

NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

March 20, 2019
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. 1-12**
 - 2.1. Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting, December 19, 2018
 - 2.2. Approval of the December, January and February financial reports and bill lists
3. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD
4. NORTH METRO TV REPORT **pp. 13--26**
 - 4.1. Monthly update
5. REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE **pp. 27-30**
 - 5.1. Live Streaming Server Update
 - 5.2. Preliminary Closed Captioning Study Results
 - 5.3. Franchises Fee Payments to Cities
 - 5.4. 2019 Executive Committee Election
 - 5.5. LMCIT Liability Waiver
6. REPORT OF OPERATIONS COMMITTEE **pp. 31-32**
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. 33-43**
14. ADJOURN

NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Commission Meeting – December 19, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

Chair D. Swanson called the regular meeting of the North Metro Telecommunications Commission to order at 6:05 p.m. at the Spring Lake Park city offices.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Dick Swanson; Blaine, Cindy Hansen; Spring Lake Park, Jennifer Rauner; Circle Pines, Steve King; Centerville, Dale Stoesz; Lino Lakes

Directors Absent: Al Parranto; Ham Lake, Mike Murphy; Lexington

Others Present: Heidi Arnson; Executive Director, Mike Bradley; Legal Counsel

Comcast Rep:

CenturyLink Rep:

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The October 17, 2018 minutes, and the October and November bill lists and financial reports were approved as presented. **Motion for approval made by C. Hansen. Second, D. Stoesz. Motion passed unanimously.**

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

None present.

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 November and December. Topics included:

- There were three fairly complex live productions in November. They were the Live Election Night Coverage, the Sports Den Fall Finale, and the annual Blaine High School Veterans Day program. All of them required a lot of planning, coordination and help from most of staff and lots of volunteers.

- The City of Circle Pines is now officially upgraded to HD. Video Engineer, Matt Waldron, worked closely with Z Systems and City staff on the upgrade. There have been a few bugs to work out, but the video looks great.
- The building roof has been replaced. Install and clean-up were completed a week before the deadline. Giertsen provided a folder that included copies of all the permits, pictures of the tear-out and replacement, and a 10 year warranty on workmanship.
- It has been a very busy month for home movie transfers. The edit suite that is used to make the transfers was used 100% of the time it was available in November and it appears the stats will be the same for December.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

D. Stoesz reported on the following items:

- An update was given regarding CenturyLink's franchise issues. Legal Counsel and staff had met with CenturyLink's Corporate Counsel to discuss possible franchise violations and to determine a resolution. Since CenturyLink does not intend to continue offering the Prism TV service, it was agreed that it was in the best interest of both parties to draw up a document outlining an orderly exit from the market. CenturyLink has sent a first draft of a settlement agreement. Legal Counsel has sent a response to the first draft. Once a settlement agreement is finalized it will likely need to be forwarded to Cities for their approval.
- Comments regarding the FCC's franchise fee Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking were filed by Legal Counsel on November 14th. Reply Comments were filed on December 14th. The FCC will take the matter under consideration and may or may not issue a final Report and Order. The Report and Order will state an effective date, likely 90 days from the date it is released and published in the Federal Register. The Report and Order may be appealed and a stay would likely be requested. If a stay is granted, franchise fees would be calculated at the status quo through the appeal process. Otherwise, the Report and Order would be effective pending the appeal.
- It was recommended that the 2018 budget be adjusted to account for the unexpected building capital and building maintenance expenses. The money would come from the building reserve fund.

MOTION: To adjust the 2018 building capital and building budget line-items by a total of \$80,000. **Motion made by D. Stoesz. Second, C. Hansen. Motion passed unanimously.**

REPORT OF LEGAL COUNSEL

M. Bradley reported on the following items:

- A reply has been sent to CenturyLink regarding their first draft of a settlement agreement. We are waiting for a response, from CenturyLink, to the recommended changes to the first draft.
- Reply comments regarding the FCC's Second Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making have been filed. We will now wait to hear the response of the FCC.

REPORT OF COMCAST

No report was presented.

REPORT OF CENTURYLINK

No report was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

The Executive Committee had recommended that the January Executive and Commission meetings be canceled.

MOTION: To cancel the January Executive and Commission meetings. **Motion made by D. Stoesz. Second, C. Hansen. Motion passed unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was presented.

REPORT OF DIRECTORS

It was Commission Member S. King's final meeting. Chair D. Swanson, on behalf of the Commission, thanked him for his year's of service.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:14 p.m. **The motion to adjourn was made by S. King. Second, C. Hansen. Motion approved.**

The next meeting of the NMTC will be held on **Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.** at the city offices of Spring Lake Park.

Dale Stoesz; Secretary, NMTC

**NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATION
BILL LIST**

DECEMBER 2018

Date	Check #	Payee	Amount
DECEMBER	COMBINED	PAYROLL	36,752.92
DECEMBER	COMBINED	IRS/US PAYABLE	12,155.19
DECEMBER	COMBINED	MN REVENUE PAYABLE	2,189.19
DECEMBER	COMBINED	PERA PAYABLE	6,854.42
DECEMBER	COMBINED	PEACHTREE	44.20
DECEMBER	COMBINED	DISCOVERY BENEFITS	572.50
13259A	12/28/18	Z Systems	16,721.35
13401	12/3/18	Richard D. Larson	426.50
13402	12/3/18	Rick Larson	5.87
13403	12/3/18	Corporate Mechanical	824.79
13404	12/3/18	Artists del Norte	100.00
13405	12/3/18	Steven D. King	135.00
13406	12/3/18	Alan M. Parranto	135.00
13407	12/3/18	Michael A. Murphy	135.00
13408	12/3/18	Dale K. Stoesz	135.00
13409	12/3/18	Cynthia A. Hansen	135.00
13410	12/3/18	Jennifer Rauner	135.00
13411	12/12/18	Michele J. Silvester	18.53
13412	12/12/18	Commercial Steam Team	478.98
13413	12/17/18	Rusty S. Ray	44.96
13414	12/17/18	Kenton Kipp	98.10
13415	12/17/18	Heidi Arnson	104.33
13416	12/17/18	Corporate Mechanical	1,177.38
13417	12/17/18	Terry Tronson	174.62
13418	12/19/18	Michele J. Silvester	53.18
EFILE	12/1/18	Authorize.Net	29.12
EFILE	12/16/18	Chase Visa Card Services	1,389.49
EFILE	12/19/18	Chase Visa Card Services	1,059.81
EFILE	12/1/18	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	33.52
EPAY-01	12/1/18	Principal Financial Group	414.27
EPAY-02	12/2/18	POPP TELECOM	210.49
EPAY-03	12/3/18	T-Mobile	102.16
EPAY-04	12/3/18	Comcast	285.92
EPAY-05	12/12/18	AT&T Wireless	387.62
EPAY-06	12/12/18	SA Fleet-Wex Bank	164.84
EPAY-07	12/12/18	U.S. Bank Card Service	1,545.80
EPAY-08	12/14/18	CenterPoint Energy	52.48
EPAY-09	12/14/18	Republic Services	162.60
EPAY-10	12/14/18	Comcast Business 100M/100M	756.78
EPAY-11	12/22/18	HealthPartners	10,876.91
EPAY-12	12/27/18	Connexus Energy	1,989.29
EPAY-P01	12/3/18	Richard R. Swanson	135.00
HSA correction	12/26/18	IRS/US BANK	51.86
HSA correction	12/26/18	MN Dept. of Revenue	10.16
NOVEMBER SALES TAX	12/12/18	MN Dept. of Revenue	111.00

99,376.13

**NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATION
BILL LIST**

JANUARY 2019

Date	Check #	Payee	Amount
JANUARY	COMBINED	PAYROLL	39,771.42
JANUARY	COMBINED	IRS/US PAYABLE	12,724.53
JANUARY	COMBINED	MN REVENUE PAYABLE	2,251.67
JANUARY	COMBINED	PERA PAYABLE	7,306.55
JANUARY	COMBINED	PEACHTREE	40.80
JANUARY	COMBINED	DISCOVERY BENEFITS	22,932.50
13407 - 1ST QTR	1/14/19	Michael A. Murphy	135.00
13419	1/3/19	Richard D. Larson	447.25
13420	1/3/19	Comcast	61.08
13421	1/7/19	Brian K. Carlson	2,000.00
13422	1/7/19	Ian R. Cobb	500.00
13423	1/7/19	DVS RENEWAL	276.00
13424	1/7/19	DVS RENEWAL	209.00
13425	1/7/19	Metro North Chamber of Comm.	454.00
13426	1/7/19	INTERSTATE COMPANIES, INC	1,284.94
13427	1/7/19	Lakes Marketing Group Inc	398.00
13428	1/7/19	Bradley Law, LLC	9,256.25
13429	1/7/19	Metro Sales, Inc.	669.00
13430	1/7/19	Corporate Mechanical	2,222.44
13431	1/7/19	Grass Hopper Lawn & Snow	700.00
13432	1/12/19	INTERSTATE COMPANIES, INC	42.58
13433	1/16/19	Floyd Security / SRSI	134.55
13434	1/23/19	Z Systems	22,738.63
13435	1/23/19	MN Assoc Comm Tele Admin	2,625.00
13436	1/23/19	Nat. Assn Officers & Advisors	2,070.00
EFILE	1/3/19	Authorize.Net	27.10
EFILE	1/16/19	Chase Visa Card Services	3,069.84
EFILE	1/2/19	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	32.76
EPAY-01	1/2/19	POPP TELECOM	210.49
EPAY-02	1/3/19	T-Mobile	102.16
EPAY-03	1/3/19	Comcast	285.92
EPAY-04	1/4/19	Principal Financial Group	431.99
EPAY-05	1/6/19	Comcast Business 100M/100M	756.78
EPAY-06	1/7/19	Holiday Station Stores	73.30
EPAY-07	1/8/19	SA Fleet-Wex Bank	94.72
EPAY-08	1/14/19	Comcast	54.16
EPAY-09	1/12/19	AT&T Wireless	387.62
EPAY-10	1/14/19	Republic Services	190.67
EPAY-11	1/15/19	CenterPoint Energy	394.19
EPAY-12	1/15/19	U.S. Bank Card Service	1,260.32
EPAY-13	1/22/19	HealthPartners	10,876.91
EPAY-14	1/26/19	Connexus Energy	1,858.74
DECEMBER SALES TAX	1/13/19	MN Dept. of Revenue	84.00

151,442.86

**NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATION
BILL LIST**

FEBRUARY 2019

Date	Check #	Payee	Amount
FEBRUARY	COMBINED	PAYROLL	43,109.24
FEBRUARY	COMBINED	IRS/US PAYABLE	13,794.37
FEBRUARY	COMBINED	MN REVENUE PAYABLE	2,427.75
FEBRUARY	COMBINED	PERA PAYABLE	8,490.97
FEBRUARY	COMBINED	PEACHTREE	40.80
FEBRUARY	COMBINED	DISCOVERY BENEFITS	962.50
13437	2/1/19	BizzyWeb, LLC	2,000.00
13438	2/1/19	Z Systems	12,028.57
13439	2/4/19	Z Systems	1,390.00
13440	2/4/19	Rick Larson	9.49
13441	2/4/19	Richard D. Larson	372.25
13442	2/12/19	Public Employees Retirement	923.11
13443	2/12/19	Floyd Security / SRSI	134.55
13444	2/12/19	Corporate Mechanical	1,833.45
13445	2/12/19	Grass Hopper Lawn & Snow	350.00
13446	2/12/19	Z Systems	3,125.84
13447	2/19/19	Z Systems	18,233.27
13448	2/21/19	City of Blaine	221,353.24
13449	2/21/19	City of Centerville	13,784.16
13450	2/21/19	City of Circle Pines	17,857.40
13451	2/21/19	City of Ham Lake	53,873.64
13452	2/21/19	City of Lexington	6,487.08
13453	2/21/19	City of Lino Lakes	64,518.92
13454	2/21/19	City of Spring Lake Park	22,125.59
13455	2/24/19	Corporate Mechanical	470.13
13456	2/24/19	DVS RENEWAL	176.00
EFILE	2/1/19	Authorize.Net	25.60
EFILE	2/7/19	Chase Visa Card Services	25,075.18
EFILE	2/1/19	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	40.55
EPAY-01	2/2/19	POPP TELECOM	210.45
EPAY-02	2/3/19	Comcast	285.92
EPAY-03	2/3/19	T-Mobile	102.16
EPAY-04	2/4/19	Principal Financial Group	431.99
EPAY-05	2/7/19	Holiday Station Stores	208.23
EPAY-06	2/12/19	AT&T Wireless	467.62
EPAY-07	2/14/19	Republic Services	188.97
EPAY-08	2/15/19	CenterPoint Energy	429.37
EPAY-09	2/15/19	Comcast Business 100M/100M	762.13
EPAY-10	2/15/19	U.S. Bank Card Service	757.37
EPAY-11	2/22/19	HealthPartners	10,876.91
EPAY-12	2/24/19	Speedway	34.36
EPAY-13	2/26/19	City of Blaine-utilities	44.22
EPAY-14	2/26/19	Connexus Energy	1,940.29
JANUARY SALES TAX	2/15/19	MN Dept. of Revenue	96.00

551,849.64

North Metro Telecommunications Commission

Balance Sheet
February 28, 2019

ASSETS

Current Assets		
Cash - Checking Account	\$	2,336,704.91
Petty Cash		150.00
A/R - NMTC		168,868.06
Prepaid Insurance - NMTC		14,543.48
Total Current Assets		2,520,266.45
Property and Equipment		
Office Equipment - NMTC		1,285,000.85
Accum Deprec - NMTC		(2,008,900.79)
Bond Equipment 2016		1,985,000.00
Building-Polk/125		1,503,204.17
Land-Polk/125		225,700.00
Total Property and Equipment		2,990,004.23
Other Assets		
Deferred Out Related/Pension		163,031.00
Total Other Assets		163,031.00
Total Assets	\$	5,673,301.68

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

Current Liabilities		
A/P - NMTC	\$	1,260.00
Accrued Payroll Taxes & W/H's		449.54
PERA - CORRECTIONS		310.09
Garnished Wages		86.40
Garnished Wages		(86.40)
PERA PAYABLE - PRIOR		(1,691.70)
Accrued Vacation		99,957.54
Accrued Wages		33,422.00
Franchise Fee App		991,433.01
Due to City of Blaine		762,119.00
Due to City of Centerville		47,261.00
Due to City of Circle Pines		67,778.00
Due to City of Ham Lake		197,534.00
Due to City of Lexington		25,328.00
Due to City of Lino Lakes		233,475.00
Due to City of Spring Lake Par		81,504.00
Deferred In Related/Pension		132,827.00
Total Current Liabilities		2,672,966.48
Long-Term Liabilities		
Net Pension Liability		632,009.00
Total Long-Term Liabilities		632,009.00
Total Liabilities		3,304,975.48
Capital		
Net Equity		249,500.04
Net Equity - Media Ctr		(206,243.34)
Net Equity - NMTC		2,517,656.37
Net Income		(192,586.87)
Total Capital		2,368,326.20
Total Liabilities & Capital	\$	5,673,301.68

North Metro Telecommunications Comm

Cash Receipts Journal

For the Period From Feb 1, 2019 to Feb 28, 2019

Date	Transaction Ref	Line Description	Debit Amnt	Credit Amnt
2/1/19	FEB CC SALES-VM	CREDIT CARD SALES - VIRTUAL MERCHANT Credit Card Sales		36.00
			36.00	
2/1/19	FEB CC SALES-AUTH	FEBRUARY CREDIT CARD SALES-AUTHORIZE.NET FEBRUARY CREDIT CARD SALES-AUTHORIZE.NET-FEES Credit Card Sales		20.00
			0.58	
			19.42	
2/17/19	FEB CC SALES-AUTH	FEBRUARY CREDIT CARD SALES-AUTHORIZE.NET JANUARY CREDIT CARD SALES-AUTHORIZE.NET-FEES Credit Card Sales		35.00
			1.02	
			33.98	
2/20/19	TAPE DUBS-CASH	TAPE DUBS-CASH Miscellaneous receipts		555.00
			555.00	
2/20/19	TAPE DUBS-CHECKS	TAPE DUBS-CHECKS Miscellaneous receipts		300.00
			300.00	
2/23/19	FEB CC SALES-AMEX	FEBRUARY CREDIT CARD SALES-AMEX FEBRUARY CREDIT CARD SALES-AMEX-FEES Credit Card Sales		20.00
			0.78	
			19.22	
2/24/19	FEB CC SALES-VM	FEBRUARY CREDIT CARD SALES-VM Credit Card Sales		698.00
			698.00	
2/28/19	INTEREST	INTEREST-COMMISSION CHECKING INTEREST - COMMISSION		4,556.21
			4,556.21	
			<u>6,220.21</u>	<u>6,220.21</u>

North Metro Telecommunications Comm

Check Register

For the Period From Feb 1, 2019 to Feb 28, 2019

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

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
EFILE	2/1/19	MN Dept. of Revenue	1,127.18
EFILE	2/1/19	Public Employees Retirement	3,519.86
EFILE	2/1/19	IRS/US BANK	5,993.98
EFILE	2/1/19	Authorize.Net	25.60
EFILE	2/1/19	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	40.55
13437	2/1/19	BizzyWeb, LLC	2,000.00
13438	2/1/19	Z Systems	12,028.57
EPAY-01	2/2/19	POPP TELECOM	210.45
EPAY-02	2/3/19	Comcast	285.92
EPAY-03	2/3/19	T-Mobile	102.16
EPAY-04	2/4/19	Principal Financial Group	431.99
13439	2/4/19	Z Systems	1,390.00
13440	2/4/19	Rick Larson	9.49
13441	2/4/19	Richard D. Larson	372.25
EPAY-05	2/7/19	Holiday Station Stores	208.23
EFILE	2/7/19	Chase Visa Card Services	1,971.67
EPAY-06	2/12/19	AT&T Wireless	467.62
13442	2/12/19	Public Employees Retirement	923.11
13443	2/12/19	Floyd Security / SRSI	134.55
13444	2/12/19	Corporate Mechanical	1,833.45
13445	2/12/19	Grass Hopper Lawn & Snow	350.00
13446	2/12/19	Z Systems	3,125.84
EFILE	2/12/19	Chase Visa Card Services	13,832.70
EFILE	2/13/19	Discovery Benefits	470.00
EFILE	2/13/19	Chase Visa Card Services	9,270.81
EPAY-07	2/14/19	Republic Services	188.97
PEACH	2/15/19	Peachtree/Sage Software	20.40
EFILE	2/15/19	MN Dept. of Revenue	1,128.74
EFILE	2/15/19	Public Employees Retirement	3,524.23

North Metro Telecommunications Comm

Check Register

For the Period From Feb 1, 2019 to Feb 28, 2019

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

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
EFILE	2/15/19	IRS/US BANK	6,002.23
EPAY-08	2/15/19	CenterPoint Energy	429.37
JANUARY SALES TAX	2/15/19	MN Dept. of Revenue	96.00
EPAY-10	2/15/19	U.S. Bank Card Service	757.37
EPAY-09	2/15/19	Comcast Business 100M/100M	762.13
13447	2/19/19	Z Systems	18,233.27
13448	2/21/19	City of Blaine	221,353.24
13449	2/21/19	City of Centerville	13,784.16
13450	2/21/19	City of Circle Pines	17,857.40
13451	2/21/19	City of Ham Lake	53,873.64
13452	2/21/19	City of Lexington	6,487.08
13453	2/21/19	City of Lino Lakes	64,518.92
13454	2/21/19	City of Spring Lake Park	22,125.59
EPAY-11	2/22/19	HealthPartners	10,876.91
EPAY-12	2/24/19	Speedway	34.36
13455	2/24/19	Corporate Mechanical	470.13
13456	2/24/19	DVS RENEWAL	176.00
EFILE	2/25/19	Discovery Benefits	22.50
EPAY-13	2/26/19	City of Blaine-utilities	44.22
EPAY-14	2/26/19	Connexus Energy	1,940.29
EFILE	2/27/19	Discovery Benefits	470.00
PEACH	2/27/19	Peachtree/Sage Software	20.40
EFILE	2/28/19	Public Employees Retirement	523.77
EFILE	2/28/19	MN Dept. of Revenue	171.83
EFILE	2/28/19	IRS/US BANK	1,798.16
Total			<u>507,817.29</u>

North Metro Telecommunications Comm

General Journal

For the Period From Feb 1, 2019 to Feb 28, 2019

Date	Reference	Trans Description	Debit Amt	Credit Amt
2/1/19	ACCRUED VAC/SIC/COMP	ACCRUED VAC/SICK/COMP ACCRUED VAC/SICK/COMP	96,744.33	96,744.33
2/1/19	ACCRUED WAGES	ACCRUED WAGES ACCRUED WAGES	9,907.20	9,907.20
2/27/19	ACCRUED DEPRECIATION	ACCRUED DEPRECIATION ACCRUED DEPRECIATION	12,900.00	12,900.00
2/27/19	ACCRUED VAC/SIC/COMP	ACCRUED VAC/SICK/COMP ACCRUED VAC/SICK/COMP	99,957.54	99,957.54
2/27/19	ACCRUED WAGES	ACCRUED WAGES ACCRUED WAGES	9,907.20	9,907.20
Total			229,416.27	229,416.27

North Metro TV

February 2019 Update

Program Production

In February, a total of 119 **new programs** were produced utilizing the North Metro facilities, funds, and services. This constitutes **78:15:00 hours of new programming**.

