom and that franchise payments to the City be made quarterly.

Discussion about the need to hold a public hearing on the renewal took place. Mr. Yetka will draft a letter to neighboring communities regarding the legal history of the Commission.

LOGO DESIGN

Staff noted that to date the Commission has received a number of submittals. With the submittal deadline of February 28, 2015 staff will hold the materials until the next Board meeting. Mr. Lipponen explained the rough nature of some of the proposals and would like to make sure that the Commission has the flexibility of awarding a winner but tinkering with the proposals to develop a more professional logo if necessary.

PROGRAMMING

Mr. Lipponen noted that there haven't been any changes to programming since the last meeting.

STUDIO EQUIPMENT

Mr. Lipponen was to develop an inventory list. Some more technical discussion took place on cable services.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will be on the 2nd Wednesday of February (February 11). The group agreed that it would try to meet monthly during the franchise agreement renewal process on the second Wednesday of each month at 4:30 pm.

Hearing no other items of discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn.