NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION MEETING

June 17, 2020 6:00 p.m.

SPRING LAKE PARK CITY OFFICES

1301 81ST Avenue NE

MEETING WILL BE HELD VIA VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE. A LINK TO THE VIDEO/PHONE CONFERENCE WILL BE PROVIDED VIA EMAIL AND BE AVAILABLE ON THE NMTV WEBSITE.

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order/Roll Call
- 2. Public Comments
- 3. Approval of the Agenda
- 4. Consent Agenda pp. 1-15
 - a. Minutes of regular meeting of May 20, 2020
 - b. May financial reports and bill list
 - c. Minutes of Operations Committee meeting of June 2, 2020
 - d. Minutes of Executive Committee meeting of June 3, 2020
- 5. Executive Director Report
 - a. Monthly Report pp. 16-23
 - b. Recommended 2021 NMTC Budget pp. 24-36
- 6. Legal Counsel Report
 - a. Monthly Report
- 7. Old Business
- 8. New Business
 - a. Summer Meeting Schedule
- 9. Recommended Reading pp. 37-44
- 10. Community Calendar
 - A. Next Meeting Dates:
 - a. Operations Committee June 30, 2020
 - b. Executive Committee July 1, 2020
 - c. Cable Commission July 15, 2020
- 11. Adjournment

NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Commission Meeting - May 20, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Chair D. Stoesz called the regular meeting of the North Metro Telecommunications Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held electronically via Zoom.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present:

Dick Swanson; Blaine, Matt Montain; Centerville, Brandon Winge; Lexington, Steve McChesney; Circle

Pines; Dale Stoesz; Lino Lakes

Directors Absent:

Bob Nelson; Spring Lake Park, Brian Kirkham; Ham Lake

Others Present:

Heidi Arnson; Executive Director, Mike Bradley; Legal Counsel, Rose Valez; Admin. Asst., Greg Emmerich; CPA

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The May 20, 2020 North Metro Telecommunications Committee meeting agenda was approved as presented. Motion for approval made by M. Montain. Second, D. Swanson. Ayes: D. Swanson, M. Montain, S. McChesney, B. Winge, D. Stoesz. Nayes: None. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes, Bill List, Financial Reports

The April 15th, 2020 NMTC meeting minutes, the May 6, 2020 Executive Committee meeting minutes, the May 5, 2020 Operations Committee meeting minutes, and the April bill list and financial reports were approved as presented. Motion for approval made by S McChesney. Second, D. Swanson. Ayes: D. Swanson, M. Montain, S. McChesney, B. Winge, D. Stoesz. Nayes: None. Motion passed unanimously.

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REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- H. Arnson reported on the following items:
 - H. Arnson introduced CPA G. Emmerich, of Harrington, Langer and Associates, for the audit presentation. He reviewed the 2019 North Metro Telecommunications Commission annual financial report. No abnormalities were found and the Commission is in a good financial position.

MOTION: To approve the 2019 North Metro Telecommunications Commission annual financial report as presented. Motion for approval made by B. Winge. Second, M. Montain. Ayes: D. Swanson, M. Montain, S. McChesney, B. Winge, D. Stoesz. Nayes: None. Motion passed unanimously.

- Sports Department members, Kenton Kipp and Jeremy Millington, are working with school districts to produce virtual graduation ceremonies and other year end celebrations, including scholarship and award ceremonies and a National Honor Society Honors Night.
- Municipal Producer, Trevor, Scholl, covered a Beyond the Yellow Ribbon event for Spring Lake Park and is working with the Centerville EDA to highlight local businesses.
- Special Events Coordinator, T.J. Tronson, continues to work with the Blaine Police Department to produce public service announcements and to help with a virtual award presentation to Madison Elementary School.
- A plan has been put in place to reopen north Metro TV to the public on June 1st. Procedures have been put in place to limit the number of people utilizing the facility, insure distancing and other safety measures, and allow for sanitizing between uses.
- The first quarter franchise and PEG fee reports have been received. The numbers were both down from the fourth quarter of last year but less than was expected. Future numbers will likely be influenced by the COVID-19 shut-down.

