

NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

February 15, 2017
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. 1-15**
 - 2.1. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting, December 21, 2016
 - 2.2. Approval of the December and January financial reports and bill lists
3. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD
4. NORTH METRO TV REPORT **pp. 16--29**
 - 4.1. Monthly update
5. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE **pp. 30-37**
 - 5.1. Truck Graphics Change Order
 - 5.2. Replacement of Studio A Sets
 - 5.3. Franchise Fees to Cities
 - 5.4. Carousel Units for City Channels
 - 5.5. 2017 Executive Committee
 - 5.6. Quarterly Meetings Recommendation
6. REPORT OF OPERATIONS COMMITTEE **pp. 38-39**
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. 40-45**
14. ADJOURN

NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Commission Meeting – December 21, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Chair M. Percy 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, Matt Percy; Circle Pines, Steve King; Centerville, Al Parranto; Ham Lake, Cindy Hansen; Spring Lake Park

Directors Absent: Melissa Maher; Lino Lakes

Others Present: Rose Valez; Admin. Asst., Mike Bradley; Legal Counsel

Comcast Rep:

CenturyLink Rep:

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The September 21, 2016 minutes and the September, October, and November bill lists and financial reports were approved as presented. **Motion for approval made by D. Swanson. Second, C. Payment. Motion passed.**

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

None present.

REPORT OF NORTH METRO TV

No report was presented.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

D. Swanson reported on the following items:

- A plaque in memory and appreciation of Spring Lake Park Cable Commissioner Jeanne Mason was accepted, on behalf of her family, by Spring Lake Park Mayor Cindy Hansen.
- The HD upgrade continues on schedule. The production truck was delivered on December 12th. Alpha Video is currently installing the new equipment in the truck. It is expected that the install will be done by mid-January.
- NMTV staff member, Eric Houston, has visited or been in contact with all seven Cities' staff members responsible for the community bulletin board pages. Most Cities were excited to update the data pages with pages designed by Eric. Several Cities declined the offer for future visits to continue updating pages. All City staff members think that the recommended Carousel Bulletin Board systems are a good idea. Some Cities have chosen to continue to manage their own bulletin boards until the Carousel systems are installed. Programming Coordinator, Michele Silvester, has been scheduling City or community related programming on the City channels. These programs include a Yellow Ribbon City Ceremony, a Veteran's Day program, the live NMTV election program,, and NMTV news stories. It was requested that Michele be given permission to schedule additional programs at her own discretion. City staff can always make any programming requests at any time if they are so inclined. This would make scheduling the channels more efficient. NMTV staff have also met with several Cities regarding their HD upgrades and equipment issues.

REPORT OF LEGAL COUNSEL

M. Bradley reported on the following items:

- There has been a change in leadership in the Comcast Government Affairs department. The Vice President of Government Affairs, Emmett Coleman has left the company. As of now the position remains open.
- CenturyLink has made a major acquisition. They have acquired a company called Level 3. The company services large businesses data needs.
- The Commission should be aware of upcoming legislation. There's a bill that is being brought forward by AT&T to change the definition of rights of way. AT&T is suggesting that the long-standing definition be changed to include utility poles, water towers, and the sides of public buildings. This is important because if a City owns its utility poles they are able to rent them. This change would make the poles part of the right of way, and fees charged could be

restricted. There could be some real unintended consequences for Cities. The League of Minnesota Cities is watching this legislation carefully.

- The current FCC Chair has resigned and we will be seeing some new appointments to the FCC in the upcoming months.
- Comcast will be raising rates. The Commission no longer has any authority to regulate the basic rate. There is effective competition in the North Metro with the presence of CenturyLink.

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

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m. **The motion to adjourn was made by A. Parranto. Second, C. Payment. Motion approved.**

The next meeting of the NMTC will be held on **Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.** at the city offices of Spring Lake Park.

Jeanne Mason; Secretary, NMTC

**NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATION
BILL LIST**

JANUARY 2017

Date	Check #	Payee	Amount
JANUARY	COMBINED	PAYROLL	39,639.70
JANUARY	COMBINED	IRS/US PAYABLE	13,819.51
JANUARY	COMBINED	MN REVENUE PAYABLE	2,212.26
JANUARY	COMBINED	PERA PAYABLE	7,398.84
JANUARY	COMBINED	PEACHTREE	56.00
JANUARY	COMBINED	DISCOVERY BENEFITS	18,702.50
13011	1/12/17	Artists del Norte	100.00
13012	1/12/17	MN Assoc Comm Tele Admin	1,840.00
13013	1/12/17	Nat. Assn Officers & Advisors	2,015.00
13014	1/26/17	Grass Hopper Lawn & Snow	525.00
13015	1/26/17	North Suburban Access Corporation	100.00
13016	1/26/17	Metro Sales, Inc.	611.58
13017	1/26/17	Alpha Video & Audio, Inc	11,220.00
13018	1/26/17	Corporate Mechanical	780.00
13019	1/26/17	Aid Electric Corporation	428.00
13020	1/26/17	Alpha Video & Audio, Inc	1,275.00
13021	1/26/17	Blaine Lock & Safe Inc	85.00
13022	1/26/17	DVS RENEWAL	324.00
EFILE	1/1/17	Authorize.Net	25.90
EFILE	1/22/17	Dept of Empl and Eco Development	55.00
EFILE	1/1/17	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	119.40
EPAY-01	1/12/17	Republic Services	108.54
EPAY-02	1/12/17	CenterPoint Energy	180.09
EPAY-03	1/12/17	Assurant Employee Benefits	804.08
EPAY-04	1/12/17	AT&T Wireless	380.93
EPAY-05	1/12/17	VERIZON WIRELESS	355.08
EPAY-06	1/12/17	City of Blaine-utilities	55.89
EPAY-07	1/12/17	Connexus Energy	1,973.75
EPAY-08	1/12/17	Fleet One LLC	43.96
EPAY-09	1/12/17	Sam's Club	325.00
EPAY-10	1/13/17	HealthPartners	10,220.21
EPAY-11	1/24/17	T-Mobile	103.08
EPAY-12	1/24/17	POPP TELECOM	773.82
EPAY-13	1/24/17	Comcast	275.92
EPAY-14	1/24/17	U.S. Bank Card Service	1,947.85
DEC SALES TAX	1/12/17	MN Dept. of Revenue	717.00

119,597.89

North Metro Telecommunications Commission

Balance Sheet

January 31, 2017

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash - Checking Account	\$	2,774,439.19
Petty Cash		150.00
A/R - NMTC		188,207.18
Prepaid Insurance - NMTC		13,314.26

Total Current Assets 2,976,110.63

Property and Equipment

Office Equipment - NMTC	2,061,716.78
Accum Deprec - NMTC	(2,314,170.53)
Accumulated Amortization	(107,700.15)
Bond Setup Fee	92,700.15
Bond Setup Fee 2012	15,000.00
Bond Equipment 2016	200,000.00
Building-Polk/125	1,503,204.17
Land-Polk/125	225,700.00

Total Property and Equipment 1,676,450.42

Other Assets

Deferred Out Related/Pension	72,490.00
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Total Other Assets 72,490.00

Total Assets \$ 4,725,051.05

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current Liabilities

A/P - NMTC	\$	5,355.00
Accrued Vacation		209,338.96
Accrued Wages		4,761.76
Franchise Fee App		883,889.23
Deferred In Related/Pension		54,575.00

Total Current Liabilities 1,157,919.95

Long-Term Liabilities

Net Pension Liability	523,433.00
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Total Long-Term Liabilities 523,433.00

Total Liabilities 1,681,352.95

Capital

Net Equity	344,424.30
Net Equity - Media Ctr	(206,243.34)
Net Equity - NMTC	2,517,656.37
Net Income	387,860.77

Total Capital 3,043,698.10

Total Liabilities & Capital \$ 4,725,051.05

North Metro Telecommunications Comm

Cash Receipts Journal

For the Period From Jan 1, 2017 to Jan 31, 2017

Date	Transaction Ref	Line Description	Debit Amnt	Credit Amnt
1/27/1	4TH QTR PEG FEES	4TH QTR PEG FEES CenturyLink-Peg	9,018.64	9,018.64
1/27/1	4TH QTR FRAN FEES	4TH QTR FRANCHISE FEES CenturyLink-Franchise	11,780.79	11,780.79
1/28/1	JAN CC SALES-VM	CREDIT CARD SALES - VIRTUAL MERCHANT Credit Card Sales	210.00	210.00
1/28/1	JAN CC SALES-AUTH	CREDIT CARD SALES-AUTHORIZE.NET CREDIT CARD SALES CHARGES-AUTHORIZE.NET Credit Card Sales	0.44 14.56	15.00
1/29/1	INTEREST	INTEREST-COMM CHECKING INTEREST - COMMISSION	749.28	749.28
1/31/1	4TH QTR FRAN FEES	4TH QUARTER FRANCHISE FEES Comcast-Franchise	321,324.54	321,324.54
1/31/1	4TH QTR PEG FEES	4TH QUARTER PEG FEES Comcast-PEG Fees	187,987.85	187,987.85
			531,086.10	531,086.10

North Metro Telecommunications Comm

Check Register

For the Period From Jan 1, 2017 to Jan 31, 2017

Filter Criteria includes: 1) Accounts Payable only. Report order is by Date.

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
EFILE	1/1/17	Discovery Benefits	22.50
EFILE	1/1/17	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	119.40
EFILE	1/1/17	Authorize.Net	25.90
EFILE	1/2/17	Discovery Benefits	17,500.00
PEACH	1/4/17	Peachtree/Sage Software	19.20
EFILE	1/4/17	MN Dept. of Revenue	1,014.30
EFILE	1/4/17	Public Employees Retirement	3,361.44
EFILE	1/4/17	IRS/US BANK	6,053.20
EFILE	1/9/17	Discovery Benefits	240.00
EPAY-01	1/12/17	Republic Services	108.54
EPAY-02	1/12/17	CenterPoint Energy	180.09
EPAY-03	1/12/17	Assurant Employee Benefits	804.08
EPAY-04	1/12/17	AT&T Wireless	380.93
EPAY-05	1/12/17	VERIZON WIRELESS	355.08
EPAY-06	1/12/17	City of Blaine-utilities	55.89
EPAY-07	1/12/17	Connexus Energy	1,973.75
EPAY-08	1/12/17	Fleet One LLC	43.96
EPAY-09	1/12/17	Sam's Club	325.00
13011	1/12/17	Artists del Norte	100.00
13012	1/12/17	MN Assoc Comm Tele Admin	1,840.00
13013	1/12/17	Nat. Assn Officers & Advisors	2,015.00
DEC SALES TAX	1/12/17	MN Dept. of Revenue	717.00
EPAY-10	1/13/17	HealthPartners	10,220.21
EFILE	1/14/17	Discovery Benefits	495.00
PEACH	1/18/17	Peachtree/Sage Software	19.20
EFILE	1/18/17	MN Dept. of Revenue	1,093.63
EFILE	1/18/17	Public Employees Retirement	3,507.76
EFILE	1/18/17	IRS/US BANK	6,486.20
EFILE	1/22/17	Dept of Empl and Eco Development	55.00

North Metro Telecommunications Comm

Check Register

For the Period From Jan 1, 2017 to Jan 31, 2017

Filter Criteria includes: 1) Accounts Payable only. Report order is by Date.

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
EPAY-13	1/24/17	Comcast	275.92
EPAY-11	1/24/17	T-Mobile	103.08
EPAY-12	1/24/17	POPP TELECOM	773.82
EPAY-14	1/24/17	U.S. Bank Card Service	1,947.85
13014	1/26/17	Grass Hopper Lawn & Snow	525.00
13015	1/26/17	North Suburban Access Corporation	100.00
13016	1/26/17	Metro Sales, Inc.	611.58
13017	1/26/17	Alpha Video & Audio, Inc	11,220.00
13018	1/26/17	Corporate Mechanical	780.00
13019	1/26/17	Aid Electric Corporation	428.00
13020	1/26/17	Alpha Video & Audio, Inc	1,275.00
13021	1/26/17	Blaine Lock & Safe Inc	85.00
13022	1/26/17	DVS RENEWAL	324.00
EFILE	1/28/17	Discovery Benefits	445.00
EFILE	1/31/17	MN Dept. of Revenue	104.33
EFILE	1/31/17	IRS/US BANK	1,280.11
EFILE	1/31/17	Public Employees Retirement	529.64
PEACH	1/31/17	Peachtree/Sage Software	17.60
Total			<u>79,958.19</u>

North Metro Telecommunications Comm

General Journal

For the Period From Jan 1, 2017 to Jan 31, 2017

Date	Reference	Trans Description	Debit Amt	Credit Amt
1/1/17	ACCRUED VAC/COM/SICK	ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK	105,932.41	105,932.41
1/30/17	ACCRUED DEPRECIATION	ACCRUED DEPRECIATION ACCRUED DEPRECIATION	12,900.00	12,900.00
1/30/17	ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SIC	ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK	112,048.85	112,048.85
1/30/17	ACCRUED WAGES	ACCRUED WAGES ACCRUED WAGES	4,610.56	4,610.56
	Total		235,491.82	235,491.82

**NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATION
BILL LIST**

DECEMBER 2016

Date	Check #	Payee	Amount
DECEMBER	COMBINED	PAYROLL	36,427.61
DECEMBER	COMBINED	IRS/US PAYABLE	12,855.79
DECEMBER	COMBINED	MN REVENUE PAYABLE	2,084.47
DECEMBER	COMBINED	PERA PAYABLE	7,135.20
DECEMBER	COMBINED	PEACHTREE	38.40
DECEMBER	COMBINED	DISCOVERY BENEFITS	1,567.50
12997	12/7/16	Richard D. Larson	341.13
12998	12/7/16	Rick Larson	5.32
12999	12/7/16	Eric Houston	49.87
13000	12/7/16	Comcast	61.50
13001	12/19/16	Floyd Security / SRSI	157.00
13002	12/20/16	Holly Peterson	250.00
13003	12/20/16	Benjamin Hayle	21.60
13004	12/20/16	Eric Houston	44.00
13005	12/26/16	Bradley Law, LLC	1,260.00
13006	12/26/16	Michele J. Silvester	671.88
13007	12/26/16	Rozelia D. Valez	372.00
13008	12/30/16	Richard D. Larson	375.00
13009	12/30/16	Eric Svensk	500.00
13010	12/20/16	Heidi Arnson	170.97
EPAY-01	12/7/16	Republic Services	106.71
EPAY-02	12/7/16	CenterPoint Energy	57.88
EPAY-03	12/7/16	Assurant Employee Benefits	804.08
EPAY-04	12/7/16	AT&T Wireless	380.93
EPAY-05	12/7/16	VERIZON WIRELESS	355.08
EPAY-06	12/7/16	U.S. Bank Card Service	1,014.08
EPAY-07	12/19/16	City of Blaine-utilities	56.11
EPAY-08	12/19/16	Connexus Energy	1,777.83
EPAY-09	12/19/16	Fleet One LLC	114.59
EPAY-10	12/19/16	HealthPartners	10,220.21
EPAY-11	12/19/16	POPP TELECOM	773.68
EPAY-12	12/19/16	Comcast	54.67
EPAY-13	12/19/16	Comcast	275.92
EPAY-14	12/19/16	T-Mobile	103.09
EPAY-15	12/20/16	Federal Express	45.86
EFILE	12/2/16	Authorize.Net	38.13
EFILE	12/16/16	Chase Visa Card Services	4,292.22
EFILE	12/30/16	Chase Visa Card Services	13,660.74
EFILE	12/1/16	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	17.50
NOVEMBER SALES TAX	12/15/16	MN Dept. of Revenue	196.00
			98,734.55

North Metro Telecommunications Commission

Balance Sheet December 31, 2016

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash - Checking Account	\$	2,362,951.42
Petty Cash		150.00
A/R - NMTC		188,207.18
Prepaid Insurance - NMTC		13,314.26

Total Current Assets 2,564,622.86

Property and Equipment

Office Equipment - NMTC	2,061,716.78
Accum Deprec - NMTC	(2,301,270.53)
Accumulated Amortization	(107,700.15)
Bond Setup Fee	92,700.15
Bond Setup Fee 2012	15,000.00
Bond Equipment 2016	200,000.00
Building-Polk/125	1,503,204.17
Land-Polk/125	225,700.00

Total Property and Equipment 1,689,350.42

Other Assets

Deferred Out Related/Pension	72,490.00
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Total Other Assets 72,490.00

Total Assets \$ 4,326,463.28

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current Liabilities

A/P - NMTC	\$	5,355.00
Accrued Vacation		105,932.41
Accrued Wages		151.20
Franchise Fee App		883,889.23
Deferred In Related/Pension		54,575.00

Total Current Liabilities 1,049,902.84

Long-Term Liabilities

Net Pension Liability	523,433.00
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Total Long-Term Liabilities 523,433.00

Total Liabilities 1,573,335.84

Capital

Net Equity	281,644.60
Net Equity - Media Ctr	(206,243.34)
Net Equity - NMTC	2,517,656.37
Net Income	160,069.81

Total Capital 2,753,127.44

Total Liabilities & Capital \$ 4,326,463.28

North Metro Telecommunications Comm

General Journal

For the Period From Dec 1, 2016 to Dec 31, 2016

Date	Reference	Trans Description	Debit Amt	Credit Amt
12/1/16	ACCRUED VAC/COM/SICK	ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK	105,750.68	105,750.68
12/1/16	ACCRUED WAGES	ACCRUED WAGES ACCRUED WAGES	19,641.28	19,641.28
12/27/16	ACCRUED DEPRECIATION	ACCRUED DEPRECIATION ACCRUED DEPRECIATION	12,900.00	12,900.00
12/27/16	ACCRUED VAC/COM/SICK	ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK	105,932.41	105,932.41
	Total		244,224.37	244,224.37

North Metro Telecommunications Comm

Cash Receipts Journal

For the Period From Dec 1, 2016 to Dec 31, 2016

Date	Transaction Ref	Line Description	Debit Amnt	Credit Amnt
12/6/1	NOVMEBER PAYPAL	NOVMEBER PAYPAL PAYPAL	128.95	128.95
12/20/	TAPE DUBS-CASH	TAPE DUBS-CASH Miscellaneous receipts	217.00	217.00
12/20/	TAPE DUBS-CHECKS	TAPE DUBS-CHECKS Miscellaneous receipts	1,040.00	1,040.00
12/20/	COMMERCIAL PROD	COMMERCIAL PRODUCTION-TJ Miscellaneous receipts	630.00	630.00
12/20/	LMC REFUND	2016 LMC REFUND - PROPERTY & CASUALTY League of MN Cities	6,795.00	6,795.00
12/23/	PERA REFUND	PERA REFUND Public Employee Retirement	330.50	330.50
12/27/	DEC CC SALES-VM	CREDIT CARD SALES - VIRTUAL MERCHANT Credit Card Sales	1,003.00	1,003.00
12/28/	DEC CC SALES-AUTH	CREDIT CARD SALES-AUTHORIZE.NET CREDIT CARD SALES CHARGES-AUTHORIZE.NET Credit Card Sales	10.66 189.34	200.00
12/31/	INTEREST	INTEREST-COM CHECKING INTEREST - COMMISSION	536.77	536.77
			10,881.22	10,881.22

North Metro Telecommunications Comm

Check Register

For the Period From Dec 1, 2016 to Dec 31, 2016

Filter Criteria includes: 1) Accounts Payable only. Report order is by Date.

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
EFILE	12/1/16	Discovery Benefits	22.50
EFILE	12/1/16	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	17.50
EFILE	12/2/16	Authorize.Net	38.13
EFILE	12/3/16	Discovery Benefits	495.00
PEACH	12/7/16	Peachtree/Sage Software	19.20
EFILE	12/7/16	MN Dept. of Revenue	1,007.09
EFILE	12/7/16	Public Employees Retirement	3,361.44
EFILE	12/7/16	IRS/US BANK	6,005.63
12997	12/7/16	Richard D. Larson	341.13
12998	12/7/16	Rick Larson	5.32
12999	12/7/16	Eric Houston	49.87
13000	12/7/16	Comcast	61.50
EPAY-02	12/7/16	CenterPoint Energy	57.88
EPAY-03	12/7/16	Assurant Employee Benefits	804.08
EPAY-04	12/7/16	AT&T Wireless	380.93
EPAY-05	12/7/16	VERIZON WIRELESS	355.08
EPAY-01	12/7/16	Republic Services	106.71
EPAY-06	12/7/16	U.S. Bank Card Service	1,014.08
NOVEMBER SALES TA	12/15/16	MN Dept. of Revenue	196.00
EFILE	12/16/16	Chase Visa Card Services	4,292.22
EFILE	12/17/16	Discovery Benefits	495.00
EPAY-07	12/19/16	City of Blaine-utilities	56.11
EPAY-08	12/19/16	Connexus Energy	1,777.83
EPAY-09	12/19/16	Fleet One LLC	114.59
EPAY-10	12/19/16	HealthPartners	10,220.21
EPAY-11	12/19/16	POPP TELECOM	773.68
EPAY-12	12/19/16	Comcast	54.67
EPAY-13	12/19/16	Comcast	275.92
EPAY-14	12/19/16	T-Mobile	103.09

North Metro Telecommunications Comm

Check Register

For the Period From Dec 1, 2016 to Dec 31, 2016

Filter Criteria Includes: 1) Accounts Payable only. Report order is by Date.

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
13001	12/19/16	Floyd Security / SRSI	157.00
EPAY-15	12/20/16	Federal Express	45.86
13010	12/20/16	Heidi Arnson	170.97
13002	12/20/16	Holly Peterson	250.00
13003	12/20/16	Benjamin Hayle	21.60
13004	12/20/16	Eric Houston	44.00
PEACH	12/21/16	Peachtree/Sage Software	19.20
EFILE	12/21/16	MN Dept. of Revenue	1,007.09
EFILE	12/21/16	Public Employees Retirement	3,361.44
EFILE	12/21/16	IRS/US BANK	6,005.63
13005	12/26/16	Bradley Law, LLC	1,260.00
13006	12/26/16	Michele J. Silvester	671.88
13007	12/26/16	Rozelia D. Valez	372.00
EFILE	12/28/16	Discovery Benefits	300.00
13008	12/30/16	Richard D. Larson	375.00
13009	12/30/16	Eric Svensk	500.00
EFILE	12/30/16	Chase Visa Card Services	13,660.74
EFILE	12/31/16	Discovery Benefits	255.00
EFILE	12/31/16	MN Dept. of Revenue	70.29
EFILE	12/31/16	Public Employees Retirement	412.32
EFILE	12/31/16	IRS/US BANK	844.53
Total			<u>62,306.94</u>

North Metro TV

January 2017 Update

Program Production

In January, a total of **87 new programs** were produced utilizing the North Metro facilities, funds, and services. This constitutes **54:30:00 hours of new programming**.

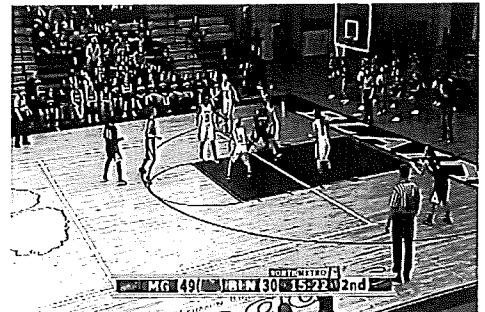
- 33 programs were produced by the public
- 33 programs were produced by NMTV staff
- 21 programs were produced by City staff



Van Shoots

The van was used for **14:00:00 hours of production**. Equipment for the new production truck was completely installed and tested. The vehicle went out on its first shoot on January 27th.

- Boys Basketball: Centennial vs. Blaine
- Girls Hockey: Blaine vs. Centennial



Workshops

Workshop	Instructor	Organization	Students
Intro to Production	Eric Houston	Anoka/Hennepin Schools	2
Studio A	Eric Houston	Blaine High School Business Professionals of America	3
Studio A	Eric Houston	Veritas Academy	3
Studio A	Eric Houston	Blaine High School Business Professionals of America	4
Studio A	Eric Houston	Blaine High School Business Professionals of America	4
Editing	Eric Houston	General Public	1
Intro to Production	Eric Houston	Mathnasium of Blaine	2
Movie Night	Eric Houston	Video Club	7
Bad Movie Bros Taping	Eric Houston	Video Club	5
9 Workshops			31 Students

Home Movie Transfers

Home movie transfers have become one of our most popular services. Residents can transfer their family videos, film, slides, and photos at North Metro TV themselves for free, or pay NMTV to do it. Most participants want to do it themselves.

Month	Hours Transferred	Tapes	Film Reels	DVDs	Photos/Slides	Fees Paid
January	205.75	58	174	46	80	\$675
TOTAL:	205.75	58	174	46	80	\$675

Public Usage Stats

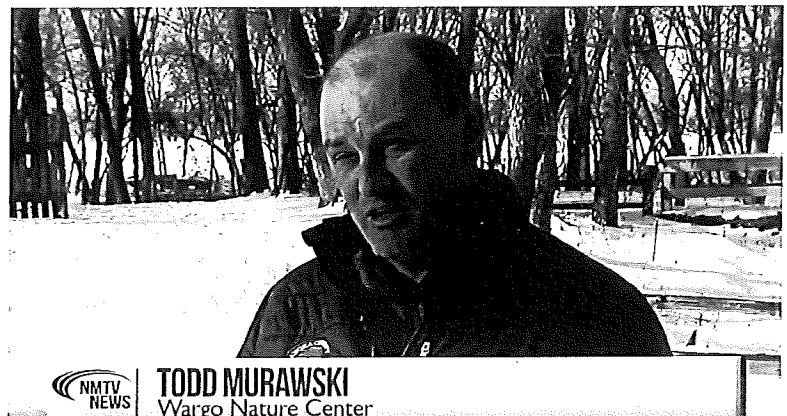
For statistical purposes, the public access department documents total numbers of unique individuals and total hours of usage of the facility by the general public, every month. These numbers include regular users, class participants, individuals transferring videos, people who attend events, and any other public usage of the facility. The numbers do not take into account the many members of the public who work with any other NMTV department, such as news, sports, outreach, or educational.

Month	Unique Individuals	Total Usage Hours
January	67	523.5
TOTAL PUBLIC USAGE:		523.5

Production Highlights

NMTV News Highlights

Each week Danika Peterson and Ben Hayle create a news program that highlights events, people, issues, and information important to citizens of our Member Cities. Some January highlights include honoring local heroes for their commitment to mental wellness, Ham Lake's Snowbowl Days, the long-term land lease at the NSC, Blaine's water crisis, the Wargo Nature Center Snow Day collaboration between Anoka County, Blaine, and Lino Lakes, and the correlation between Blaine's residential and commercial growth. In addition to daily playbacks of North Metro TV News on the cable systems, there are over 347 local stories archived for viewers on the NMTV YouTube page. The page can be accessed through the northmetrotv.com website.



HD Promos

T.J. Tronson and several of NMTV's part-timers and interns have been working on a series of promos publicizing the services of NMTV and the value of community programming. Now that we are HD, the promos have been produced in the new format. They feature NMTV staff, public producers, and public officials.



Blaine Business Student Project

Members of the Blaine High School Business Professionals of America team were taught how to produce a news segment in Studio A. The students were excited to learn how to use the new HD equipment and happy to have such a high quality video product for their project. A series of special classes was set up for the students, geared specifically toward teaching to the project.



Staff Changes at NMTV

Two long-time employees of NMTV have moved on to new adventures. First, Damian Kussian, NMTV's Outreach Coordinator, is now working for an advertising production firm and working on his own business. The resulting open position has been retooled as a Municipal Producer. The primary responsibility of the job will be to produce content for the government channels. The new person will work closely with the News Team and our Special Projects Coordinator. We hope to have that position filled by early March. The second departure is our Video Engineer, Rick Kocinski. After 15 years of service and watching NMTV move from analog to HD, Rick is seeking a new direction in his career. NMTV hopes to hire his replacement this summer.

Beyond the Box & Let Me Be Me

Special Projects Coordinator, T.J. Tronson has been working with Jennifer Bobbe of Northdale Middle School on two presentation videos for the school district's professional development program. The focus of the project was rethinking the boundaries of gender and identity. Over twenty students of different ages and grades from three schools contributed to the project. The district staff liked the videos so much that they will be using them as the foundation for the district professional development work for next year. T.J. and Jen created shorter, teaser versions of the video that have been uploaded to the district's YouTube channel, so people can get an idea of what they are about.



HD Upgrade Update

It's done!!! Mostly. All scheduled areas at NMTV, for the HD upgrade, have been completed. We continue to deal with a few software and networking issues, but otherwise things are going pretty well. The only things that remain, are to complete the graphics wrap on the truck, and design and purchase new sets. The truck wrap should be done by March. Sets may take a bit longer. Let's say summer...

PR bits and pieces

- Completed 5 NMTV promos in the HD format.

Production equipment consulting for cities and schools (41 hours)

Blaine

- Scheduled demo for the Ross Legislative Solution.

Spring Lake Park

- Worked to learn how to get a digital HD file from SLP City Hall to NMTV.
- Spoke on phone with AJA, and learned about Mac Drive, a program that would allow a user to mount the KiPro hard drive on a Windows PC
- Installed and tested Mac Drive on NMTV computer
- Talked with Dan B. about Mac Drive
- Troubleshooting problems SLP staff had with Mac Drive
- Set up staff with Filezilla to transfer files over the Prisma FTP Server
- Troubleshoot problems with Prisma
- Run internet speed tests

- Recommend MPEG Streamclip for compressing video
- Try to resolve issues with uploading and sending video files. Unable to resolve. Suspect interaction with network to be issue.
- Reviewed footage of a glitch in cameras. Tested cameras but could not replicate. Fine tuned white balance
- Created new SCALA graphic for Wanda
Ham Lake
- Reviewed and annotated proposal from M Space
- Met with Denise and M Space regarding HD upgrade proposal
- Began working on new SCALA slides
Circle Pines
- Recorded garbage bin footage for now removal video.
- Finished editing snow removal video.
- Made requested changes to video rough draft.
- Recorded final voice over for snow removal video and posted on-line.
Lexington
- Met with Peggy at City Hall to review notes regarding SCALA slides.
- Updated graphics based on new notes.
- Went to City Hall to upload new slides.
Centerville
- Can't get SCALA system up after power outage. Found power button stuck. Had to pry button loose and dig out plastic housing around button in order to turn system on. Will need new face plate or new computer housing.
- Unable to finalize discs. Video cable from DVD recorder had been disconnected. Connected and finalized disc.
Lino Lakes
- Spoke with Jeff Karlson regarding HD upgrade. Made appointment with Z Systems
All Cities
- Re-cut Circle Pines snow removal video for use by other Cities. Video is playing on government channels.
- Spoke with Haivision and began work to get a loaner version of the Makito X for HD signal transmission testing from City Halls to NMTV head-end.

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	155	265:19:30
Centerville	13	14:17:56
Circle Pines	125	71:58:45
Ham Lake	40	15:16:00
Lexington	84	32:31:37
Lino Lakes	87	30:53:06
Spring Lake Park	98	95:50:58
Totals:	602 Program Playbacks	526:07:52 Hours of Video Programming on Channels

Programs Produced by the Public

Title	Producer	Runtime
BPA - Broadcast News	Kendra Kukowski	00:03:30
It's Only Food With Chef John Politte (6 episodes)	John Politte	01:07:36
Chit Chat (2 episodes)	Sharon Carlson	00:38:20
Bad Movie Bros	Video Club	00:52:54
Giving In Grace (2 episodes)	Stevie Lindsey	01:41:54
Cornerstone Church (4 episodes)	Rick Bostrom	01:56:15
Lovepower (6 episodes)	Ann Sandell	06:00:00
The Power of Love (5 episodes)	Rick Larson	02:30:00
Rice Creek Watershed District Meeting (2 episodes)	Theresa Stasica	03:07:55
Oak Park Moments (5 episodes)	David Turnidge	02:54:35
33 New Programs		20:52:29 New Hours

Programs Produced by NMTV Staff

Title	Producer	Runtime
Anoka County Organizational & Board Meeting (1/3/17)	T.J. Tronson	00:28:26
Anoka County Board Meeting (1/24/17)	T.J. Tronson	01:11:16
NMTV HD Promos (5)	T.J. Tronson	00:05:00
NMTV News (4 episodes)	Danika Peterson/Ben Hayle	01:15:52
Ham Lake Snowbowl Preview	Danika Peterson/Ben Hayle	00:01:48
Economic Growth and the Blaine Job Market	Danika Peterson/Ben Hayle	00:06:30
The Trials and Tribulations of Adolescence	Danika Peterson/Ben Hayle	00:57:50
Advocacy to the Next Level	Danika Peterson/Ben Hayle	01:02:58
Girls Basketball: Andover/Centennial	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	01:08:16
Girls Basketball: Elk River/Centennial	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	01:21:19
Girls Hockey: Centennial/Blaine	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	01:23:09
Boys Hockey: Centennial/Blaine	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	01:22:40
Boys Basketball: Centennial/Spring Lake Park	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	01:13:13
Boys Basketball: Centennial/Blaine	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	01:31:51
Girls Hockey: Blaine/Centennial	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	02:11:42
Captains & Coaches (7 episodes)	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	00:23:05
Sports Den (4 episodes)	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	01:52:24
33 New Programs		17:37:19 New Hours

Programs Produced by City Staff

Title	Producer	Runtime
Blaine City Council Meeting (1/5/17)	Blaine Staff	01:22:13
Blaine Planning Commission Meeting (1/10/17)	Blaine Staff	01:58:08
Blaine City Council Meeting (1/19/17)	Blaine Staff	01:47:50
Blaine Park Board Meeting (1/24/17)	Blaine Staff	00:38:05
Centerville City Council Meeting (1/11/17)	Centerville Staff	01:10:24
Centerville City Council Meeting (1/25/17)	Centerville Staff	01:00:50
Circle Pines City Council Meeting (1/10/17)	Circle Pines Staff	00:46:10

Title cont.	Producer cont.	Runtime cont.
Circle Pines Utility Commission Meeting (1/18/17)	Circle Pines Staff	00:32:01
Circle Pines City Council Meeting (1/24/17)	Circle Pines Staff	00:22:50
Ham Lake Planning Commission Meeting (1/9/17)	Ham Lake Staff	00:16:35
Ham Lake City Council Meeting (1/17/17)	Ham Lake Staff	00:20:20
Ham Lake Park & Tree Commission Meeting (1/18/17)	Ham Lake Staff	00:29:52
Ham Lake Planning Commission Meeting (1/23/17)	Ham Lake Staff	00:27:07
Lexington City Council Meeting (1/5/17)	Lexington Staff	00:41:06
Lexington City Council Meeting (1/19/17)	Lexington Staff	00:04:14
Lino Lakes City Council Meeting (1/9/17)	Lino Lakes Staff	00:42:30
Lino Lakes Planning & Zoning Meeting (1/11/17)	Lino Lakes Staff	00:40:41
Lino Lakes City Council Meeting (1/23/17)	Lino Lakes Staff	00:13:14
Spring Lake Park City Council Meeting (1/3/17)	Spring Lake Park Staff	00:44:48
Spring Lake Park City Council Meeting (1/17/17)	Spring Lake Park Staff	01:15:21
Spring Lake Park Planning Commission Meeting (1/23/17)	Spring Lake Park Staff	00:44:11
21 New Programs		16:18:30 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 2017

Programming Statistics	J	F	M	A	M	J	JU	A	S	O	N	D	17 Total	17 Average
Cablecast Programs	2550.00												2550.00	212.50
Cablecast Hours	1851.00												1851.00	154.25
Programs Produced - Public	27.00												27.00	2.25
Program Hours Produced - Public	14.75												14.75	1.23
Prog. Produced - Affiliated Public	6.00												6.00	0.50
Prog. Hours Produced - Affil. Public	6.00												6.00	0.50
Programs Produced - City Staff	21.00												21.00	1.75
Prog. Hours Produced - City Staff	16.25												16.25	1.35
Programs Produced - NMTV Staff	33.00												33.00	2.75
Prog. Hours Produced - NMTV Staff	17.50												17.50	1.46
Total Public Programs Produced	33.00												33.00	2.75
Total Staff Programs Produced	54.00												54.00	4.50
Total Internal Programs Produced	87.00												87.00	7.25
% Staff Produced Programs	62.07%												62.07%	62.07%
% Public Produced Programs	37.93%												37.93%	37.93%
External Programs Submitted	81.00												81.00	6.75
External Program Hours	72.75												72.75	6.06
Total New Programs	168.00												168.00	14.00
Equipment Usage Statistics														
Facility Hours Available	208.50												208.50	17.38
Public Field Equipment Uses	10.00												10.00	0.83
Studio A	36.25												36.25	3.02
% of Available Time	17.39%												17.39%	17.39%
Studio B	26.00												26.00	2.17
% of Available Time	12.47%												12.47%	12.47%
Public MAC A Edit Suite	118.00												118.00	9.83
% of Available Time	56.59%												56.59%	4.42%
Public MAC B Edit Suite	111.50												111.50	9.29
% of Available Time	53.48%												53.48%	53.48%
Public MAC C Edit Suite	138.50												138.50	11.54
% of Available Time	66.43%												66.43%	66.43%
Production Van Statistics														
Production Hours	14.25												14.25	1.19
Number of Van Shoots	2.00												2.00	0.17
Average Hours Per Shoot	7.13												7.13	0.10
Number of New Volunteers	2.00												2.00	0.17
Volunteer Hours	14.00												14.00	1.17
Public Access Statistics														
Number of Workshops	9.00												9.00	0.75
Number of Students	31.00												31.00	2.58
PAP Volunteer Hours	140.50												140.50	11.71
Total Public Facility Usage Hours	523.50												523.50	43.63
Tours	0.00												0.00	0.00
Tour Attendees	0.00												0.00	0.00

North Metro TV

December 2016 Update

Program Production

In December, a total of **55 new programs** were produced utilizing the North Metro facilities, funds, and services. This constitutes **49:15:00 hours of new programming**.

- 22 programs were produced by the public
- 17 programs were produced by NMTV staff
- 16 programs were produced by City staff



Van Shoots

The van was used for **13:00:00 hours of production**. The old production truck was retired early in December to facilitate the removal of some pieces of equipment for installation into the new production truck. Fewer games were covered as a result. The following events were videotaped:

- Girls Basketball: Blaine vs. Spring Lake Park
- Boys Hockey: Centennial vs. Blaine



Workshops

Workshop	Instructor	Organization	Students
Clip Playback and Graphics Generator Training - Studio A	Eric Houston	Video Club	8
Early Film Treasures Studio A Taping	Eric Houston	Video Club	9
Studio B	Eric Houston	General Public	1
Movie Screening & Discussion	Eric Houston	Video Club	13
4 Workshops			31 Students

Home Movie Transfers

Home movie transfers have become one of our most popular services. Residents can transfer their family videos, film, slides, and photos at North Metro TV themselves for free, or pay NMTV to do it. Most participants want to do it themselves.

Month	Hours Transferred	Tapes	Film Reels	DVDs	Photos/ Slides	Fees Paid
January	262.25	137	54	0	NA	\$950
February	124.0	37	43	6	NA	\$110
March	288.5	129	21	3	NA	\$225
April	243.0	106	23	69	NA	\$525
May	183.25	94	10	59	NA	\$190
June	137.75	91	46	60	NA	\$166
July	156.00	97	30	0	NA	\$220
August	120.75	34	36	54	6	\$505
September	82.00	36	5	93	0	\$165
October	257.50	103	120	9	0	\$35
November	174.5	99	58	10	627	\$177
December	264.5	110	117	74	1,404	\$1,704
TOTAL:	2,294	1,064	563	437	2,031	\$4,972

Public Usage Stats

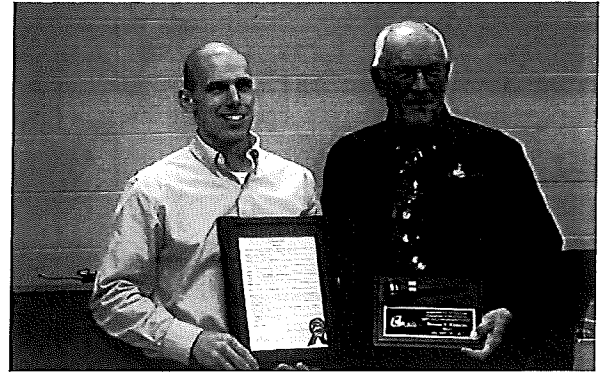
For statistical purposes, the public access department documents total numbers of unique individuals and total hours of usage of the facility by the general public, every month. These numbers include regular users, class participants, individuals transferring videos, people who attend events, and any other public usage of the facility. The numbers do not take into account the many members of the public who work with any other NMTV department, such as news, sports, outreach, or educational.

Month	Unique Individuals	Total Usage Hours
January	100	746.75
February	52	314.25
March	77	688.00
April	85	759.25
May	166	955.50
June	78	511.75
July	80	601.25
August	61	466.50
September	54	380.75
October	79	547.25
November	87	518.25
December	67	514.75
TOTAL PUBLIC USAGE:		7,004.25

Production Highlights

NMTV News Highlights

Each week Danika Peterson and Ben Hayle create a news program that highlights events, people, issues, and information important to citizens of our Member Cities. Some December highlights include recognition of out-going Centerville Mayor, Tom Wilharber, the air quality improvement grant for the Centennial ice arena, Vickie Wendal's retirement after 30 years with the Anoka County Historical Society, and the Hope 4 Youth story focusing on people and organizations making a difference in the community. In addition to daily playbacks of North Metro TV News on the cable systems, there are over 337 local stories archived for viewers on the NMTV YouTube page. The page can be accessed through the northmetrotv.com website.



Early Film Treasures

Instructor, Eric Houston, put together a new program series for his video club to produce. It is called Early Film Treasures, and was designed as a way to show off the features of a new HD Studio A, and to give NMTV public producers more hands on experience in that space. The show incorporates on screen graphics, video roll-ins, use of blue-screen technology, as well as the more conventional aspects of the studio. The first episode featured films from 1888-1896. The shoot was a fun way for folks to learn the ins and outs of the new equipment.

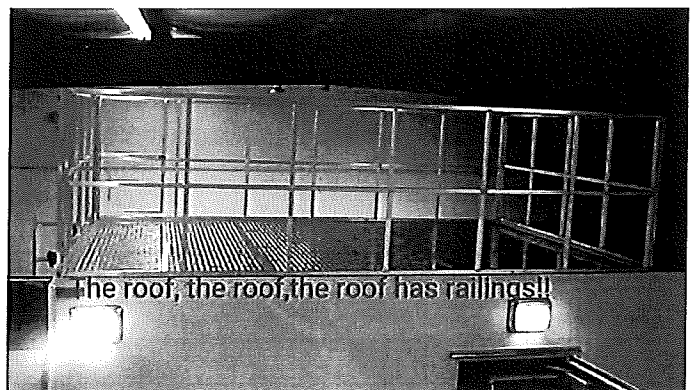


Home Movie Transfers

Home movie transfers proved to be a very popular service in December. Ads for the service were placed in Tid Bits and ClipNSave. People have been coming in with their coupons to transfer their home movies. In addition to transferring tape and film to DVD, over 1,400 pictures and slides were transferred in December, certainly the busiest month for that service since its introduction in August. More people requested that we perform the transfers, as opposed to doing it themselves for free. That resulted in \$1,704 in transfer fees.

HD Upgrade

The HD upgrade continues. The new production truck was delivered on December 12th. Alpha Video has been busy since then installing the new equipment. It is expected that the install should be completed by mid-January, with commissioning and punch lists to follow. We still need to have graphics put on the exterior of the truck, but the first shoot for the new vehicle is scheduled for the end of January. The picture to the left shows the truck roof plating and collapsible roof rails for safely shooting from the roof of the truck.



PR bits and pieces

- Worked on NMTV promos for the HD conversion

Production equipment consulting for cities and schools

Blaine

- Met with Roark and representatives from Z Systems to solicit a bid for an HD upgrade.
- Spoke with Roark about impressions of the meeting.
- Reviewed Z System's initial proposal and wrote Roark an email detailing the pros and cons of both Z Systems and Alpha Video.

Spring Lake Park

- Worked with Wanda and Dan to create a system to bring HD versions of their City meetings to the station for On Demand playback.
- Created 65 new graphics for their Power Point System.
- Researched problem Wanda was having with recording more than two hours on her KiPro. Discovered hard-drive at capacity.

Ham Lake

- Working with City Clerk Denise Webster to address concerns regarding meeting image quality
- Reset five cameras to a nicer looking white balance.
- Researched camera and camera switcher technology on site. Found out that powering down the cameras resets the white balance. Spoke to techs at Sony about workarounds,, but was told there were none. Advised Denise to leave the system powered on. Offered to return and resent the cameras again whenever necessary..
- Spoke at length about availability and willingness to review any new equipment purchase plans and to act as a go-between for any system maintenance or inquiries.

Circle Pines

- Wrote a first draft script for the Snow Plow Readiness PSA requested by the City.
- Sourced existing video from news department and Video Blocks.
- Contacted MNDOT and secured permission to use snow plow and related video created by the agency.
- Created five new slides for their Power Point.

Lexington

- Created 33 new slides for SCALA.
- Submitted slides to Lexington. Will meet to review the slides and get answers to some questions. Will then update any remaining slides and load onto their SCALA system.

Centerville

- Spoke with Teresa. Would like to wait for graphics help until Carousel units are installed.

Lino Lakes

- Contacted City staff regarding available services.
- Would like to wait until after the holidays for further discussion.