- 33 programs were produced by the public
- 63 programs were produced by NMTV staff
- 23 programs were produced by City staff



Van Shoots

The HD truck was used for **66:30:00** hours of production. Events produced live and recorded for additional playbacks include:

- Gymnastics: Andover/Blaine/Centennial
- Boys Basketball: Irondale vs. Spring Lake Park
- Adapted Floor Hockey: Mounds View vs. North Suburban
- Girls Basketball: Maple Grove vs. Centennial
- Girls Hockey: 5AA QF: Maple Grove vs. Blaine
- Girls Hockey: 5AA QF: Centennial vs. Rogers
- Girls Basketball: Spring Lake Park vs. Blaine
- Boys Hockey: 5AA QF: Blaine vs. Osseo
- Boys Hockey: 5AA QF: Centennial vs. Coon Rapids
- Boys Hockey: 5AA SF: Blaine vs. Centennial
- Boys Basketball: Centennial vs. Spring Lake Park
- Boys Hockey: 5AA Championship: Blaine vs. Maple Grove



Workshops

Workshop	Instructor	Organization	Students
Lecture Series - Mary Pickford: The World's First Movie	Eric Houston	General	9
Lecture Series - Early Film Treasures: The Great Train Robbery	Eric Houston	Spring Lake Park City Hall	10
Open Studio Night	Eric Houston	General Public	5
Lecture Series - Jim Henson and the Muppets	Eric Houston	Northtown Library	17
Intro to NMTV/Tour	Eric Houston	Blaine Home School	19
Bad Movie Bros Taping	Eric Houston	Video Club	3
6 Workshops			63 Students

Home Movie Transfers

Home movie transfers have become one of our most popular services. Residents can transfer their family videos themselves for free, or pay NMTV to do it. NMTV can also transfer film, slides, and photos for a fee.

Month	Hours Transferred	Tapes	Film Reels	DVDs	Photos/Slides	Fees Paid
January	226	64	47	2	702	\$1,305.00
February	302.75	71	91	2	1,277	\$914.00
TOTAL:	528.75	135	138	4	1,979	\$2,219.00

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, municipal, or educational.

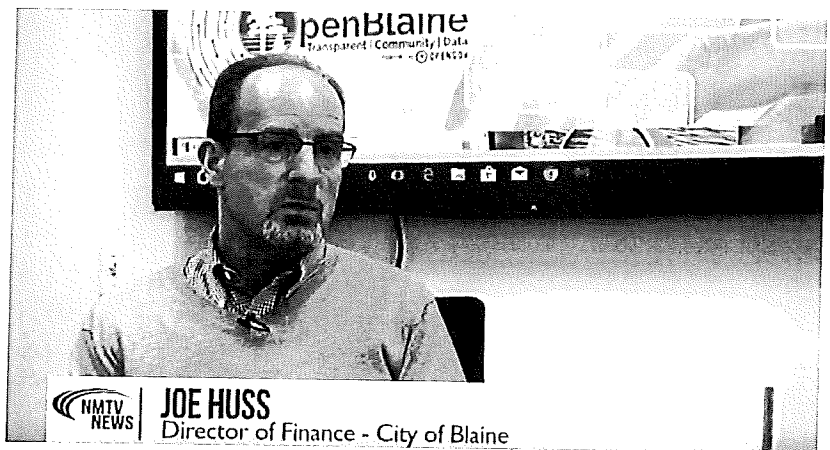
Month	Unique Individuals	Total Usage Hours
January	144	677.5
February	94	606.5
TOTAL PUBLIC USAGE:		1,284

Production Highlights

NMTV News Highlights

Each week Danika Peterson and Rusty Ray create a news program that highlights events, people, issues, and information important to citizens of our Member Cities. Some February highlights include:

- Blaine Makes All City Spending Easy to See
- SBM Fire Ratings Improve
- Mobile Menders Fix Thousands of Pieces of Clothing Each Year
- Volunteers Protect Lino Lakes Heron Rookery
- Hope's Closet Helps Homeless Youth
- Chomonix Golf Course May Close
- Chomonix Golf Course to Remain Open for at Least Three Years
- Stacy Bauer to Release Second Book
- Fifth Graders Collect Eye Glasses
- Your City Staff: Cathy Sorensen



In addition to daily playbacks of North Metro TV News on the cable systems, there are 545 local stories archived for viewers on the NMTV YouTube page. The page can be accessed through the northmetrotv.com website.

Your City Staff: Cathy Sorensen

It looks like another City staff member got talked into an interview! This time around Blaine's City Clerk, Cathy Sorensen was highlighted. Cathy has served the City of Blaine for over 20 years. She discussed various aspects of the City Clerk position such as answering questions about permits or council business, and making sure the City has what it needs to pull off smooth elections. The interview can be watched on NMTV's YouTube page, and on the Blaine City Channel.



Traveling Lectures

Instructor, Eric Houston, is adding another lecture to his traveling series. This one concerns the evolution of movies and movie theaters and focuses on the introduction of feature length films, widescreen movies, sound, and Technicolor. He has also overhauled the very popular James Bond lecture with new movie clips and photos. Eric has reached out to additional venues for presenting the lectures, including the Ham Lake Senior Center, the Lino Lakes Senior Center, Crest View Senior Housing in Blaine, and the Blaine Parks and Rec department.

Open Studio Night

The first Open Studio Night of the year was held in February. The goal of the event is to encourage people who would like to produce a show, but don't want to go through the classes, or don't have a crew to help them out, to come in and just do it. The NMTV Video Club provides all the crew and assistance anyone would need to produce their program. This time around two new shows were produced. The first, called Kids Cooking School, was produced by a Lino Lakes resident. The second, called Travel Talk, was produced by a member of the local Toastmasters.



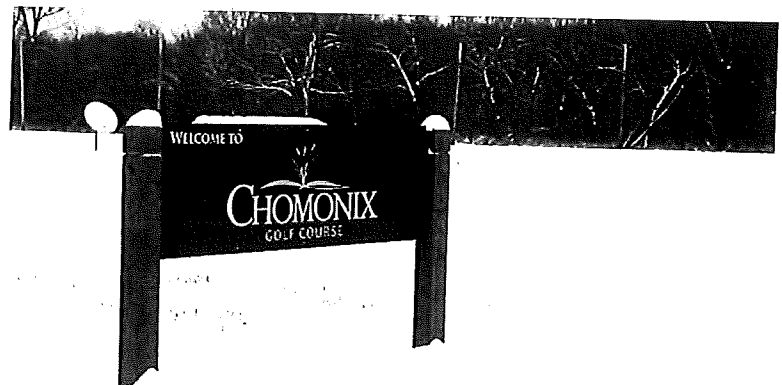
Commercial Productions

Special Events Coordinator, T.J. Tronson, has wrapped up a commercial project for the City of Columbia Heights. He has been working with the City's Communications Coordinator on a "Welcome to Columbia Heights" video for the City. Their goal was to have a video to play at their Town Hall meeting in early March. T.J. is also booked to provide drone coverage of the annual Nearly Naked Ruck Sack event. That will be taking place in March.

City Productions

Municipal Producer, Trevor Scholl, has started several major projects that will take some time to complete, including an in-depth piece with the Blaine Police Department regarding training and a new Lino Lakes crime prevention series.

- Blaine's Open Portal
- Shot Lino Lakes Guns and Hoses Charity Hockey Game
- Shot 3 interviews for Chominix Golf piece
- Working on long-form piece with Blaine PD. Shot wardrobe day and scenario training



New and ongoing projects include:

- Met with Northern Force Dance Studio business profile
- Blaine Police Department training series
- Set up meeting for CBD Store piece in Ham Lake
- Met with Lino Lakes Public Safety about crime prevention videos
- Winter restoration in Blaine Wetland Sanctuary
- Ham Lake Senior Center activities
- Chomonix Golf Course Issues

Trevor touches base with contacts on a regular basis and also encourages Cities to contact him whenever they have an idea for a new show.

Production equipment consulting for cities and schools

Blaine

- 2.20.19: Made an appointment with Ben to look into routing some audio into speakers, and checking on chamber cameras that appear too hot on close up shots.
- 2.26.19: Discovered chamber cameras must be adjusted internally through the camera settings and not the LCS settings. Showed Roark and Ben how to do it in case it happens again. Also worked on audio. The staff mics were not coming through the audience monitors. Downloaded a program for the Tesira Bi-amp DSP controller. After working to network laptop to the switch and connect to the IP address, was able to connect mics to the audience speaker output. Then trimmed the audience speakers down 10db to prevent feedback.

Centerville

- 2.4.19: Worked with Jacob at Roseville to figure out if a wireless netgear router belonged to Centerville. Told him to disconnect router and return to Centerville.

Circle Pines

- 2.27.19: Recording device stopped. Went to City Hall. Couldn't find problem with USB recorder. Gave instructions for what to do if it happens again. Checked into low audio issues. Set the DSP computerized audio board to send a much louder signal back to NMTV and adjusted the audio outputs and inputs for everything. All internal settings so will continue to monitor. Installed new software for controlling Sony cameras that Ross created specifically for us. Adjusted all the cameras with a manual setting instead of auto. Fixed the shutter saving ability but the gain is still not saving correctly. Made some adjustments and will monitor next meeting.