REPORT OF LEGAL COUNSEL

- M. Bradley reported on the following items:
 - M. Bradley has filed a brief in the appeal of the FCC's Third Order and Report, at the 6th District Court of Appeals. Brief filings will continue through the fall. Oral arguments will probably take place the 4th quarter of 2020.

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- Recent changes to the Minnesota Open Meeting Law will allow continued remote participation in meetings, if the member has a COVID-19 related health concern.
- Resolution of the Comcast franchise and PEG fee review is still out there. M.
 Bradley is waiting for a response from Comcast. He will follow-up.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Upcoming meetings include:

- 1. The Operations Committee on June 2, 2020
- 2. The Executive Committee on June 3, 2020
- 3. The Cable Commission on June 17, 2020

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 p.m. Motion for approval made by M. Montain. Second, S. McChesney. Ayes: D. Swanson, M. Montain, S. McChesney, B. Winge, D. Stoesz. Nayes: None. Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the NMTC will be held on **Wednesday**, **June 17**, **2020** at **6:00 p.m.** at the city offices of Spring Lake Park.

Matt	Montain;	Secretary,	NMTC

NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATION BILL LIST

MAY 2020

Date	Check #	Payee	Amount	- -
MAY	COMBINED	PAYROLL	37,638.08	WAGES
MAY	COMBINED	IRS/US PAYABLE	12,708.14	WAGES
MAY	COMBINED	MN REVENUE PAYABLE	2,226.79	WAGES
MAY	COMBINED	PERA PAYABLE	7,296.93	WAGES
MAY	COMBINED	PEACHTREE	44.20	MONTHLY SERVICE
MAY	COMBINED	DISCOVERY BENEFITS	1,062.50	HEALTH SAVINGS EMPLOYEE
13687	5/5/20	City of Blaine	124,755.92	2016A GO BONDS
13688	5/5/20	City of Circle Pines	11,095.08	2016A GO BONDS
13689	5/5/20	City of Centerville	7,736.44	2016A GO BONDS
13690	5/5/20	City of Ham Lake	32,335.55	2016A GO BONDS
13691	5/5/20	City of Lexington	4,146.18	2016A GO BONDS
13692	5/5/20	City of Lino Lakes	38,218.95	2016A GO BONDS
13693	5/5/20	City of Spring Lake Park	13,341.89	2016A GO BONDS
13694	5/5/20	B Harris, Inc.	225.00	MONTHLY SERVICE
13695	5/5/20	League of MN Cities	9,058.00	ANNUAL PROPERTY/CASUALTY
13696	5/5/20	Richard D. Larson	316.00	JANITORIAL/MAINTENANCE
13697	5/5/20	Z Systems	17,423.78	STUDIO/SPORTS
13698	5/5/20	Z Systems	3,098.49	STUDIO/ENCODERS
13699	5/13/20	Winfield's Windows & Things, Inc	350.00	SEMI-ANNUAL CLEANING
13700	5/13/20	FirstCom Music	1,922.00	ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
13701	5/19/20	Rusty S. Ray	62.96	EXPENSES
13702	5/19/20	INTERSTATE COMPANIES, INC	2,101.59	ANNUAL GENERATOR MAINTENANCE
13703	5/20/20	Corporate Mechanical	1,207,00	A/C UNIT MAINTENANCE
13704	5/20/20	League of MN Cities	•	ANNUAL PROPERTY/CASUALTY-BALANCE
13705	5/20/20	Coastal Wintergreen LLC		MONTHLY SERVICE
13706	5/25/20	BIOCLEAN Mobile Wash, Inc.	100.00	TRUCK MAINTENANCE
13707	5/29/20	Michael S. Johnson	233.10	EXPENSES
13708	5/30/20	Kaitlynn Johnson	500.00	STIPEND
EFILE	5/1/20	Authorize.Net	35.19	MONTHLY SERVICE
EFILE	5/6/20	Chase Visa Card Services	729.74	OS/SFTWR/EQUIP
EFILE	5/6/20	Chase Visa Card Services		ANNUAL CONTRACT/SOFTWARE
EFILE	5/1/20	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	•	MONTHLY SERVICE
EFILE	5/19/20	Sage Checks and Forms	123.00	CHECKS
EPAY-01	5/1/20	Principal Financial Group	487.85	STD/LTD/LIFE/ADD
EPAY-02	5/2/20	POPP TELECOM	211.11	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-03	5/3/20	Comcast	289.67	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-04	5/3/20	T-Mobile	102.16	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-05	5/4/20	Speedway		MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-06	5/7/20	Holiday Station Stores	178.00	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-07	5/12/20	AT&T Wireless		MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-08	5/14/20	Republic Services	180.12	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-09	5/15/20	CenterPoint Energy	178.16	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-10	5/15/20	Comcast Business 200M/200M	1,074.66	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-11	5/15/20	U.S. Bank Card Service	41.05	ZOOM/STAMPS
EPAY-12	5/22/20	HealthPartners	11,467.33	HEALTH/DENTAL
EPAY-13	5/26/20	City of Blaine-utilities	•	MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-14	5/26/20	Connexus Energy		MONTHLY SERVICE
EPAY-15	5/26/20	BizzyWeb, LLC		ANNUAL WEBSITE HOSTING
APR SALES TAX	5/15/20	MN Dept. of Revenue		SALES TAX