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	156	177:20:02
Centerville	12	28:05:50
Circle Pines	131	65:47:46
Ham Lake	17	14:50:40
Lexington	88	45:53:58
Lino Lakes	101	46:47:28
Spring Lake Park	122	328:58:33
Totals:	627 Program Playbacks	707:44:17 Hours of Video Programming on Channels

Programs Produced by the Public

Title	Producer	Runtime
Off Constantly	Tim Dold	00:58:57
Free Masons: The Oldest Secret Society	Nonie Tanner	00:31:34
His Legacy TV	Nonie Tanner	00:16:32
Cornerstone Church	Rick Bostrom	00:29:42
Lovepower (4 episodes)	Ann Sandell	04:00:00
The Power of Love (4 episodes)	Rick Larson	02:00:00
Rice Creek Watershed District Meeting	Theresa Stasica	01:30:40
Hope Church (3 episodes)	Cindy Hardy	02:07:38
Oak Park Moments (6 episodes)	David Turnidge	03:18:33
22 New Programs		15:13:36 New Hours

Programs Produced by NMTV Staff

Title	Producer	Runtime
Anoka County Board Meeting (12/2/16)	T.J. Tronson	00:13:35
Anoka County Board Meeting (12/13/16)	T.J. Tronson	01:04:09
NMTC Cable Commission Meeting	T.J. Tronson	00:12:22
Blaine Play: Project Murder	T.J. Tronson	01:31:00
Blaine Play: Haphazardly Ever After	T.J. Tronson	01:35:09
Centennial Play: Just Another Snow Day	T.J. Tronson	01:07:09
NMTV News (4 episodes)	Danika Peterson/Ben Hayle	01:23:56
On Tap	Ben Hayle	00:22:00
Advocacy to the Next Level	Ben Hayle	01:02:59
The Trials and Tribulations of Adolescence	Ben Hayle	00:57:51
Girls Basketball: Blaine/Spring Lake Park	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	01:44:48
Boys Hockey: Centennial/Blaine	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	01:50:38
Boys Basketball: Blaine/Centennial	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	01:21:54
Sports Den	Kenton Kipp/Matt Waldron	00:22:37
17 New Programs		14:24:06 New Hours

Programs Produced by City Staff

Title	Producer	Runtime
Blaine City Council Meeting (12/1/16)	Blaine Staff	00:32:22
Blaine Truth In Taxation Meeting (12/8/16)	Blaine Staff	00:27:04
Blaine Planning Commission Meeting (12/13/16)	Blaine Staff	00:40:28
Blaine City Council Meeting (12/15/16)	Blaine Staff	02:07:48
Blaine Park Board Meeting (12/27/16)	Blaine Staff	02:30:00
Centerville City Council Meeting (12/14/16)	Centerville Staff	03:19:20
Circle Pines City Council Meeting (12/13/16)	Circle Pines Staff	00:27:30
Circle Pines Utility Commission Meeting (12/21/16)	Circle Pines Staff	00:18:46
Circle Pines City Council Meeting (12/27/16)	Circle Pines Staff	00:30:00
Ham Lake City Council Meeting (12/5/16)	Ham Lake Staff	00:48:32
Lexington City Council Meeting (12/1/16)	Lexington Staff	00:43:41

Title cont.	Producer cont.	Runtime cont.
Lexington City Council Meeting (12/15/16)	Lexington Staff	00:16:19
Lino Lakes City Council Meeting (12/12/16)	Lino Lakes Staff	01:30:17
Lino Lakes Planning & Zoning Meeting (12/14/16)	Lino Lakes Staff	00:27:50
Spring Lake Park City Council Meeting (12/5/16)	Spring Lake Park Staff	02:31:20
Spring Lake Park Planning Commission Meeting (12/12/16)	Spring Lake Park Staff	00:46:07
Spring Lake Park City Council Meeting (12/19/16)	Spring Lake Park Staff	01:39:21
16 New Programs		19:36:45 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

Programming Statistics														
	J	F	M	A	M	J	JU	A	S	O	N	D	15 Total	15 Average
Cablecast Programs	2675.00	2467.00	2555.00	2472.00	2422.00	2418.00	2289.00	2591.00	2530.00	3183.00	2598.00	2506.00	30706.00	2558.83
Cablecast Hours	1820.00	1845.00	1840.25	1912.00	1952.25	1744.50	1864.50	1880.00	1857.75	1978.00	1779.00	2047.25	22520.50	1876.71
Programs Produced - Public	42.00	19.00	24.00	25.00	58.00	26.00	42.00	36.00	34.00	20.00	24.00	12.00	362.00	30.17
Program Hours Produced - Public	29.50	10.75	10.75	16.50	23.75	15.00	21.50	21.50	7.00	12.25	16.00	8.25	192.75	16.06
Prog. Produced - Affiliated Public	6.00	9.00	8.00	3.00	1.00	7.00	3.00	11.00	3.00	10.00	9.00	10.00	80.00	6.67
Prog. Hours Produced - Affil. Public	5.50	7.75	6.50	2.50	1.25	6.00	3.00	7.75	1.50	7.25	8.00	7.00	64.00	5.33
Programs Produced - City Staff	23.00	22.00	21.00	22.00	22.00	18.00	19.00	21.00	21.00	20.00	18.00	16.00	243.00	20.25
Prog. Hours Produced - City Staff	18.00	21.00	15.75	26.25	20.00	18.00	20.25	20.50	16.75	19.00	16.25	19.50	231.25	19.27
Programs Produced - NMTV Staff	20.00	24.00	17.00	16.00	41.00	23.00	33.00	11.00	35.00	41.00	16.00	17.00	294.00	24.50
Prog. Hours Produced - NMTV Staff	20.25	24.00	8.50	11.50	17.00	25.00	34.75	5.50	30.50	50.00	18.00	14.50	259.50	21.63
Total Public Programs Produced	48.00	28.00	32.00	28.00	59.00	33.00	45.00	47.00	37.00	30.00	33.00	22.00	442.00	36.83
Total Staff Programs Produced	43.00	46.00	38.00	38.00	63.00	41.00	52.00	32.00	56.00	61.00	34.00	33.00	537.00	44.75
Total Internal Programs Produced	91.00	74.00	70.00	66.00	122.00	74.00	97.00	79.00	93.00	91.00	67.00	55.00	979.00	81.58
% Staff Produced Programs	47.25%	62.16%	54.29%	57.58%	51.64%	55.41%	53.61%	40.51%	60.22%	67.03%	50.75%	60.00%	54.85%	54.85%
% Public Produced Programs	52.75%	37.84%	45.71%	42.42%	48.36%	44.59%	46.39%	59.49%	39.78%	32.97%	49.25%	40.00%	45.15%	45.15%
External Programs Submitted	34.00	37.00	40.00	33.00	35.00	30.00	26.00	33.00	22.00	32.00	29.00	30.00	381.00	31.75
External Program Hours	22.50	22.75	25.50	23.00	20.75	22.50	19.50	38.50	15.50	20.50	21.00	21.25	273.25	22.77
Total New Programs	125.00	111.00	110.00	99.00	157.00	104.00	123.00	112.00	115.00	123.00	96.00	85.00	1360.00	113.33
Equipment Usage Statistics														
Facility Hours Available	219.00	185.00	240.50	232.00	224.00	167.00	199.00	260.50	210.50	211.00	182.50	178.00	2509.00	209.08
Public Field Equipment Uses	9.00	9.00	6.00	14.00	22.00	11.00	12.00	15.00	12.00	10.00	10.00	4.00	134.00	11.17
Studio A	115.25	90.00	123.50	99.00	37.00	75.75	61.50	64.25	59.75	39.00	65.00	63.75	893.75	74.48
% of Available Time	52.63%	48.65%	51.35%	42.67%	16.52%	45.36%	30.90%	24.66%	28.38%	18.48%	35.62%	35.81%	35.62%	35.62%
Studio B	15.25	0.00	3.00	16.50	9.00	14.00	47.75	28.25	36.00	72.00	25.50	22.00	289.25	24.10
% of Available Time	6.96%	0.00%	1.25%	7.11%	4.02%	8.38%	23.99%	10.84%	17.10%	34.12%	13.97%	12.36%	11.53%	11.53%
Public MAC A Edit Suite	159.75	82.00	145.75	154.75	84.00	77.25	84.75	98.00	82.00	86.25	120.25	139.50	1314.25	109.52
% of Available Time	72.95%	44.32%	60.60%	66.70%	37.50%	46.26%	42.59%	37.62%	38.95%	40.88%	65.89%	78.37%	52.38%	49.22%
Public MAC B Edit Suite	96.25	25.75	42.00	38.00	113.50	59.75	81.00	70.00	22.00	123.00	105.25	94.75	871.25	72.60
% of Available Time	43.95%	13.92%	17.46%	16.38%	50.67%	35.78%	40.70%	26.87%	10.45%	58.29%	57.67%	53.23%	34.72%	34.72%
Public MAC C Edit Suite	187.75	63.50	291.00	258.75	163.00	136.50	163.50	86.50	32.25	119.25	89.25	129.75	1721.00	143.42
% of Available Time	85.73%	34.32%	121.00%	111.53%	72.77%	81.74%	82.16%	33.21%	15.32%	56.52%	48.90%	72.89%	68.59%	68.59%
Production Van Statistics														
Production Hours	45.50	52.75	6.50	20.50	49.25	54.75	62.25	8.00	42.00	65.25	23.00	13.00	442.75	36.90
Number of Van Shoots	8.00	8.00	1.00	4.00	8.00	9.00	8.00	2.00	6.00	8.00	3.00	2.00	67.00	5.58
Average Hours Per Shoot	5.69	6.59	6.50	5.13	6.16	6.08	7.78	4.00	7.00	8.16	7.67	6.50	6.61	3.07
Number of New Volunteers	7.00	6.00	0.00	2.00	7.00	11.00	5.00	3.00	2.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	4.17
Volunteer Hours	58.00	140.00	18.00	39.00	145.00	193.00	116.00	16.00	49.00	102.00	29.00	19.00	924.00	77.00
Public Access Statistics														
Number of Workshops	21.00	2.00	13.00	18.00	18.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	10.00	10.00	5.00	4.00	122.00	10.17
Number of Students	76.00	17.00	61.00	137.00	184.00	32.00	47.00	28.00	75.00	60.00	41.00	31.00	789.00	65.75
PAP Volunteer Hours	266.50	121.00	140.75	153.75	144.75	148.50	145.75	155.25	82.50	90.25	62.25	86.75	1598.00	133.17
Total Public Facility Usage Hours	746.75	314.25	688.00	759.25	955.50	511.75	601.25	466.50	380.75	547.25	518.25	514.75	7004.25	583.69
Tours	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	2.00	0.17
Tour Attendees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	9.00	0.00	19.00	1.58

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting of February 1, 2017

Executive Cmte. Present: Dick Swanson; Blaine, Matt Percy; Circle Pines, Cindy Hansen; Spring Lake Park

Absent:

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 December 7, 2016 Executive Committee meeting minutes was made by D. Swanson. Second, M. Percy. Motion approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- Staff requested that the Executive Committee approve a change order request that would pay for graphics on the new production truck out of the HD bond. Graphics for the truck were not included in the original equipment costs. A little over \$18,000 remains of the bond money. The full truck wrap is quoted at \$5,119.51. The Operations Committee recommended that the Commission approve doing so.

MOTION: To approve the change order requesting that the truck graphics be paid for with the HD bond funds. **Motion made by D. Swanson. Second, C. Hansen. Motion approved.**

- Upgrading the Studio A sets was discussed. The current studio sets are over 10 years old and in disrepair. With HD technology the flaws are quite apparent. NMTV staff have been researching various set models and are close to a final design. It was requested that the Commission approve utilizing the reserve fund originally intended for the truck upgrade to pay for the new sets. The truck was replaced as part of the HD upgrade utilizing bond funds, making use of the reserved funds unnecessary. The Operations Committee recommended that the Commission approve purchasing new sets and that the truck fund reserves be used to pay for them.