Ham Lake

- 2.5.19: Emailed Nicole regarding black signal coming from Ham Lake. She flipped switch to Brightsign and signal came back on.
- 2.5.19: Ham Lake signal back to black. Rebooted all Ham Lake Ross cards. Flex 4.1 being fed into router. Switched to Ham Lake Carousel.

Lexington

- 2.7.19: Emailed Bill Petracek about meeting with Z Systems to discuss equipment upgrade. Set up meeting to discuss mics and to review system one more time before starting project.
- 2.14.19: Walk through at City Hall with Z Systems. Looked at current set-up. Current mics will still work, which will save money. Discovered video over IP network. Will also upgrade that to HD.

Lino Lakes

- 2.5.19: Emailed Jeff Karlson regarding video issue. Frozen video. Went to City Hall and found issue with the Brightsign player. Reset the player, transmission back to normal.
- 2.21.19: Emailed Jeff Karlson to let him know the Lino Lakes livestream would be down for a period of time while some issues are being worked out with integration of the new streaming servers.

Spring Lake Park

- 2.19.19: Trouble with audience monitor in council chambers. Went to City Hall. Did some troubleshooting. Could be HDMI over ethernet 4x4 router. Found replacement on Ebay, as they are no longer being made. Ordered it.

All Cities

- 2.4.19: Emailed Z Systems for ETA update on delivery of livestream servers.
- 2.4.19: Staff meeting regarding server install and integration.
- 2.4.19: Emailed BizzyWeb with preliminary data to get going on project.
- 2.6.19: Contacted Ian to update firewall rules for the livestream servers. Emailed IP addresses to him to use for servers.

- 2.12.19: Ian and Brian updated the firewall configuration for the new servers.
- 2.12.19: Ran and labeled network cable for the livestream servers to the network switch.
- 2.13.19: Emailed Rose the new configuration addresses for the servers.
- 2.14.19: Ran cable for the network monitor for livestream servers.
- 2.18.19: Installed livestream servers. Set up desktop displays and IP network configuration. Servers are tested and running.
- 2.21.19: Work with Ian and Brian to make some changes IP addresses for all servers in the router going out to Tightrope.
- 2.25.19: Changes made to IP addresses allowing servers to get through firewall. Two servers are not functioning properly. Troubleshooting.
- 2.28.19: Updated configuration on servers to get a connection. Firewall will only pass 6 livestream servers. Have checked every possibility. Have contacted Ian and Brian to resolve.

City Channel 16 Playback Stats

City	Number of Times Programs Played	Hours Programmed on Channel
Blaine	165	226:29:36
Centerville	40	43:57:58
Circle Pines	169	96:26:42
Ham Lake	62	75:40:16
Lexington	92	65:18:11
Lino Lakes	54	50:39:20
Spring Lake Park	96	69:24:14
Totals:	678 Program Playbacks	627:56:17 Hours of Video Programming on Channels

Programs Produced by the Public

Title	Producer	Runtime
Nocked & Loaded TV	Dave Perkins	00:27:43
Chit Chat: Jenna Lind	Sharon Carlson	00:25:22
A Fresh New Day	Anita Wardlaw	00:40:35
Every Movie Ever (5 episodes)	Joe Scholz, Rick Bostrom, Ben Daniels/Ryan Friendschuh, Gavin Van Trease/Brett Wong/Seraiah Brooks/Eric Houston	01:46:18
Cornerstone Church (3 episodes)	Rick Bostrom	01:27:42
Christ Lutheran Church (4 episodes)	Chance Amundson/Jacob Nessman	04:34:39
The Power of Love (6 episodes)	Rick Larson	03:00:00
LovePower (6 episodes)	Rick Larson	06:00:00
Rice Creek Watershed District Meeting	Theresa Stasica	01:15:05
Oak Park Moments (5 episodes)	Dave Turnidge	03:37:22
33 New Programs		23:14:46 New Hours

Programs Produced by NMTV Staff

Title	Producer	Runtime
Anoka County Board Meeting (2/12/19)	T.J. Tronson	01:08:20
NMTV News (5 episodes)	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	01:24:16
Lino Lakes Heron Rookery in Winter	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	00:03:20
Your City Staff: Cathy Sorensen	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	00:02:53
Lexington Liquor Builds on Success	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	00:02:32
Blaine Shares Community and Finance Data Online	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	00:02:31
SBM Fire Ratings Improve	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	00:01:36
Adapted Floor Hockey: North Suburban/Anoka Hennepin	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:25:39
Gymnastics: Andover/Blaine/Centennial	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	02:26:07
Wrestling: Chisago Lakes/Spring Lake Park/St. Anthony	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	00:41:40
Boys Basketball: Irondale/Spring Lake Park	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:35:41
Wrestling: Mounds View/Spring Lake Park/Irondale/St. Anthony	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	00:57:10
Wrestling: Osseo/Spring Lake Park/Irondale/St. Anthony	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	00:59:13
Adapted Floor Hockey: Mounds View/North Suburban	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:12:41
Girls Hockey: Blaine/Anoka	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:16:33
Girls Hockey: Centennial/Spring Lake Park	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:22:20
Girls Basketball: Maple Grove/Centennial	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:24:22
Girls Hockey: Maple Grove/Blaine	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:30:35
Girls Hockey: Centennial/Rogers	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:33:15
Girls Basketball: Spring Lake Park/Blaine	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:56:26
Boys Hockey: Blaine/Osseo	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:45:35
Boys Hockey: Centennial/Coon Rapids	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:46:49
Boys Basketball: Blaine/Centennial	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	00:56:21
Boys Hockey: Blaine/Centennial	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:45:04
Boys Basketball: Centennial/Spring Lake Park	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:34:48
Girls Basketball: Champlin Park/Spring Lake Park	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:22:20
Boys Hockey: Blaine/Maple Grove	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	02:23:02
Sports Den (4 episodes)	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:55:23
Game Summaries (28 episodes)	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:04:37
63 New Programs		35:41:09 New Hours

Programs Produced by City Staff

Title	Producer	Runtime
Blaine City Council Meeting (2/7/19)	Blaine Staff	01:09:26
Blaine Planning Commission Meeting (2/12/19)	Blaine Staff	01:14:32
Blaine Natural Resources Conservation Board Meeting (2/19/19)	Blaine Staff	01:00:58
Blaine City Council Meeting (2/21/19)	Blaine Staff	01:38:43
Blaine Park Board Meeting (2/26/19)	Blaine Staff	00:58:58
Centerville City Council Meeting (2/13/19)	Centerville Staff	00:55:45
Centerville City Council Meeting (2/27/19)	Centerville Staff	00:47:54
Circle Pines Park Board Meeting (2/5/19)	Circle Pines Staff	00:12:23

Title cont.	Producer cont.	Runtime cont.
Circle Pines City Council Meeting (2/12/19)	Circle Pines Staff	00:34:02
Circle Pines Utility Commission Meeting (2/20/19)	Circle Pines Staff	00:12:32
Circle Pines City Council Meeting (2/26/19)	Circle Pines Staff	00:43:44
Ham Lake City Council Meeting (2/4/19)	Ham Lake Staff	00:18:52
Ham Lake Planning Commission Meeting (2/11/19)	Ham Lake Staff	01:47:11
Ham Lake City Council Meeting (2/19/19)	Ham Lake Staff	00:56:43
Ham Lake Planning Commission Meeting (2/25/19)	Ham Lake Staff	00:10:49
Ham Lake Park & Tree Meeting (2/27/19)	Ham Lake Staff	01:31:31
Lexington City Council Meeting (2/21/19)	Lexington Staff	00:27:10
Lino Lakes City Council Meeting (2/11/19)	Lino Lakes Staff	00:19:29
Lino Lakes Planning & Zoning Meeting (2/13/19)	Lino Lakes Staff	01:59:43
Lino Lakes City Council Meeting (2/25/19)	Lino Lakes Staff	00:20:06
Spring Lake Park City Council Meeting (2/4/19)	Spring Lake Park Staff	00:36:37
Spring Lake Park City Council Meeting (2/19/19)	Spring Lake Park Staff	00:29:25
Spring Lake Park Planning Commission Meeting (1/22/19)	Spring Lake Park Staff	00:25:06
23 New Programs		18:51:39 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 2019

Programming Statistics	J	F	M	A	M	J	JU	A	S	O	N	D	19 Total	19 Average
Cablecast Programs	2675.00	2340.00											5015.00	417.92
Cablecast Hours	2070.00	1797.00											3867.00	322.25
Programs Produced - Public	34.00	27.00											61.00	5.08
Program Hours Produced - Public	20.50	18.50											39.00	3.25
Prog. Produced - Affiliated Public	8.00	6.00											14.00	1.17
Prog. Hours Produced - Affil. Public	6.75	5.00											11.75	0.98
Programs Produced - City Staff	21.00	23.00											44.00	3.67
Prog. Hours Produced - City Staff	20.00	19.00											39.00	3.25
Programs Produced - NMTV Staff	50.00	63.00											113.00	9.42
Prog. Hours Produced - NMTV Staff	21.00	35.75											56.75	4.73
Total Public Programs Produced	42.00	33.00											75.00	6.25
Total Staff Programs Produced	71.00	86.00											157.00	13.08
% Staff Produced Programs	113.00	119.00											232.00	19.33
% Public Produced Programs	62.83%	72.27%											67.67%	67.67%
External Programs Submitted	37.17%	27.73%											32.33%	32.33%
External Program Hours	19.00	13.00											32.00	2.67
Total New Programs	14.25	10.50											24.75	2.06
Total Public Programs	132.00	132.00											264.00	22.00
Equipment Usage Statistics														
Facility Hours Available	176.00	149.00											325.00	27.08
Public Field Equipment Uses	7.00	5.00											12.00	1.00
Studio A	38.00	38.00											76.00	6.33
% of Available Time	21.59%	25.50%											23.38%	23.38%
Studio B	29.75	27.50											57.25	4.77
% of Available Time	16.90%	18.46%											17.62%	17.62%
Public MAC A Edit Suite	71.50	213.00											284.50	23.71
% of Available Time	40.63%	142.95%											87.54%	10.66%
Public MAC B Edit Suite	77.25	52.75											130.00	10.83
% of Available Time	43.89%	35.40%											40.00%	40.00%
Public MAC C Edit Suite	83.75	80.00											163.75	13.65
% of Available Time	47.59%	53.69%											50.38%	50.38%
Production Van Statistics														
Production Hours	41.75	66.50											108.25	9.02
Number of Van Shoots	7.00	10.00											17.00	1.42
Average Hours Per Shoot	5.96	6.65											6.37	0.75
Number of New Volunteers	1.00	8.00											9.00	0.75
Volunteer Hours	21.00	39.00											60.00	5.00
Public Access Statistics														
Number of Workshops	8.00	6.00											14.00	1.17
Number of Students	85.00	63.00											148.00	12.33
PAP Volunteer Hours	199.75	104.00											303.75	25.31
Total Public Facility Usage Hours	677.50	606.50											1284.00	107.00

North Metro TV

January 2019 Update

Program Production

In January, a total of 113 **new programs** were produced utilizing the North Metro facilities, funds, and services. This constitutes **68:15:00 hours of new programming**.