350,493.15

Balance Sheet May 31, 2020

ASSETS

Current Assets Cash - Checking Account Petty Cash A/R - NMTC Prepaid Insurance - NMTC	\$	2,300,041.24 150.00 194,954.36 11,182.00) }	
Total Current Assets			_	2,506,327.60
Property and Equipment Office Equipment - NMTC Accum Deprec - NMTC Bond Equipment 2016 Building-Polk/125 Land-Polk/125	_	1,433,026.18 (2,678,412.72 1,985,000.00 1,572,799.17 225,700.00)	
Total Property and Equipment				2,538,112.63
Other Assets Deferred Out Related/Pension	_	40,333.00	_	
Total Other Assets				40,333.00
Total Assets			\$	5,084,773.23
		LIABILITI	ES	AND CAPITAL
Current Liabilities A/P - NMTC Accrued Payroll Taxes & W/H's PERA - CORRECTIONS Garnished Wages Garnished Wages PERA PAYABLE - PRIOR Accrued Vacation Accrued Wages Franchise Fee App Due to City of Blaine Due to City of Centerville Due to City of Circle Pines Due to City of Ham Lake Due to City of Lexington Due to City of Spring Lake Par Deferred In Related/Pension	\$	7,243.70 449.54 310.09 86.40 (86.40) (3,371.42) 101,697.21 2,299.11 942,358.52 554,758.00 34,402.00 49,336.50 143,788.00 18,347.00 169,950.00 59,328.00 110,477.00		
Total Current Liabilities				2,191,373.25
Long-Term Liabilities Net Pension Liability		536,291.00		
Total Long-Term Liabilities				536,291.00
Total Liabilities				2,727,664.25
Capital Net Equity Net Equity - Media Ctr Net Equity - NMTC Net Income	•	359,252.88 (206,243.34) 2,517,656.37 (313,556.93)		
Total Capital				2,357,108.98
Total Liabilities & Capital			\$	5,084,773.23

Cash Receipts Journal For the Period From May 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020

Credit Amnt	Debit Amnt	Line Description	Transaction Ref	Date
7,000.00		SETTLEMENT ACT	SETTLEMENT	5/21/20
•	7,000.00	CenturyLink-Franchise		
40.00		MAY CC SALES-AUTH	MAY CC SALES-AUTH	5/28/20
	1.16	MAY CC SALES-AUTH FEES		
	38.84	Credit Card Sales		
20.00		MAY CC SALES-AUTH	MAY CC SALES-AUTH	5/29/20
	0.58	MAY CC SALES-AUTH FEES		
	19.42	Credit Card Sales		
459.50		INTEREST	INTEREST	5/30/20
	459.50	INTEREST - COMMISSION		., ,
7,519.50	7,519.50			

Check Register
For the Period From May 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020
Filter Criteria includes: 1) Accounts Payable only. Report order is by Date.