MOTION: To approve purchasing new sets for Studio A. **Motion made by D. Swanson. Second, C. Hansen. Motion approved.**

MOTION: To approve modifying the 2017 NMTC budget, to finance the set purchase with the truck reserve fund. **Motion made by D. Swanson. Second, C. Hansen. Motion approved.**

- Staff reviewed materials related to the 2017 disbursement of 2016 franchise fees to Cities. This was the first year that the North Metro franchise area had competing cable companies, and there was some uncertainty regarding what to expect. Both the number of cable subscribers and the total amount of franchise fees collected increased markedly. 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 16th.

MOTION: To approve disbursement of the 2016 franchise fees, retained by the Member Cities, as presented in the disbursement materials. **Motion made by C. Hansen. Second, D. Swanson. Motion approved.**

- Purchasing Carousel units for each Cities' government channel was discussed. The units would generate graphics and play videos on the government channels in HD. They would be located in the NMTV head-end making staff updates to the data more timely and efficient. This would also relieve City staff from the responsibility of creating content for the City channels. With the higher than anticipated franchise fees collected in 2016, the units could be purchased utilizing those funds. In total, \$117,389 more in franchise fees was collected over the conservative original estimate, for funding the 2017 Commission budget, the bond payment, and franchise fees returned to Cities. The Operations Committee recommended that the Commission approve dedicating \$45,000 of that overage to the purchase and installation of the Carousel units. There was also some discussion regarding the purchase of technology for transporting HD signals from Cities to the NMTV head-end. H. Arnson reported that staff will be testing some equipment to see if it could be a reliable solution. If the equipment works, the Operations Committee would like the Commission to consider utilizing some of the un-assigned franchise fees to cover some of those costs. D. Swanson stated that some of the fees should be returned to Cities. The matter will be discussed again at the March meetings.

MOTION: To approve the purchase of Carousel units for the Government Channels utilizing franchise fees collected in 2016. **Motion made by D. Swanson. Second, C. Hansen. Motion approved.**

- The group was updated regarding the two open positions at NMTV. The first available position is for a Municipal Producer. The primary responsibility of the position will be to produce content for the City channels. The person will work closely with the news and special projects departments, under the umbrella of production services, to make sure Cities' video needs are met. The second open position is for a Video Engineer. The job description for this position is being updated to include HD technology, HD system maintenance and repair, system planning, and software and programming skills. D. Swanson suggested that the new Municipal Producer be introduced to member City Councils at work sessions. He also asked that a report, separate from the current monthly report, be generated highlighting work done for Cities.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

- Recommendations were made for members of the 2017 Executive Committee. At the meeting, Matt Percy, Dick Swanson, and Cindy Hansen indicated a willingness to serve. H. Arnson noted that in-coming Lexington Commissioner, Mike Murphy, had written that he would be interested in serving on the Executive Committee. 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, Cindy Hansen serve as Treasurer, and Mike Murphy serve as Secretary. It was reiterated that this is only a recommendation and that the positions are open and available to anyone who would like to run for them.

MOTION: To approve Matt Percy as the Chair, Dick Swanson as the Vice Chair, Cindy Hansen as the Treasurer, and Mike Murphy as the Secretary of the 2017 NMTV Cable Commission. **Motion made by D. Swanson. Second, C. Hansen. Motion approved.**

- D. Swanson recommended that the full Commission meetings be held quarterly instead of monthly. If a full Commission meeting was necessary before a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting, a special meeting could be called. The Executive Committee would still meet monthly.

MOTION: To recommend moving the Cable Commission meetings from a monthly schedule to a quarterly schedule. **Motion made by D. Swanson. Second, C. Hansen. Motion approved.**

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by C. Hansen. Second, D. Swanson. Motion approved.
The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

NORTH METRO TV

TO: CIRCLE PINES CITY COUNCIL
FROM: HEIDI ARNSON
SUBJECT: HD UPGRADE: CHANGE REQUEST FOR TRUCK WRAP GRAPHICS
DATE: 1/31/17

North Metro TV is requesting that the Circle Pines City Council approve including the cost of placing graphics on the new truck, as part of the HD upgrade project.

The new production truck has been delivered and the HD equipment has been installed by Alpha Video. The truck does not currently have any identifying graphics on its exterior. We have obtained a bid for a full truck wrap, from the company that provided the wrap for the previous truck, and would ask the Council to consider including the cost of doing so as an addition to the original project.

With all expenses calculated for the original project, \$18,096 remains from the \$2,000,000 bond. The cost for the full truck wrap would be \$5,119.51.

Thank you for your consideration.



Estimate

1451 91st Avenue NE • Blaine, MN 55449 • (763) 717-0140 • Fax (763) 717-0141

Page 1 of 2

Estimate: SN- 9718

Printed: 1/3/2017 3:05:21PM

Description: New HD Truck Wrap Graphics New 6500 box wrap / door graphics

Prepared For: Matt Waldron

ph: (763) 231-2809

Company: North Metro TV 15

email: mattw@northmetrotv.com

Dear Matt:

Thank you for considering Signs Now for your sign needs. The quotation we discussed is attached below. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me at 763-717-0140.

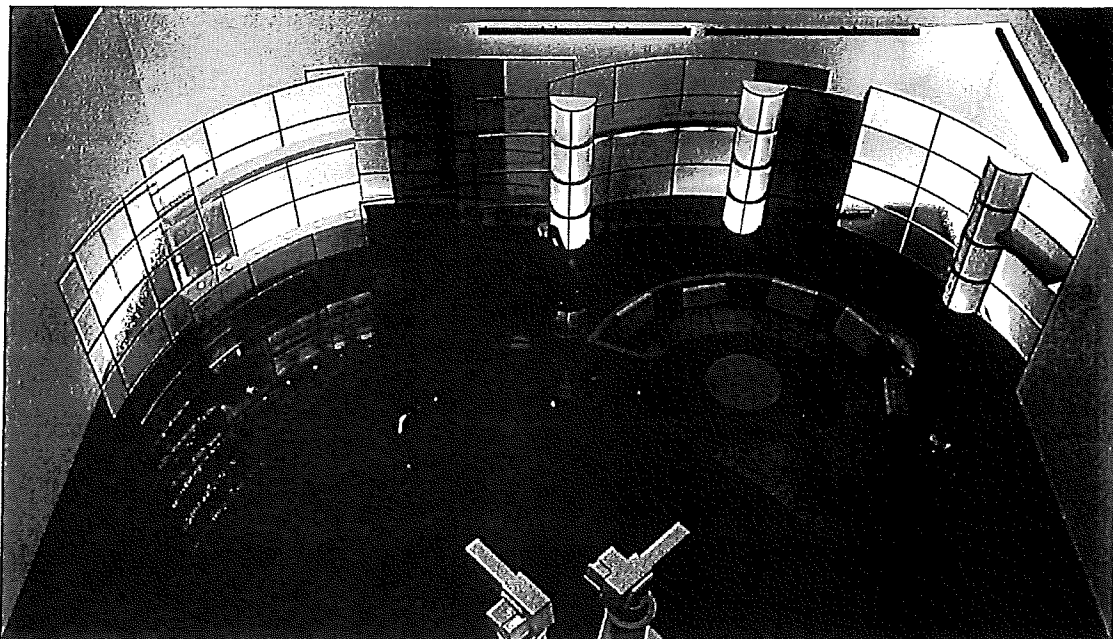
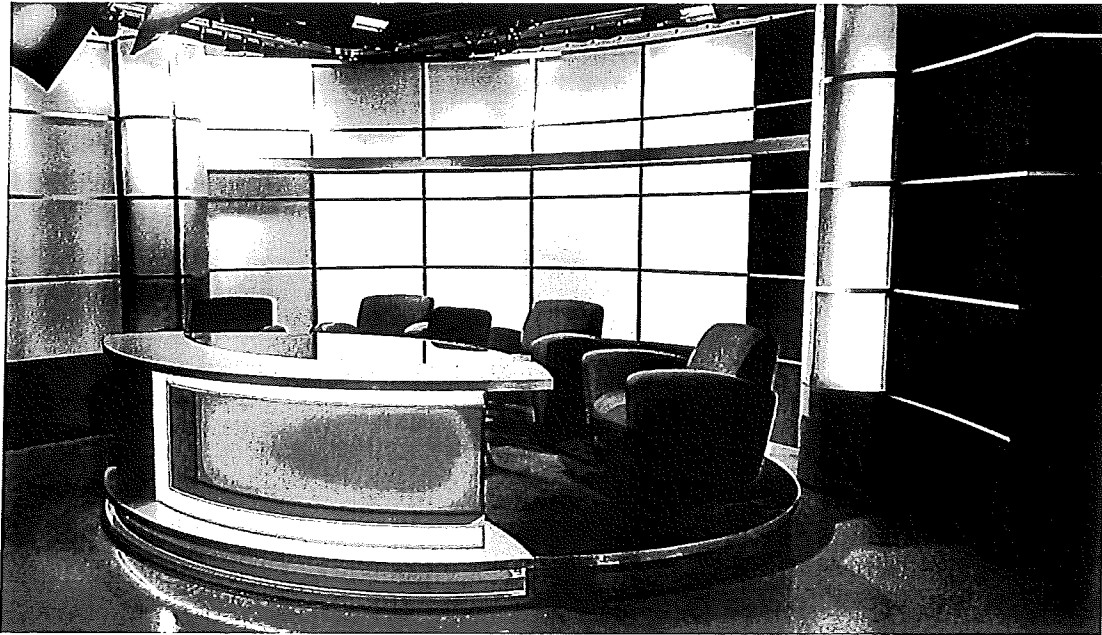
Signs Now