- 42 programs were produced by the public
- 50 programs were produced by NMTV staff
- 21 programs were produced by City staff



Van Shoots

The HD truck was used for **41:45:00** hours of production. Events produced live and recorded for additional playbacks include:

- Boys Basketball: Andover vs. Blaine
- Girls Basketball: Irondale vs. Spring Lake Park
- Girls Basketball: Elk River vs. Centennial
- Girls Hockey: Blaine vs. Centennial
- Boys Hockey: Blaine vs. Centennial
- Girls Hockey: Blaine vs. Spring Lake Park
- Girls Basketball: Irondale vs. Blaine



Workshops

Workshop	Instructor	Organization	Students
Editing	Eric Houston	Toastmasters	4
Lecture Series - Jim Henson and the Muppets	Eric Houston	Mary Ann Young Senior Center	10
General Production Workshop	Eric Houston	General Public	1
Lecture Series - This is Orson Welles	Eric Houston	Spring Lake Park City Hall	10
Camera	Eric Houston	General Public	1
Editing	Eric Houston	General Public	1
Lecture Series - James Bond - 50 Years of 007	Eric Houston	Anoka County Library - Northtown	48
Editing Demo	Eric Houston	Video Club	10
8 Workshops			85 Students

Home Movie Transfers

Home movie transfers have become one of our most popular services. Residents can transfer their family videos themselves for free, or pay NMTV to do it. NMTV can also transfer film, slides, and photos for a fee.

Month	Hours Transferred	Tapes	Film Reels	DVDs	Photos/ Slides	Fees Paid
January	226	64	47	2	702	\$1,305.00
TOTAL:	226	64	47	2	702	\$1,305.00

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, municipal, or educational.

Month	Unique Individuals	Total Usage Hours
January	144	677.5
TOTAL PUBLIC USAGE:		677.5

Production Highlights

NMTV News Highlights

Each week Danika Peterson and Rusty Ray create a news program that highlights events, people, issues, and information important to citizens of our Member Cities. Some January highlights include:

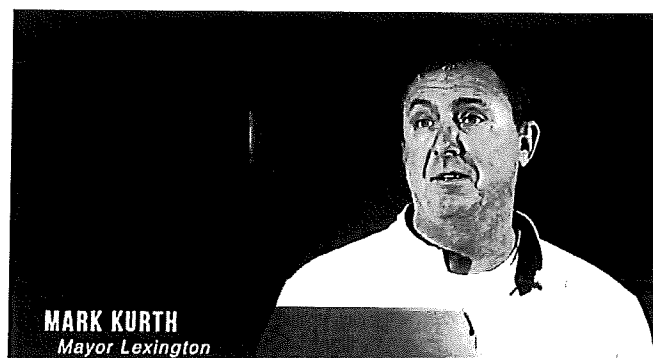
- National Curling Trials in Blaine
- Your City Staff: Cory Richter
- New Year New Government Leaders
- Anoka Hennepin Wellness Day
- CBD Oil Store Opens in Ham Lake
- SBM Firefighters Receive Training Regarding Carbon Monoxide and Radon



In addition to daily playbacks of North Metro TV News on the cable systems, there are 545 local stories archived for viewers on the NMTV YouTube page. The page can be accessed through the northmetrotv.com website.

Winter Mayor's Minutes

Municipal Coordinator, Trevor Scholl, completed three episodes of Mayor's Minutes in January. Blaine, Lexington, and Centerville Mayors highlighted some of the bigger issues for their residents, in the Winter edition of the program.



Your City Staff: Cory Richter

The "Your City Staff" segment has returned after a brief hiatus! This time around Blaine's GIS Coordinator, Cory Richter was highlighted. Who even knew Blaine HAD a GIS Coordinator?? During her interview, Cory explained that working with geospatial data helps with everything from determining property lines to developing snowplow maps. She enjoys the variety of work that her job entails, including working with the police to observe crime trends and keeping track of the age and location of underground utilities.



Ham Lake Snow Bowl Preview

It's that snowy time of year, and it looks like there's going to be plenty of it for the Ham Lake 2019 Snow Bowl celebration. Municipal Producer, Trevor Scholl, put together a video highlighting all of the fun events that will be taking place. The video includes interviews with the event organizers and plenty of coverage of all of the festivities, including sliding, fishing, bowling, biking, food, shopping, snow sculptures and contests. The event will also be highlighted on the NMTV news.



Lecture Series: James Bond

NMTV Instructor, Eric Houston, held what turned out to be a very popular edition of his Lecture Series at the Northtown Branch of the Anoka County Library. The class, James Bond: 50 Years of 007, attracted 48 participants. That is the highest attendance level so far at the traveling lecture series. It seems to be due to several factors including extra advertising on social media by the library and an article on the class in the ABC Newspapers. Plus, the James Bond class is one of the most popular of the classes Eric teaches....people just love everything about James Bond. Eric is just putting the finishing touches on a new class called Mary Pickford: the World's First Movie Star. It will premiere in February.



City Productions

Municipal Producer, Trevor Scholl, completed five projects in January including several editions of Mayor's Minutes. Projects completed include:

- Mayor's Minutes: Blaine Winter 2019
- Mayor's Minutes: Centerville Winter 2019
- Mayor's Minutes: Lexington Winter 2019
- Ham Lake Snow Bowl Preview 2019
- Tyler the Donut Boy



New and ongoing projects include:

- Shot interviews/footage for Northern Force Dance Studio business profile
- New Blaine app OpenGov
- Winter restoration in Blaine Wetland Sanctuary
- Lino Lakes Public Safety Guns N Hoses event
- Blaine PD training project
- Ham Lake Senior Center activities
- Chomonix Golf Course Issues

Trevor touches base with contacts on a regular basis and also encourages Cities to contact him whenever they have an idea for a new show.

Production equipment consulting for cities and schools

Blaine

- No equipment issues were reported.
- **Centerville**
- 1.9.19: Bad camera just before a council meeting. Went to City Hall to troubleshoot. A short-circuit happens and the camera glitches to black for a few frames every time any camera is adjusted with the joystick. There is nothing that can be done to fix the camera. Recommend moving up the HD upgrade ASAP.
- 1.10.19: Transmission problem. Switched problematic camera out with camera 2. Video looks better.
- 1.14.19: Answered question regarding Comcast internet and whether City requires it. It is not required for internet and is just serving as a back-up. Should save the City money.

Circle Pines

- No equipment issues were reported.

Ham Lake

- No equipment issues were reported.

Lexington

- No equipment issues were reported.

Lino Lakes

- 1/10/19: Transmission issue. Went to City Hall and found that a power adapter for an JA embedding convertor has died. Replaced it with a spare from the tech shop. Will get permanent replacement. Also Picked up the KiPro Ki-stor drive and transferred footage to NMTV playback server.

Spring Lake Park

- No equipment issues were reported.

All Cities

- 1.2.19: Ordered Tightrope streaming servers and contracts for city channels.
- 1.2.19: Requested 2 additional 3-channel Reflect Services for live streaming of channels.
- 1.14.19: Worked with Z Systems on annual Tightrope contracts.
- 1.29.19: Contacted BizzyWeb to initiate website upgrades to accommodate city live streaming servers.
- 1.30.19: Signed off on BizzyWeb contract for website upgrades.
- 1.31.19: Set up process for commissioning streaming servers.

City Channel 16 Playback Stats

City	Number of Times Programs Played	Hours Programmed on Channel
Blaine	187	220:21:24
Centerville	47	75:41:20
Circle Pines	153	125:35:59
Ham Lake	80	102:46:27
Lexington	107	64:39:49
Lino Lakes	66	97:45:56
Spring Lake Park	97	76:59:57
Totals:	737 Program Playbacks	763:50:52 Hours of Video Programming on Channels

Programs Produced by the Public

Title	Producer	Runtime
Off Constantly	David Bauer	00:25:03
Orange Films 101	Ben Daniels	00:24:17
Your MN Moose! 2018-2019	Laurie Sigler	00:03:07
Isla Bakes Chocolate Chip Cookies	Heidi Arnson/Isla Olson	00:05:06
Every Movie Ever (2 episodes)	Joe Scholz, Rick Bostrom, Ben Daniels/Ryan Friundschuh, Gavin Van Trease/Brett Wong/Seraiah Brooks/Eric Houston	00:49:57
Bad Movie Bros (2 episodes)	Video Club/Eric Houston	01:45:51
Game Over (8 episodes)	Eric Houston	02:46:52
A Fresh New Day	Anita Wardlaw	00:33:45
Cornerstone Church (2 episodes)	Rick Bostrom	00:58:37
Christ Lutheran Church (5 episodes)	Jacob Nessman	04:50:19
The Power of Love (5 episodes)	Rick Larson	02:30:00
LovePower (5 episodes)	Rick Larson	05:00:00
Rice Creek Watershed District Meeting (2 episodes)	Theresa Stasica	02:51:00
Hope Church (3 episodes)	Cindy Hardy	02:00:08
Oak Park Moments (3 episodes)	Dave Turnidge	01:55:55
42 New Programs		27:16:02 New Hours