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
EFILE	5/1/20	Discovery Benefits	22.50
EFILE	5/1/20	Authorize.Net	35.19
EFILE	5/1/20	Virtual Merchant Credit Card	10.00
EPAY-01	5/1/20	Principal Financial Group	487.85
EPAY-02	5/2/20	POPP TELECOM	211.11
EPAY-04	5/3/20	T-Mobile	102.16
EPAY-03	5/3/20	Comcast	289.67
EPAY-05	5/4/20	Speedway	24.08
13687	5/5/20	City of Blaine	124,755.92
13688	5/5/20	City of Circle Pines	11,095.08
13689	5/5/20	City of Centerville	7,736.44
13690	5/5/20	City of Ham Lake	32,335.55
13691	5/5/20	City of Lexington	4,146.18
13692	5/5/20	City of Lino Lakes	38,218.95
13693	5/5/20	City of Spring Lake Park	13,341.89
13695	5/5/20	League of MN Cities	9,058.00
13696	5/5/20	Richard D. Larson	316.00
13697	5/5/20	Z Systems	17,423.78
13698	5/5/20	Z Systems	3,098.49
13694	5/5/20	B Harris, Inc.	225.00
EFILE	5/6/20	Discovery Benefits	520.00
EFILE	5/6/20	Chase Visa Card Services	729.74
EFILE	5/6/20	Chase Visa Card Services	2,147.49
EPAY-06	5/7/20	Holiday Station Stores	178.00
PEACH	5/8/20	Peachtree/Sage Software	22.10
EFILE	5/8/20	MN Dept. of Revenue	1,114.74
EFILE	5/8/20	Public Employees Retirement	3,635.69
EFILE	5/8/20	IRS/US BANK	6,324.52
EPAY-07	5/12/20	AT&T Wireless	427.47

Check Register
For the Period From May 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020
Filter Criteria includes: 1) Accounts Payable only. Report order is by Date.

Check #	Date	Payee	Amount
13699	5/13/20	Winfield's Windows & Things, Inc	350.00
13700	5/13/20	FirstCom Music	1,922.00
EPAY-08	5/14/20	Republic Services	180.12
EPAY-09	5/15/20	CenterPoint Energy	178.16
APR SALES TAX	5/15/20	MN Dept. of Revenue	40.00
EPAY-11	5/15/20	U.S. Bank Card Service	41.05
EPAY-10	5/15/20	Comcast Business 200M/200M	1,074.66
13701	5/19/20	Rusty S. Ray	62.96
13702	5/19/20	INTERSTATE COMPANIES, INC	2,101.59
EFILE	5/19/20	Sage Checks and Forms	123.00
EFILE	5/20/20	Discovery Benefits	520.00
13703	5/20/20	Corporate Mechanical	1,207.00
13704	5/20/20	League of MN Cities	445.00
13705	5/20/20	Coastal Wintergreen LLC	775.00
PEACH	5/22/20	Peachtree/Sage Software	22.10
EFILE	5/22/20	MN Dept. of Revenue	1,109.60
EFILE	5/22/20	Public Employees Retirement	3,635.69
EFILE	5/22/20	IRS/US BANK	6,300.20
EPAY-12	5/22/20	HealthPartners	11,467.33
13706	5/25/20	BIOCLEAN Mobile Wash, Inc.	100.00
EPAY-13	5/26/20	City of Blaine-utilities	68.23
EPAY-14	5/26/20	Connexus Energy	1,453.27
EPAY-15	5/26/20	BizzyWeb, LLC	800.00
13707	5/29/20	Michael S. Johnson	233.10
13708	5/30/20	Kaitlynn Johnson	500.00
EFILE	5/31/20	Public Employees Retirement	25.55
EFILE	5/31/20	MN Dept. of Revenue	2.45
EFILE	5/31/20	IRS/US BANK	83.42
Total			312,855.07

General Journal For the Period From May 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020

Date	Reference	Trans Description	Debit Amt	Credit Amt
5/1/20	ACCRUED VAC/COM/SICK	ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK	95,473.58	95,473.58
5/1/20	ACCRUED WAGES	ACCRUED WAGES ACCRUED WAGES	23,293.08	23,293.08
5/29/20	ACCRUED DEPRECIATION	ACCRUED DEPRECIATION ACCRUED DEPRECIATION	12,900.00	12,900.00
5/29/20	ACCRUED VAC/COM/SICK	ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK ACCRUED VAC/COMP/SICK	101,697.21	101,697.21
	Total		233,363.87	233,363.87

Cash Disbursements Journal For the Period From May 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020