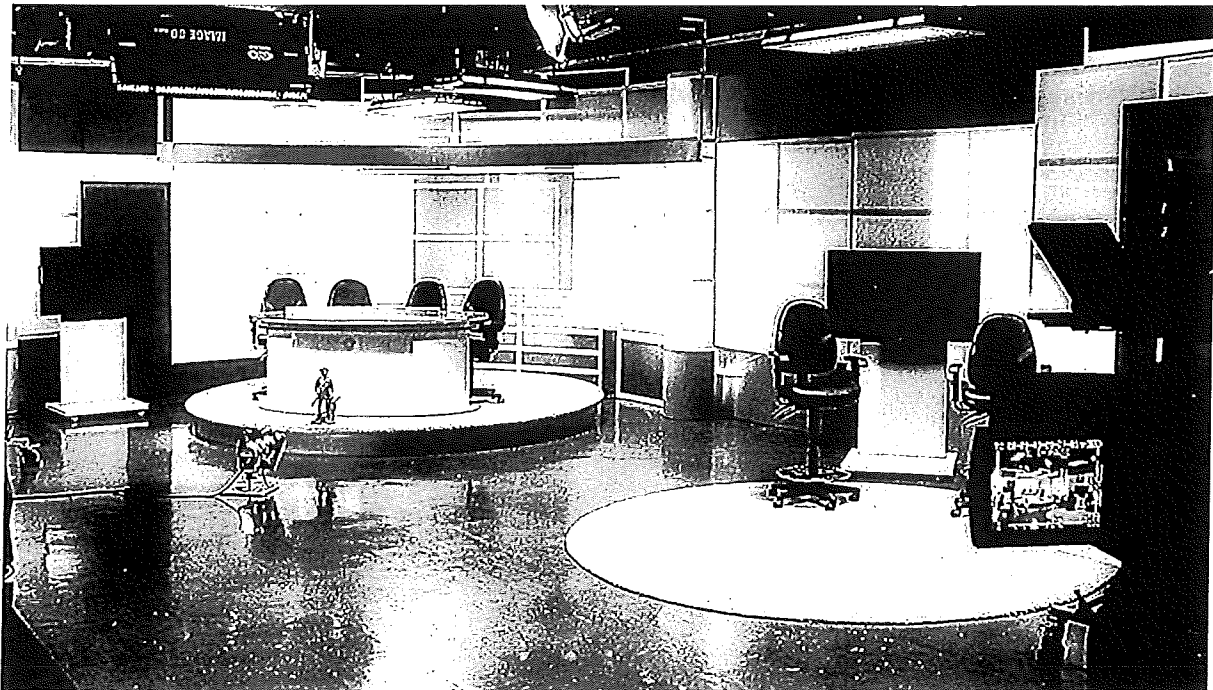
Product	Font	Qty	Sides	Height	Width	Unit Cost	Item Total
1 Vehicle Wrap	TBD	2	1	106	234	\$1,829.00	\$3,658.00
Color: TBD on TBD							
Description: Vehicle Wrap includes laminated printed graphics and installation All vehicle estimates must be verified with an in person vehicle survey. Prices may be subject to change after survey is complete.							
Text: Two Sides 19' x 8'4"							
2 Vehicle Wrap	TBD	1	1	104	104	\$873.50	\$873.50
Color: TBD on TBD							
Description: Vehicle Wrap includes laminated printed graphics and installation All vehicle estimates must be verified with an in person vehicle survey. Prices may be subject to change after survey is complete.							
Text: Rear door area							
3 Digital Vehicle Graphic		2	1	9	45	\$42.25	\$84.50
Color: White							
Description: Digital Vehicle Graphic Printed Laminated and Cut							
Text: Website (2) doors Front of Truck							
4 Digital Vehicle Graphic		1	1	22	80	\$163.00	\$163.00
Color: White							
Description: Digital Vehicle Graphic Printed Laminated and Cut							
Text: Website Front of Box							

Notes:

Line Item Total:	\$4,779.00
Subtotal:	\$4,779.00
Taxes:	\$340.51
Total:	\$5,119.51

Deposit Required: \$2,559.76





**DISBURSEMENT OF 2016 FRANCHISE FEES
RETAINED BY CITIES**

TABLE I

	MEMBER CITIES FRANCHISE FEES		2017 COMMISSION BUDGET AVAIL		FRANCHISE FEES RETAINED BY CITIES
TOTAL:	1,257,389	-	912,389	=	345,000

TABLE II

CITY	2016 CABLE COMPANY REVENUE BY CITY *		TOTAL SYSTEM REVENUE *		CITY REVENUE AS % OF SYSTEM REVENUE
Blaine	\$13,736,602	÷	\$25,147,737	=	54.62361%
Centerville	\$865,539	÷	\$25,147,737	=	3.44182%
Circle Pines	\$1,176,298	÷	\$25,147,737	=	4.67755%
Ham Lake	\$3,481,436	÷	\$25,147,737	=	13.84393%
Lexington	\$438,092	÷	\$25,147,737	=	1.74207%
Lino Lakes	\$4,056,491	÷	\$25,147,737	=	16.13064%
Spring Lake Park	\$1,393,278	÷	\$25,147,737	=	5.54037%
TOTAL:	\$25,147,736	÷	\$25,147,737	=	100.00000%

TABLE III

CITY	FRANCHISE FEES RETAINED BY CITIES		CITY REVENUE AS % OF SYSTEM REVENUE		TOTAL FRANCHISE FEES RETAINED BY CITY
Blaine	\$345,000	x	54.62361%	=	\$188,451.45
Centerville	\$345,000	x	3.44182%	=	\$11,874.28
Circle Pines	\$345,000	x	4.67755%	=	\$16,137.55
Ham Lake	\$345,000	x	13.84393%	=	\$47,761.56
Lexington	\$345,000	x	1.74207%	=	\$6,010.14
Lino Lakes	\$345,000	x	16.13064%	=	\$55,650.71
Spring Lake Park	\$345,000	x	5.54037%	=	\$19,114.27
TOTAL:	\$345,000	x	99.99999%	=	\$344,999.96

* All amounts are rounded to nearest dollar.

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

Tuesday, January 31, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 10:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

H. Arnson

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES

The meeting notes of January 3, 2017 were approved by consensus.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- H. Arnson asked that the Committee approve a change order request that would pay for graphics on the new production truck out of the HD bond. Graphics for the truck were not included in the original equipment costs. A little over \$18,000 remains of the bond money. The full truck wrap is quoted at \$5,119.51. The Committee recommended the Cable Commission approve doing so.
- Following up on previous discussions regarding upgrading the studio sets, H. Arnson requested that the group approve utilizing the reserve fund originally intended for the truck upgrade. The truck was upgraded as a part of the HD upgrade utilizing bond funds, making use of the reserved funds unnecessary. NMTV staff have been researching various set models and are close to a final design. The current studio sets are over 10 years old and in disrepair. With HD technology the flaws are quite apparent. The Committee recommended that the Cable Commission approve utilizing the truck reserve fund to purchase new sets for Studio A.
- Staff reviewed materials related to the 2017 disbursement of 2016 franchise fees to Cities. This was the first year that the North Metro franchise area had competing cable companies, and there was some uncertainty regarding what to expect. Both the number of cable subscribers and the total amount of franchise fees collected increased markedly. 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 16th.
- Purchasing Carousel units for each Cities' government channel was again discussed. The units would generate graphics and play videos on the government channels in HD. They would be located in the NMTV head-end making staff updates to the data more timely and efficient. This would also relieve City staff from the responsibility of creating content for the City channels. With the higher than anticipated franchise fees collected for 2016, the units could be purchased right away. In total, \$117,389 more in franchise fees was collected over the conservative original estimate to fund the 2017 Commission budget, the bond payment, and franchise fees returned to Cities. The Committee agreed that \$45,000 of that overage should be dedicated to the purchase and installation of the Carousel units. There was some discussion regarding the purchase of technology for transporting HD signals from Cities to the NMTV head-end. H. Arnson stated that more

research was being done regarding whether the technology would meet Cities needs. She expected to have more definitive information for the March meeting.

- H. Arnson updated the group regarding the two open positions at NMTV. The first available position is for a Municipal Producer. The primary responsibility of the position will be to produce content for the City channels. The person will work closely with the news and special projects departments, under the umbrella of production services, to make sure Cities video needs are met. The second open position is for a Video Engineer, to replace the retired Rick Kocinski. This job description is being updated to include HD technology, HD system maintenance and repair, system planning, and software and programming skills.

OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

- C. Arneson shared that Blaine is researching emergency management tools for communicating with citizens and employees during emergency situations. The Committee asked to be updated on any progress at the March meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Pai Ready to Slice Into FCC Regulations

New chair planning to take aim at Title II; broadband privacy framework to follow

BY JOHN EGGERTON

WASHINGTON — President Trump's pick of Ajit Pai atop the Federal Communications Commission was getting high fives from the industry last week, signaling the new president is OK with a strongly deregulatory course for the agency.

That's no huge surprise, given Trump's pledge to get rid of two regulations for every one added. The new president also made the pledged moratorium on new executive-agency regulations — at the Environmental Protection Agency, for instance — one of his first official actions, though such orders do not apply to independent agencies such as the FCC.

TAKEAWAY

Industry players now have a strong deregulatory ally atop the commission.

But the president has not made consistency a hallmark, and his naming of a network-neutrality fan to the transition team had raised some eyebrows in industry circles. Also a worry was Trump's saber-rattling at AT&T's merger with Time Warner Inc., and at Comcast.

But as *Multichannel News* first reported, the Trump administration has backed a deregulatory plan that could see the FCC's powers reduced and moved to other agencies — consumer protection to the Federal Trade Commission and merger reviews to the Justice Department.

Pai, the FCC's current senior Republican, was clearly the pick if a more-traditional deregulatory approach won the day over Trump's populist mantra of upsetting the old order and his anti-business stance toward his media industry critics.

Given that the FCC does not have to take orders from the White House, as well as Pai's strong criticism of what he and others saw as the Obama White House's pressure on the agency during the net neutrality debate, Pai should run an independent ship. Nonetheless, he's likely to steer it toward the pro-marketplace, pro-business agenda Trump has been touting as the route to America's "return" to greatness.

In his inaugural address to FCC staffers — a tradition for a new chairman — Pai



New FCC chairman Ajit Pai will push a deregulatory agenda that upends Title II-based rules.

emphasized closing the digital divide, though emphasizing the role of the private sector in that effort. Still, that had the lawyer who successfully argued for the FCC's Title II-based Open Internet rules in court hoping that, rather than reversing those rules, as Pai has pledged, would occupy the chairman's time.

"The new chairman's first message to the FCC struck the perfect tone of inclusiveness and articulated a substantive goal that everyone could and should rally around — closing the digital divide," Pantelis Michalopoulos, a partner in Steptoe & Johnson, told *Multichannel News*. "On more divisive issues, such as the Open Internet, there is every reason to be optimistic that the chairman will be led by the facts, wherever they lead, and by his formidable intellect, rather than by dogma."

Perhaps, but Pai has shown no signs of backing off his strong criticisms of classifying broadband as a common-carrier service under Title II of the Communications Act.

Certainly advocacy group Demand Progress, which fought for reclassification, was not looking for any kumbaya moment from Pai on net neutrality.

"Pai is a guy who said after Trump was elected that neutrality's 'days are numbered' and that he would 'fire up the weed whacker' to gut protections like the Open Internet rule," the group said in an email to supporters last week, even using the threat to try to raise money to renew the Open Internet fight, adding: "Will you chip in \$5 to help us fight back against Trump's anti-net neutrality FCC chairman?"

But it will take some time for the new chairman to come up with the legal argument for unclassifying ISPs as common carriers given that the court upheld the reclassification under Democratic chairman Tom Wheeler.

But it may be up to the FCC given that Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.), chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, last week said he is "not there yet" on a bipartisan net neutrality bill.

In the short term, Pai can take various steps to blunt the Title II instrument, including not aggressively enforcing a general conduct standard he has criticized, and perhaps issuing new guidance on zero rating plans. He was highly critical of the 11th-hour signal to AT&T that its DirectTV Now over-the-top service appeared to be an anticompetitive violation of the Open Internet order under the general conduct standard.

Pai was also critical of the FCC's broadband privacy framework, but that would be mooted if he can reverse Title II reclassification, since that was what deeded the FCC authority over broadband privacy.

The new chairman has already signaled some short-term goals, which likely include extending the small business exemption from the FCC's enhanced Open Internet reporting requirements to cable operators and telecoms of 250,000 subscribers or fewer, rather than the current 100,000 cut-off. That is, unless Congress beats him to it. A bill that would do essentially that has been reintroduced.

Pai has also been asked by top House Republicans to officially close the set-top box docket — he strongly opposed Wheeler's "unlock the box" effort, and was said to be considering the request at press time. **O**

Name Game Plays Out at Portals

WASHINGTON — With a 2-1 Republican majority on the Federal Communications Commission, the Trump administration is unlikely to be rushing to fill its two open seats, one for a Republican and one for a Democrat.

But the name game has already begun inside the Beltway, driven by various scenarios.

If Mignon Clyburn, currently the only FCC Democrat, were to decide to leave, that would leave the commission without a quorum and unable to vote on items.

Under that scenario, Jessica Rosenworcel, the Democrat forced off the commission in December over a partisan fight between the Senate majority and minority leaders, could be reinstated — as some have pushed for — paired with the renomination of new chairman Ajit Pai, whose term expired last June.