Programs Produced by NMTV Staff

Title	Producer	Runtime
Anoka County Statutory/Organizational and Regular Board Meeting (1/8/19)	T.J. Tronson	00:42:48
Anoka County Board Meeting (1/22/19)	T.J. Tronson	00:42:51
NMTV News (3 episodes)	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	00:42:44
SBM Radon and Carbon Monoxide Class	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	00:02:22
Your City Staff: Cory Richter	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	00:03:34
Mayor's Minutes: Lexington Winter 2019	Trevor Scholl	00:04:47
Snow Bowl Preview 2019	Trevor Scholl	00:01:55
Mayor's Minutes: Centerville Winter 2019	Trevor Scholl	00:05:56
Mayor's Minutes: Blaine Winter 2019	Trevor Scholl	00:05:08
Tyler the Donut Boy	Trevor Scholl	00:03:46
Boys Basketball: Andover/Blaine	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:41:17
Girls Basketball: Irondale/Spring Lake Prk	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:43:28
Girls Basketball: Elk River/Centennial	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:36:46
Girls Hockey: Blaine/Centennial	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:56:55
Boys Hockey: Blaine/Centennial	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	02:15:55
Girls Hockey: Blaine/Spring Lake Park	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:49:52
Boys Hockey: Andover/Blaine	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:25:34
Girls Basketball: Irondale/Blaine	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:33:53
Girls Hockey: Spring Lake Prk/Centennial	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:18:45
Sports Den (4 episodes)	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:51:10
Coach & Captains (7 episodes)	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	00:23:27
Game Summaries (18 episodes)	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	00:52:12
50 New Programs		21:05:59 New Hours

Programs Produced by City Staff

Title	Producer	Runtime
Blaine City Council Meeting (1/3/19)	Blaine Staff	01:20:08
Blaine Planning Commission Meeting (1/8/19)	Blaine Staff	00:05:35
Blaine Natural Resources Conservation Board Meeting (1/15/19)	Blaine Staff	00:58:36
Blaine City Council Meeting (1/17/19)	Blaine Staff	00:57:46
Blaine Park Board Meeting (1/22/19)	Blaine Staff	01:30:10
Blaine Special City Council Meeting (1/24/19)	Blaine Staff	01:16:16
Centerville City Council Meeting (1/9/19)	Centerville Staff	01:49:58
Centerville City Council Meeting (1/23/19)	Centerville Staff	00:55:07
Circle Pines City Council Meeting (1/8/19)	Circle Pines Staff	00:53:50
Circle Pines Utility Commission Meeting (1/16/19)	Circle Pines Staff	00:25:00
Circle Pines City Council Meeting (1/22/19)	Circle Pines Staff	00:42:44
Ham Lake City Council Meeting (1/7/19)	Ham Lake Staff	01:19:15
Ham Lake Park & Tree Meeting (1/16/19)	Ham Lake Staff	01:08:00
Ham Lake City Council Meeting (1/22/19)	Ham Lake Staff	01:10:27
Lexington City Council Meeting (1/3/19)	Lexington Staff	00:21:25
Lexington City Council Meeting (1/17/19)	Lexington Staff	00:38:22
Lino Lakes Planning & Zoning Meeting (1/9/19)	Lino Lakes Staff	01:07:20
Lino Lakes City Council Meeting (1/14/19)	Lino Lakes Staff	00:44:15
Lino Lakes City Council Meeting (1/28/19)	Lino Lakes Staff	00:53:34
Spring Lake Park City Council Meeting (1/7/19)	Spring Lake Park Staff	00:35:00
Spring Lake Park City Council Meeting (1/22/19)	Spring Lake Park Staff	01:00:04
21 New Programs		19:52:52 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.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting of March 6, 2019

Executive Cmte. Present: Dick Swanson; Blaine, Mike Murphy; Lexington, Cindy Hansen; Spring Lake Park, Dale Stoesz; Lino Lakes

Absent:

Others Present: Heidi Arnson; Executive Director

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the February 6, 2019 Executive Committee meeting minutes was made by M. Murphy. Second, D. Stoesz. Motion approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

- The live streaming servers for each City channel have been installed in the NMTV master control. A problem with router licenses was discovered and solved and Tightrope is commissioning the devices and updating the server for the Reflect cloud distribution system. As soon as the website is updated the servers will be live. Programming Coordinator, Michele Silvester, will contact each City to coordinate city website links to the live streams.
- Once the live streaming servers are functioning, the next big projects will be to provide OTT (over-the-top) services for all NMTV channels. The Tightrope/Cablecast playback system has started to offer OTT services for their clients on Roku and AppleTV devices. Once the channels are activated, viewers will be able to watch local programming on any device.
- Mike Bradley, Commission Legal Counsel, has completed a draft of the Closed Captioning Study requested by the Cable Commission. The report includes a review of closed captioning laws and how those laws may apply to programming produced by the Commission. While the Commission appears to be exempt from the Communications Act and FCC rules, we may not be exempt from ADA requirements or the requirements of the MN Human Rights Act. The report includes an analysis of closed captioning hardware and software that could caption live and prerecorded content, and put the Commission in compliance with the ADA's closed captioning requirements. A separate captioning package would be needed for live programming and for prerecorded programming. Total costs include a one-time initial cost ranging from \$4,000 to \$71,500 and an on-going annual fee of \$2,000 to \$55,909. Costs vary depending on the type of service purchased, from automated captioning to live human captioning. Staff plans to include the costs for closed captioning services in the recommended 2020 budget, once a final report is completed.

OLD BUSINESS

- A memo outlining the division of the 2018 franchise fees being returned to Cities was reviewed. The memo includes a table determining city revenue as a percentage of gross revenue, and a table utilizing that percentage to determine fees returned to each City.

MOTION: To approve disbursement of the 2018 franchise fees, retained by the Member Cities, as presented in the disbursement materials. **Motion made by M. Murphy. Second, C. Hansen. Motion approved.**

- Recommendations were made for members of the 2019 Executive Committee. At the meeting, Dick Swanson, Mike Murphy, Dale Stoesz and Cindy Hansen indicated a willingness to serve. If no other candidates express interest in the Committee, at the full Commission meeting, it is recommended that Dale Stoesz serve as Chair, Dick Swanson serve as Vice Chair, Mike Murphy serve as Treasurer, and Cindy Hansen 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 Dale Stoesz as the Chair, Dick Swanson as the Vice Chair, Mike Murphy as the Treasurer, and Cindy Hansen as the Secretary of the 2019 NMTV Cable Commission. **Motion made by M. Murphy. Second, D. Swanson. Motion approved.**

NEW BUSINESS

- Every year, as an administrative matter, the Commission has to decide whether or not to waive the statutory tort liability limits for insurance purposes. This decision determines the amount an individual would be able to recover on any claim to which the statutory tort limits apply. In the past, the Commission has opted to NOT WAIVE the monetary limits on municipal tort liability. The Executive Committee recommends that the Commission NOT Waive the monetary limits.

MOTION: To NOT WAIVE the monetary limits on municipal tort liability. **Motion made by C. Hansen. Second, M. Murphy. Motion passed.**

- The 2018 Commission financial audit is scheduled for March 14th.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn made by M. Murphy. Second, C. Hansen. Motion approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

**DISBURSEMENT OF 2018 FRANCHISE FEES
RECEIVED BY CITIES IN 2019**

TABLE I

	MEMBER CITIES FRANCHISE FEES		2019 COMMISSION BUDGET AVAIL		FRANCHISE FEES RETAINED BY CITIES
TOTAL:	1,260,461	-	860,461	=	400,000

TABLE II

CITY	2018 CABLE COMPANY REVENUE BY CITY *		TOTAL SYSTEM REVENUE *		CITY REVENUE AS % OF SYSTEM REVENUE
Blaine	\$13,950,329	÷	\$25,209,169	=	55.33831%
Centerville	\$868,717	÷	\$25,209,169	=	3.44604%
Circle Pines	\$1,125,426	÷	\$25,209,169	=	4.46435%
Ham Lake	\$3,395,273	÷	\$25,209,169	=	13.46841%
Lexington	\$408,834	÷	\$25,209,169	=	1.62177%
Lino Lakes	\$4,066,170	÷	\$25,209,169	=	16.12973%
Spring Lake Park	\$1,394,420	÷	\$25,209,169	=	5.53140%
TOTAL:	\$25,209,169	÷	\$25,209,169	=	100.00000%

TABLE III

CITY	FRANCHISE FEES RETAINED BY CITIES		CITY REVENUE AS % OF SYSTEM REVENUE		TOTAL FRANCHISE FEES RETAINED BY CITY
Blaine	\$400,000	x	55.33831%	=	\$221,353.24
Centerville	\$400,000	x	3.44604%	=	\$13,784.16
Circle Pines	\$400,000	x	4.46435%	=	\$17,857.40
Ham Lake	\$400,000	x	13.46841%	=	\$53,873.64
Lexington	\$400,000	x	1.62177%	=	\$6,487.08
Lino Lakes	\$400,000	x	16.12973%	=	\$64,518.92
Spring Lake Park	\$400,000	x	5.53140%	=	\$22,125.59
TOTAL:	\$400,000	x	100.00001%	=	\$400,000.03

* All amounts are rounded to nearest dollar.



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LIABILITY COVERAGE – WAIVER FORM

LMCIT members purchasing coverage must complete and return this form to LMCIT before the effective date of the coverage. Please return the completed form to your underwriter or email to pstech@lmc.org

This decision must be made by the member's governing body every year. You may also wish to discuss these issues with your attorney.

League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) members that obtain liability coverage from LMCIT must decide whether to waive the statutory tort liability limits to the extent of the coverage purchased. The decision has the following effects:

- *If the member does not waive the statutory tort limits*, an individual claimant would be able to recover no more than \$500,000 on any claim to which the statutory tort limits apply. The total all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would be limited to \$1,500,000. These statutory tort limits apply regardless of whether the city purchases the optional excess liability coverage.
- *If the member waives the statutory tort limits and does not purchase excess liability coverage*, a single claimant could potentially recover up to \$2,000,000 for a single occurrence. (Under this option, the tort cap liability limits are waived to the extent of the member's liability coverage limits, and the LMCIT per occurrence limit is \$2 million.) The total all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would also be limited to \$2,000,000, regardless of the number of claimants.
- *If the member waives the statutory tort limits and purchases excess liability coverage*, a single claimant could potentially recover an amount up to the limit of the coverage purchased. The total all claimants would be able to recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would also be limited to the amount of coverage purchased, regardless of the number of claimants.

Claims to which the statutory municipal tort limits do not apply are not affected by this decision.

LMCIT Member Name

Check one:

- ☐ The member **DOES NOT WAIVE** the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minnesota Statutes, Section 466.04.
- ☐ The member **WAIVES** the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minnesota Statutes, Section 466.04 to the extent of the limits of the liability coverage obtained from LMCIT.