Date	Check #	Account Description	Debit Amo	Credit Amou
5/1/20	EFILE	Electronic Filing Charges Cash - Checking Account	10.00	10.00
5/1/20	EFILE	Electronic Filing Charges Cash - Checking Account	22.50	22.50
5/1/20	EFILE	Electronic Filing Charges Cash - Checking Account	35.19	35.19
5/1/20	EPAY-01	Health/Dental/Other Cash - Checking Account	487.85	487.85
5/2/20	EPAY-02	Telephone/Internet/Web Service Cash - Checking Account	211.11	211.11
5/3/20	EPAY-03	Telephone/Internet/Web Service Cash - Checking Account	289.67	289.67
5/3/20	EPAY-04	Telephone/Internet/Web Service Cash - Checking Account	102.16	102.16
5/4/20	EPAY-05	Gas & Oil Cash - Checking Account	24.08	24.08
5/5/20	13687	Bond Payment Cash - Checking Account	124,755.92	124,755.92
5/5/20	13688	Bond Payment Cash - Checking Account	11,095.08	11,095.08
5/5/20	13689	Bond Payment Cash - Checking Account	7,736.44	7,736.44
5/5/20	13690	Bond Payment Cash - Checking Account	32,335.55	32,335.55
5/5/20	13691	Bond Payment Cash - Checking Account	4,146.18	4,146.18
5/5/20	13692	Bond Payment Cash - Checking Account	38,218.95	38,218.95
5/5/20	13693	Bond Payment Cash - Checking Account	13,341.89	13,341.89
5/5/20	13694	Telephone/Internet/Web Service Cash - Checking Account	225.00	225.00
5/5/20	13695	Insurance Expenses Cash - Checking Account	9,058.00	9,058.00
5/5/20	13696	Trash/Janitor/Water Cash - Checking Account	316.00	316.00
5/5/20	13697	Studio Equip Purchases Cash - Checking Account	17,423.78	17,423.78
5/5/20	13698	Studio Equip Purchases Cash - Checking Account	3,098.49	3,098.49

Cash Disbursements Journal For the Period From May 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020

Date	Check #	Account Description	Debit Amo	Credit Amou
5/6/20	EFILE	Computer Software/Upgrades Office Equipment Office Expenses Cash - Checking Account	316.70 229.95 183.09	729.74
5/6/20	EFILE	Telephone/Internet/Web Service Cash - Checking Account	2,147.49	2,147.49
5/6/20	EFILE	Health/Dental/Other Cash - Checking Account	520.00	520.00
5/7/20	EPAY-06	Gas & Oil Cash - Checking Account	178.00	178.00
5/8/20	EFILE	Fed/Fica/Medicare Cash - Checking Account	6,324.52	6,324.52
5/8/20	EFILE	PERA PAYABLE Cash - Checking Account	3,635.69	3,635.69
5/8/20	EFILE	State Withholding Cash - Checking Account	1,114.74	1,114.74
5/8/20	PEACH	Electronic Filing Charges Cash - Checking Account	22.10	22.10
5/12/20	EPAY-07	Telephone/Internet/Web Service Cash - Checking Account	427.47	427.47
5/13/20	13699	Building Maintenance Cash - Checking Account	350.00	350.00
5/13/20	13700	Computer Software/Upgrades Cash - Checking Account	1,922.00	1,922.00
5/14/20	EPAY-08	Trash/Janitor/Water Cash - Checking Account	180.12	180.12
5/15/20	APR SALES T	Video Media/Labels/Shipping Cash - Checking Account	40.00	40.00
5/15/20	EPAY-09	Building Utilities Cash - Checking Account	178.16	178.16
5/15/20	EPAY-10	Telephone/Internet/Web Service Cash - Checking Account	1,074.66	1,074.66
5/15/20	EPAY-11	Postage/Subscriptions/Notices Telephone/Internet/Web Service Cash - Checking Account	24.99 16.06	41.05
5/19/20	13701	Administrative Mileage Cash - Checking Account	62.96	62.96
5/19/20	13702	Maintenance/Fleet Vehicle Building Maintenance Cash - Checking Account	1,529.59 572.00	2,101.59

Cash Disbursements Journal For the Period From May 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020