He can serve through the end of December in any event, but since Congress likes to pair nominees, one from each party, the need for a third, Dem, for a quorum and to re-

nominate Pai could produce that scenario. Roseworcel is still popular on both sides of the aisle, including with new Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), who would traditionally get the pick, but President Trump is anything but traditional.

But there will be two more seats to fill in any event. Among the names that have surfaced for the Republican seat are Brandt Hershman, the Indiana legislator said to be a friend of Vice President Mike Pence, whose name surfaced as possible chairman; Viacom lobbyist Keith Murphy; Monica Desai, a former bureau chief under Republican chairman Kevin Martin and now with Facebook; and Chip Pickering, a former GOP House member from Mississippi now heading INCOMPAS.

On the Democratic side, John Branscome, who succeeded Rosenworcel as senior communications counsel when she joined the FCC, has been mentioned.

— John Eggerton

How Comcast Reversed Course — and Grew Subs

BY MIKE FARRELL

While the rest of the telecom world was focusing on the potential of a Verizon-Charter merger (see story above), Comcast quietly made the case for the cable business, reporting fourth-quarter results that were, by subscriber metrics, its best in a decade.

Comcast ended the year with 161,000 more video subscribers than it started with, the first time the MSO has shown year-over-year basic-video customer growth

since 2006. At the same time, the cable unit grew revenue by 6.6% for the year (7.1% for the quarter), while cash flow was up 5.6% annually and 6.4% for the three-month period.

Analysts had been expecting Comcast to deliver strong results, and the operator delivered. Quarterly video customers grew by 80,000 (beating analysts' consensus estimates of 75,000 additions), while broadband growth continued with the addition of 385,000 subscribers, about even with consensus.

In a research note, Morgan Stanley media

Comcast

Comcast reported its strongest video subscriber growth in a decade in 2016 (in thousands).

	2016	2015
Video Subscriber Additions (Losses)	161	(36)
High-Speed Internet Subscriber Additions	1,373	1,367
Telephony Subscriber Additions	211	282

SOURCE: Company reports

analyst Ben Swinburne wrote that with the continued strength of its X1 platform, he expects the subscriber growth to continue. Comcast finished the year with X1 penetration of about 50%, which should grow to more than 60% by the end of 2017.

Comcast chairman and CEO Brian Roberts also revealed on a conference call discussing results that the MSO plans to offer a much anticipated wireless product in mid-2017 as part of a larger bundle.

Roberts didn't offer a lot of color on the product rollout, which comes as part of Comcast's Mobile Virtual Network Operator (MVNO) agreement with Verizon. The MVNO deal was part of the Spectrum Co cable consortium's sale of its wireless licenses to Verizon in 2011 (Comcast was a member).

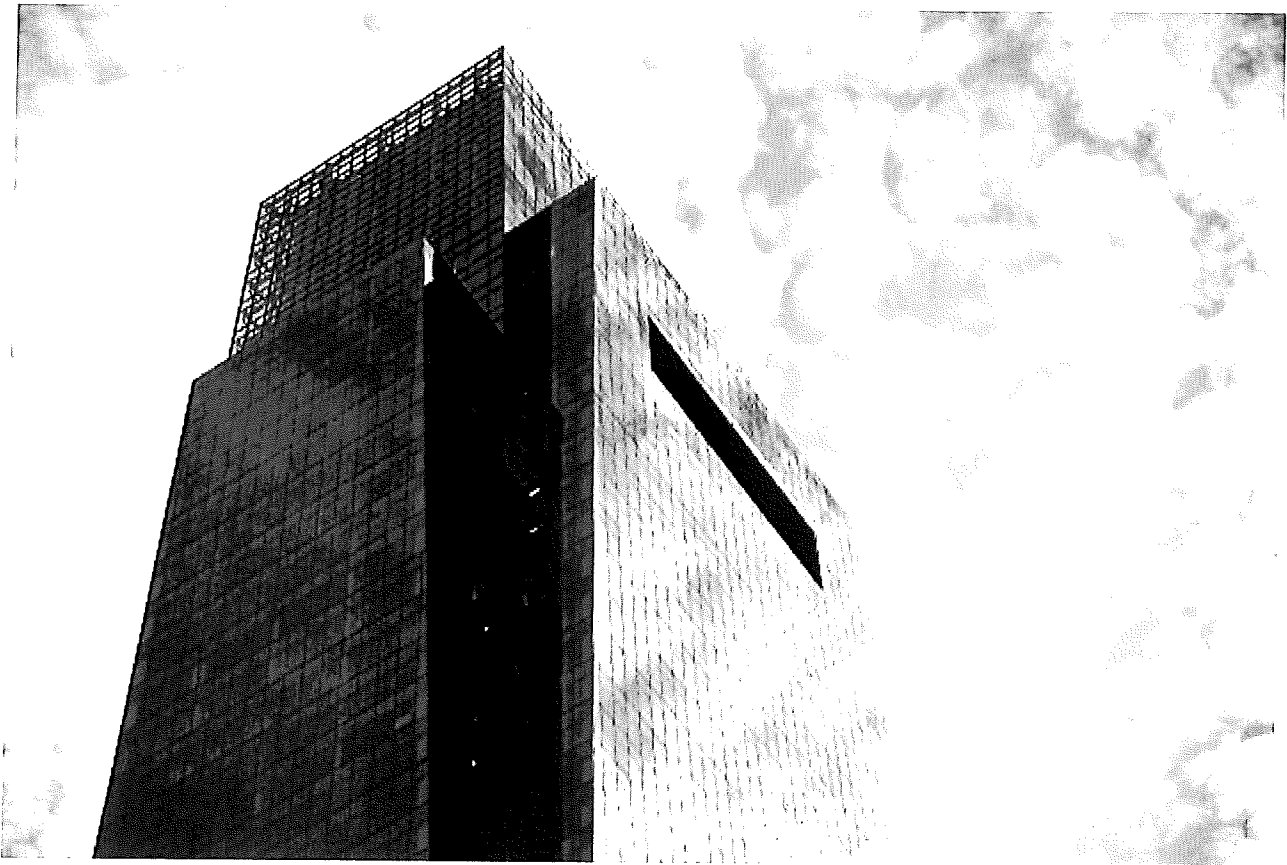
Some analysts have speculated the wireless product could use Comcast's own WiFi network and rely on Verizon's for "roaming," or when users travel outside Comcast territory.

"We're going to take it very carefully," Roberts said of the wireless launch. **O**

AdvertisingAge

Comcast Allays Cord-Cutting Fears With Surge in Subscribers

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Comcast Center, Philadelphia, PA Credit: iStock

Comcast Corp. is living in a golden age of TV -- cable TV.

The largest U.S. cable operator gained TV customers in four of the past five quarters and added to its subscriber rolls for the first time in almost a decade, countering a trend of precipitous decline in traditional pay-TV and reclaiming market share from some telecom carriers and satellite-TV providers.

The turnaround in the cable business helped Comcast beat profit estimates for the fourth quarter. Executives attribute the momentum in their cable-TV business largely to their new video platform, called X1, which makes it easier to search for shows and movies on TV and on Netflix from their cable set-top box.

Meanwhile, Comcast is still growing by selling high-speed internet. The company signed up 385,000 new broadband customers in the quarter, topping the average prediction of about 380,000 from three analysts. It signed up 460,000 broadband subscribers in the same quarter a year ago.

Comcast is also pushing into the wireless business. By the middle of this year, the cable provider plans to offer a mobile phone service that lets subscribers make calls and surf the web using Verizon's wireless network and Comcast's millions of Wi-Fi hotspots.

Total revenue rose 9.2% to \$21 billion in the quarter, topping analysts' estimates of \$20.7 billion. Comcast signed up 80,000 new cable-TV customers in the period, topping the 77,929 average of analysts' estimates. Net income for the quarter was \$2.3 billion, up 17% from a year earlier. The average monthly customer bill climbed 3.8% to \$150.58.

Comcast's Universal film unit, which acquired DreamWorks Animation last year, generated \$1.83 billion in sales during the period, up 13% from a year earlier, driven by the box-office success of the animated feature "Sing." Sales in the business services division, which sells phone, web and video services to companies, rose 15% to \$1.44 billion.

Revenue at the NBC Universal group, which includes the NBC broadcast network, cable channels such as USA and MSNBC, the Universal film studio and theme parks, grew 13% to \$8.45 billion. The results were helped partly by the NFL expanding some of its Thursday Night Football broadcasts to include NBC. Cable network sales gained 4% to \$2.5 billion.

-Bloomberg News

The Beginning of the End for HFC?

We've spent the last few years watching the slow death of telephone copper networks. Rural telcos all over the country are rapidly replacing their copper with fiber. AT&T has made it clear that they would like to get out of the copper business and tear down their old copper networks. Verizon has expressed the same but decided to sell a lot of their copper networks rather than be the ones to tear them down. And CenturyLink has started the long process of replacing copper with fiber and passed a million homes with fiber in urban areas in 2016.

Very oddly, the dying copper technology got a boost when the FCC decided to award money to the big rural copper owners like Frontier, CenturyLink and Windstream. These companies are now using CAF II money to try to squeeze one more generation of life out of clearly old and obsolete copper. Without that CAF II money we'd be seeing a lot more copper replacement.

I've been in the telco industry long enough to remember significant new telco copper construction. While a lot of the copper network is old and dates back to the 50s and 60s, there was still some new copper construction as recently as a decade ago, with major new construction before that. But nobody is building new telco copper networks these days, which is probably the best way to define that the technology is dead – although it's going to take decades for the copper on poles to die.

This set me to thinking about the hybrid coaxial networks (HFC) operated by the cable companies. Most of these networks were built in the 60s and 70s when cable companies sprang up in urban areas across the country. There are rural HFC networks stretching back into the 50s. It struck me that nobody I know of is building new HFC networks. Sure, some cable companies are still using HFC technology to reach a new subdivision, but nobody would invest in HFC for a major new build. All of the big cable companies have quietly switched to fiber technology when they build any sizable new subdivision.

If telco copper networks started their decline when companies stopped building new copper networks, then we have probably now reached that same turning point with HFC. Nobody is building new HFC networks. What's hanging on poles today is going to last for a while, but HFC networks will eventually take the same path into decline as copper networks.

There will be a lot of work and money poured into keeping HFC networks alive. Cable companies everywhere are looking at upgrades to DOCSIS 3.1 as a way to get more speeds out of the technology – much in the same way that DSL prolonged copper networks. The big cable companies, in particular, don't want to spend the capital dollars needed to replace HFC with fiber – Wall Street will punish any cable company that tries to do so.

Cable networks have a few characteristics that give them a better life than telephone copper. Having the one giant wire in an HFC network is superior to having large numbers of tiny wires in a copper network which go bad one-by-one over time.

But cable networks also have one big downside compared to copper networks – they leak interference into the world and are harder to maintain. The HFC technology uses radio waves inside the coaxial cable as the method to transmit signal. Unfortunately, these radio waves can leak out into the outside world at any place where there is a break in the cable. And there are huge numbers of breaks in an HFC network – one at every place where a tap is placed to bring a drop to a customer. Each of the taps and other splices in a cable network are sources of potential frequency leakage. Cable companies spend a lot every year cleaning up the most egregious leaks – and as networks get older they leak more.

Certainly HFC networks are going to be around for a long time to come. But we will slowly start seeing them replaced with fiber. Altice is the first cable company to say they will be replacing their HFC network with fiber over the next few years. I really don't expect the larger cable companies to follow suit and in future years we will be deriding the networks used by Comcast and Charter in the same way we do old copper networks today. But I think that somewhere in the last year or two we saw the peak of HFC, and from that point forward the technology is beginning the slow slide into obsolescence.