Date of city council/governing body meeting _____

Signature _____ Position _____

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

Tuesday, March 5, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 10:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

P. Antonen,

OTHERS PRESENT

H. Arnson

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES

The meeting notes of February 5, 2019 were approved by consensus.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- The live streaming servers for each City channel have been installed in the NMTV master control. Once they were integrated into the system a problem was discovered. After much troubleshooting it was discovered that the firewall router was only licensed for 10 devices. A license upgrade has been purchased. When the upgraded license code is delivered the system must be rebooted to activate the codes, which will result in a short amount of downtime for channels and the phone system. Tightrope will then be able to complete the commissioning of the new equipment and update the servers for the Reflect Cloud distribution service. Then it will be left to the website designers to update pages to allow for the live streams. Once that is completed Michele Silvester, NMTV's programming coordinator will work with City staff to get a link to the stream on City websites. It is hoped that the servers will be functioning by mid-March at the latest.
- Once the streaming servers are up and functioning, the next big project will be to provide OTT (over the top) services for all NMTV channels. The Tightrope/Cablecast software, currently used for all programming at NMTV, has started to offer OTT services for their clients on Roku and AppleTV devices. Once the channels are activated, viewers will be able to watch local programming on any device.
- Mike Bradley, NMTC Legal Counsel, has completed a draft of the Closed Captioning Study requested by the Cable Commission. The report includes a review of closed captioning laws and how those laws may apply to programming produced by the Commission. While the Commission appears to be exempt from the Communications Act and FCC rules, we may not be exempt from ADA requirements or the requirements of the MN Human Rights Act. The report includes an analysis of closed captioning hardware and software that could caption live and prerecorded content, and put the Commission in compliance with the ADA's closed captioning requirements. A separate captioning package would be needed for live programming and for prerecorded programming. Total costs include a one-time initial cost ranging from \$4,000 to \$71,500 and an on-going annual fee of \$2,000 to \$55,909. Costs vary depending on the type of service purchased, from automated captioning to live human captioning. Staff plans to include the costs for closed captioning services in the recommended 2020 budget, once a final report is completed.

OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

- Security cameras are being installed on the exterior of the NMTV building and integrated into the current security system. Ten cameras will be installed and cover the entire exterior of the building. There have been problems with vehicle vandalism in the parking lot.
- J. Karlson requested that staff provide more background information regarding meeting line-items, before meetings, to aid in discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

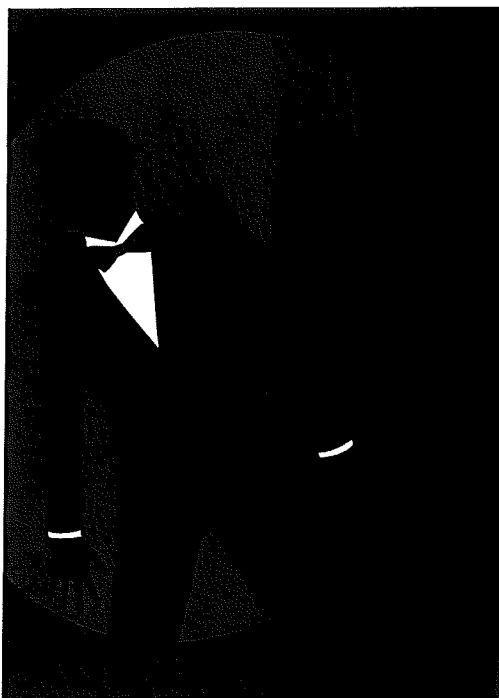
The meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

https://www.hometownsource.com/abc_newspapers/free/learn-about-the-history-of-bond-at-northtown-library/article_80770ed0-1817-11e9-81c5-7b4462689be0.html

FEATURED

Learn about the history of Bond at Northtown Library

Paige Kieffer Jan 15, 2019



Learn more about the infamous MI6 agent who has a license to kill at the presentation "James Bond Throughout History" 5-6 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 24, at the Northtown Library, 711 County Hwy. 10 Frontage Road, Blaine.

North Metro TV's Eric Houston will give the presentation and will examine the history of James Bond from his literary origins in the Ian Fleming novels through his media performances in various films and television and radio shows. Houston will also examine the cinematic structure of the films and the differences they share with the novels.

"I've always loved the big James Bond action films," Houston said. "The films have been very innovative in portraying action storytelling along with great stunt work and special effects."

The presentation will also include rare film clips and photographs that fans of 007 will enjoy.

Houston said called himself a bona fide film and television enthusiast, and he even majored in the subject at the University of Notre Dame.

"It's always something I've been very passionate about," he said.

Houston has done numerous local history productions on film and television and wanted to focus on the character of Bond.

"I decided to focus on James Bond because he's such a popular character," Houston said. "The franchise has been near and dear to my heart, so I wanted to share what I have learned about James Bond and the impact the character has had."

Houston will examine the actors who have played Bond in various productions, including Sean Connery, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton, Pierce Brosnan and Daniel Craig, and Houston will provide trivia on actors who narrowly missed out on playing the famous spy.

"The films have been so appealing because the character of James Bond is like a blank slate that the audience can project themselves on, and who doesn't want that life of glamour, adventure and excitement?" Houston said.

Houston will provide clips of actors who auditioned for the role of Bond but did not receive the part, such as Sam Neill from "Jurassic Park" and James Brolin from "Marcus Welby, M.D."

In Houston's opinion, though, Sean Connery gave the greatest portrayal of James Bond ever.

"If you love James Bond or movies in general you will learn a lot at this presentation, and you're going to have a lot of fun," Houston said.

Learn more about the event by calling the Northtown Library at 763-324-1510 or visiting its website at bit.ly/2Qqi9VS.

paige.kieffer@ecm-inc.com

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Paige Kieffer

Comcast Strategy: Emphasize Broadband over Video as Broadband Take Rate Reaches 47%

telecompetitor.com/comcast-strategy-emphasize-broadband-over-video-as-broadband-take-rate-reaches-47/

Add Comcast to the chorus of multi-play service providers that are choosing to emphasize broadband over video. "We're not going to chase video; we're very centered on broadband," said Dave Watson, president and CEO of Comcast Cable and senior executive vice president of Comcast Corp., in a question-and-answer session about Comcast strategy at an investor conference this morning.



The trend started when content costs mushroomed several years ago. Some of the first companies to move in this direction were smaller cable companies and telcos offering video services that lacked negotiating power with content providers. But as consumers began to cancel or reduce their pay-TV subscriptions in favor of video offerings such as Netflix and Amazon Prime delivered over a broadband connection, major service providers also began to de-emphasize video, reasoning that if customers shift toward an over-the-top video service, they need faster broadband, yielding a minimal overall margin impact. We saw it first with telco video providers, but as Watson's comments reveal, major cable companies also are getting in on the trend.

Broadband is Comcast's "largest growth driver," Watson said.

Comcast Strategy

With gigabit service available throughout nearly all of Comcast's footprint, the company's average broadband take rate is 47% and is as high as 60% in some markets, according to Watson.

"There's no reason to think that other markets won't follow over time," he said.

Watson noted that "the driver of broadband historically has been speed, but we see an opportunity to do an even better job" by emphasizing the Comcast X1 gateway and xFi Wi-Fi management system.

In addition, he said, the company is focusing on "deepening customer relationships" by layering on additional services such as home security and mobile. That emphasis is expected to reduce churn and improve customer lifetime value, he said.

Asked whether Comcast sees high-speed 5G wireless as a threat, Watson reiterated points made by another Comcast executive recently. For example, he pointed to broadband usage trends, suggesting that it would be difficult for customers to use

mobile broadband so heavily because of data caps.

The average Comcast broadband user has six to seven devices and uses 200 gigabytes per month. Power users have 20 devices or more and use 650 gigabytes per month.

"We believe our broadband will compete very nicely" against 5G, Watson said.

Watson made his comments at a Deutsche Bank investor conference, which was also webcast.

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For AT&T and DirecTV Now, the Jig Is Up; Will Other vMVPDs Soon Cave, Too?

Why all vMVPDs might soon be priced at \$50 or more a month

Daniel Frankel

Mar 12, 2019

“This is for the first time 100-plus premium channels—not the junk nobody wants—purely over the top, a mobile-centric platform, for \$35 a month.”

And soon, it might be the last time.

This was AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson describing the promise of DirecTV Now just 27 months ago, as the telecom launched what would become one of the video business’ fastest growing subscription OTT products.

AT&T, which was about to follow its acquisition of satellite TV company DirecTV by gobbling up Time Warner Inc.—and lobbying for the Trump Administration’s corporate tax cuts in the process—was telling consumers they really could have it all for less. Or maybe not “all of it,” but most of the pay TV ecosystem, anyway, for less than half the price of a traditional linear package.

Related: DirecTV Now Revises Packaging, Ups Prices to \$50 and \$70

Two years later, with DirecTV Now on the cusp of 2 million users, and about to claim supremacy in the virtual pay TV market, AT&T paused to look at its bottom line. How could it possibly be losing money by offering a bundle, that easily cost it \$50 a month per user in content licensing fees, by selling it for \$10 less on promotion to at least 500,000 customers?

For AT&T, the vMVPD thrill ride ended in the fourth quarter, when it cut those 500,000 customers off, and DirecTV Now lost 267,000 users, about 14% of its base. And now things are about to get really dark, with the operator making good on a promise made in December to trim back DirecTV Now’s bundle and up its price.

Related: AT&T’s New DirecTV Now Plan: ‘Thin Out’ Bundle, Reset Price Point to ‘\$50-\$60’

Since it launched, DirecTV Now has offered four tiers. At the bottom was the entry-level “Live a Little” bundle, which includes just over 65 channels. It got a price bump last year from \$35 a month to \$40. At the top was the \$75-a-month “Gotta Have It Package,” which had around 125 networks.

The four DirecTV Now tiers are about to become two, with the starting price now set at \$50 for a bundle now branded as “Plus” and including only around 40 channels.

On the top end, the “Gotta Have It” package will be replaced by the \$70-a-month, 50-channel “Max” bundle.

AT&T is bundling in HBO standard with both offerings, but it remains unclear as to which channels are getting the heave-ho.

One thing is clear: DirecTV Now users will pay more money for fewer channels.

For analysts tracking the low-margin vMVPD business, the pervasive ultra low-margin, go-to-market strategy has always been a bit of a head-scratcher.

“The problem here, of course, is that the programming itself doesn’t cost any less to produce just because it is delivered over the internet, nor is it any cheaper for the aggregator—in this case, a vMVPD—to buy it from the content creator,” MoffettNathanson analyst Craig Moffett said in a report last fall.

Speaking to MCN, David Gandler, CEO of start-up fuboTV, wondered if any of his rivals—some of which are subjected to quarterly earnings reports—might just give up and *shut down*.

At this point, few vMVPD operators seem willing to give up on the notion that once they reach a critical mass of, say, 5 million subscribers, they’ll be able to scale their advanced advertising ambitions and render their services profitable.

But as AT&T has proven, the marathon needed to get there is exhausting to the bottom line. While “death” doesn’t seem to be part of the discussion, you wonder if a similar “right-sizing” is in store for Sling TV, Hulu+ Plus Live TV, YouTube TV, Sony PlayStation Vue or fuboTV.

Google, for example, seems committed to YouTube TV, which just completed its national rollout. But the 60-channel, \$40-a-month entry level tier looks an awful lot like DirecTV Now’s soon-to-be-paved-over Live a Little bundle. One analyst pegged YouTube TV’s annual losses at \$60 million last year.

Sure, YouTube TV is backed by Google. But Google has scaled back unprofitable telecom-centric businesses before.

Forget \$35 ... or \$40. The new normal for vMVPDs is about to be at least \$50 a month.

“We’re talking \$50 to \$60,” Stephenson told investors in December, while telegraphing this month’s DirecTV Now pricing/packaging move. “We’ve learned this product, we think we know this market really, really well. We built a 2 million subscriber base. But

we were asking this DirecTV Now product to do too much work. So we're thinning out the content and getting the price point right; getting it to where it's profitable."

POTs and PANs

Pretty Advanced New Stuff from CCG Consulting

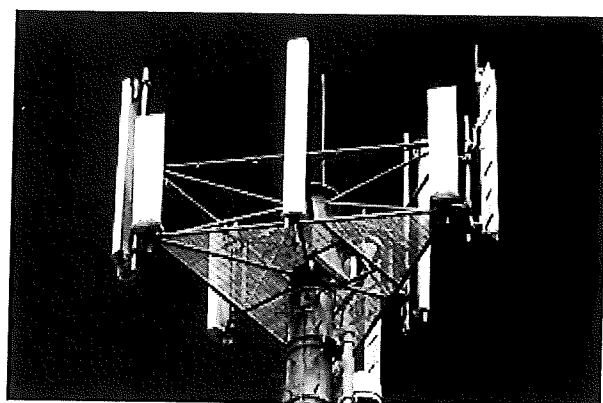
March 11, 2019

The Impending Cellular Data Crisis

[Leave a comment](#)

<https://potsandpansbyccg.com/2018/01/02/white-houses-identifies-5g-as-key-infrastructure/antennas-istock/#main>

There is one industry statistic that isn't getting a lot of press – the fact that cellular data usage is more than doubling every two years. You don't have to plot that growth rate very many years into the future to realize that existing cellular networks will be inadequate to handle the increased demand in just a few years. What's even worse for the cellular industry is that the growth is the nationwide average. I have many clients who tell me there isn't nearly that much growth at rural cellular towers – meaning there is likely even faster growth at some urban and suburban towers.



Much of this growth is a self-inflicted wound by the cellular industry. They've raised monthly data allowances and are often bundling in free video with cellular service, thus driving up usage. The public is responding to these changes by using the extra bandwidth made available to them.

There are a few obvious choke points that will be exposed with this kind of growth. Current cellphone technology limits the number of simultaneous connections that can be made from any given tower. As customers watch more video they eat up slots on the cell tower that otherwise could have been used to process numerous short calls and text messages. The other big chokepoint is going to be the broadband backhaul feeding each cell site. When usage grows this fast it's going to get increasingly expensive to buy leased backbone bandwidth – which explains why Verizon and AT&T are furiously building fiber to cell sites to avoid huge increases in backhaul costs.

5G will fix some, but not all of these issues. The growth is so explosive that cellular companies need to use every technique possible to make cell towers more efficient. Probably the best fix is to use more spectrum. Adding an additional spectrum to a cell site immediately adds capacity. However, this can't happen overnight. Any new spectrum is only useful if customers can use it and it takes a number of years to modify cell sites and cellphones to work on a new spectrum. The need to meet growing demand is the primary reason that the CTIA recently told the FCC they need an eye-popping 400 MHz of new mid-range spectrum for cellular use. The industry painted that as being needed for 5G, but it's needed now for 4G LTE.

Another fix for cell sites is to use existing frequency more efficiently. The most promising way to do this

is with the use of MIMO antenna arrays – a technology to deploy multiple antennas in cellphones to combine multiple spectrum together to create a larger data pipe. MIMO technology can make it easier to respond to a request from a large bandwidth user – but it doesn't relieve the overall pressure on a cell tower. If anything, it might do the exact opposite and let cell towers prioritize those that want to watch video over smaller users who might then be blocked from making voice calls or sending text messages. MIMO is also not an immediate fix and also needs to work through the cycle of getting the technology into cellphones.

The last strategy is what the industry calls densification, which is adding more cell sites. This is the driving force behind placing small cell sites on poles in areas with big cellular demand. However, densification might create as many problems as it solves. Most of the current frequencies used for cellular service travel a decent distance and placing cell sites too close together will create a lot of interference and noise between neighboring towers. While adding new cell sites adds additional local capacity, it also decreases the efficiency of all nearby cell sites using traditional spectrum – the overall improvement from densification is going to be a lot less than might be expected. The worse thing about this is that interference is hard to predict and is very much a local issue. This is the primary reason that the cellular companies are interested in millimeter wave spectrum for cellular – the spectrum travels a short distance and won't interfere as much between cell sites placed closely together.

5G will fix some of these issues. The ability of 5G to do frequency slicing means that a cell site can provide just enough bandwidth for every user – a tiny slice of spectrum for a text message or IoT signal and a big pipe for a video stream. 5G will vastly expand the number of simultaneous users that can share a single cell site.

However, 5G doesn't provide any additional advantages over 4G in terms of the total amount of backhaul bandwidth needed to feed a cell site. And that means that a 5G cell site will get equally overwhelmed if people demand more bandwidth than a cell site has to offer.

The cellular industry has a lot of problems to solve over a relatively short period of time. I expect that in the middle of the much-touted 5G roll-out we are going to start seeing some spectacular failures in the cellular networks at peak times. I feel sympathy for cellular engineers because it's nearly impossible to have a network ready to handle data usage that doubles every two years. Even should engineers figure out strategies to handle five or ten times more usage, in only a few years the usage will catch up to those fixes.

I've never believed that cellular broadband can be a substitute for landline broadband. Every time somebody at the FCC or a politician declares that the future is wireless I've always rolled my eyes, because anybody that understands networks and the physics of spectrum can easily demonstrate that there are major limitations on the total bandwidth capacity at a given cell site, along with a limit on how densely cell sites can be packed in an area. The cellular networks are only carrying 5% of the total broadband in the country and it's ludicrous to think that they could be expanded to carry most of it.

Posted by [CCGConsulting in Technology](#)

Tagged: [4G LTE](#), [5G](#), [AT&T](#), [cell site densification](#), [cellular data](#), [MIMO](#), [network choke points](#), [Verizon](#)

[Blog at WordPress.com.](#)

Remember When Ajit Pai Said Killing Net Neutrality Would Boost Network Investment? About That...

from the *head-fake* dept

You'll recall that one of the top reasons for killing popular net neutrality rules was that they had somehow supposedly crushed broadband industry network investment. Of course, a wide array of publicly-available data easily disproved this claim, but that didn't stop FCC boss Ajit Pai and ISPs from repeating it (and in some cases lying before Congress about it) anyway. We were told, more times than we could count, that with net neutrality dead, sector investment would explode since carriers would be "unchained" from "burdensome regulation."

You'll be shocked to learn this purported boon in investment isn't happening.

A few months ago, Verizon made it clear its CAPEX would be declining, and the company's deployment would see no impact despite billions in tax cuts and regulatory favors from the Trump FCC. Both AT&T and Verizon have similarly announced massive workforce reductions as well. Some investment growth is happening in wireless as carriers prepare for fifth-generation (5G) wireless service (which they would have deployed regardless of the attacks on net neutrality). But even that's a bit lower than Wall Street and sector analysis expected.

And according to the latest analysis from MoffettNathanson, both fixed-line telcos and cablecos are expected to see notable declines in CAPEX and investment:

"Telco-related wireline capex, meanwhile, is slated to fall from \$20.3 billion in 2018 to \$19.6 billion this year. That slight drop comes as AT&T completes the fiber buildout commitments originally promised when it acquired DirecTV by July, and as Verizon redirects capital to wireless, Moffett said. Capital spending among the four publicly traded cable operators covered by the MoffettNathanson -- Comcast, Charter, Altice USA and Cable One Inc. -- is expected to decline significantly this year -- some 5.8%.

My math may be shaky, but a 5.8% decline in cable industry CAPEX doesn't quite sound like the investment revolution Ajit Pai and his squad of industry allies promised.

To be clear, there's a lot of reasons that ISP CAPEX rises and falls. When Pai and friends were trying to claim that net neutrality killed network investment back in 2017, we noted extensively how they were cherry picking very narrow windows of CAPEX decline that had nothing to do with net neutrality. For example, one company's CAPEX had dipped under net neutrality because it had just finished a cable set top box upgrade project.

The same is true here. As MoffettNathanson notes, some of this dip is thanks to AT&T shifting its focus toward paying off debt for its megamergers. Another chunk of it is because streaming competition is reducing the desire for the clunky old cable box. And in the case of the biggest dip at Charter Communications (Spectrum), it was in large part thanks to the completion of an all-digital transition in the wake of its costly acquisition of Time Warner Cable.

None of that changes the fact that Ajit Pai and a chorus of telecom industry sycophants **repeatedly misled the public and Congress** about the net benefits of their historically-unpopular policies. Repeatedly. Now, we're left with the end result; a coalition of natural monopolies with even less competition or accountability than ever, eager to get to work not on investing back into the network, but extracting higher and higher consumer and competitor costs courtesy of limited competition. Limited competition Ajit Pai and friends can't even admit is real, much less have a plan to do anything about.

I know this is a crazy thought, but it's almost as if when you appoint industry sycophants to positions of oversight, their primary goal is to improve carrier revenues, leaving everything else (competition, consumer welfare, innovation) foundering in the rear view mirror.