Date	Check #	Account Description	Debit Amo	Credit Amou
5/19/20	EFILE	Office Expenses Cash - Checking Account	123.00	123.00
5/20/20	13703	Building Maintenance Cash - Checking Account	1,207.00	1,207.00
5/20/20	13704	Insurance Expenses Cash - Checking Account	445.00	445.00
5/20/20	13705	Building Maintenance Cash - Checking Account	775.00	775.00
5/20/20	EFILE	Health/Dental/Other Cash - Checking Account	520.00	520.00
5/22/20	EFILE	Fed/Fica/Medicare Cash - Checking Account	6,300.20	6,300.20
5/22/20	EFILE	PERA PAYABLE Cash - Checking Account	3,635.69	3,635.69
5/22/20	EFILE	State Withholding Cash - Checking Account	1,109.60	1,109.60
5/22/20	EPAY-12	Health/Dental/Other Cash - Checking Account	11,467.33	11,467.33
5/22/20	PEACH	Electronic Filing Charges Cash - Checking Account	22.10	22.10
5/25/20	13706	Maintenance/Truck Cash - Checking Account	100.00	100.00
5/26/20	EPAY-13	Building Utilities Cash - Checking Account	68.23	68.23
5/26/20	EPAY-14	Building Utilities Cash - Checking Account	1,453.27	1,453.27
5/26/20	EPAY-15	Consulting Fees Cash - Checking Account	800.00	800.00
5/29/20	13707	Administrative Mileage Cash - Checking Account	233.10	233.10
5/30/20	13708	Intern Stipend Cash - Checking Account	500.00	500.00
5/31/20	EFILE	Fed/Fica/Medicare Cash - Checking Account	83.42	83.42
5/31/20	EFILE	PERA PAYABLE Cash - Checking Account	25.55	25.55
5/31/20	EFILE	State Withholding Cash - Checking Account	2.45	2.45
	Total		312,855.07	312,855.07

NORTH METRO TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION UNAPPROVED OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING NOTES

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting began at 10:35 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

D. Buchholtz, B. Petracek, D. Webster, M. Wolfe, P. Antonen, M. Statz, J. Karlson

MEMBERS ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

H. Arnson

APPROVAL OF MEETING NOTES

The meeting notes of May 5, 2020 were approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- H. Arnson presented the recommended 2021 Commission budget. Estimates for franchise fee and PEG fee income were done conservatively, with a total reduction of over \$153,000 in income expectations. The budget was reduced by over \$74,000, primarily in capital expenses. No COLA increase or increase in contribution to the staff benefits package was budgeted. It was recommended that the budget be revisited at the November meetings when a clearer understanding of franchise fee income for 2021 is available. The group noted that COLA increases are usually budgeted based on the average of what cities are giving their employees. There was discussion regarding staff morale and making sure that salaries remain at market level. The Committee noted that the NMTV staff was appreciated and the goal would be to find a way to provide COLA increases for 2021. The Committee recommended that the Cable Commission approve the budget as presented with the goal of making adjustments in November if possible.
- North Metro TV has reopened to the public, with safety measures in place. Face masks and gloves are required, occupancy limitations are in place, the public is restricted to certain areas of the building and all usage is by appointment only. Public areas are cleaned between uses.

OLD BUSINESS

• Updates were given regarding ongoing/completed issues. All seven cities have approved the Joint Powers Agreement updates. CenturyLink has signed the Settlement Agreement and Release and have paid the \$7,000.00 settlement amount. Lastly, Commission attorney, Mike Bradley, has filed a brief in the appeal of the FCC's Third Report and Order. The FCC's brief filing deadline is July 31st.

NEW BUSINESS

• The summer meeting schedule was considered. The July and August meetings are canceled unless circumstances warrant scheduling a meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting of May 6, 2020

Executive Cmte. Present: Dick Swanson; Blaine, Dale Stoesz; Lino Lakes, Bob Nelson;

Spring Lake Park

Absent: Matt Montain; Centerville,

Others Present: Heidi Arnson; Executive Director

CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the May 6, 2020 Executive Committee meeting minutes was made by D. Stoesz. Second, D. Swanson. Ayes: D. Stoesz, D. Swanson, B. Nelson. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

• The recommended 2021 Commission budget was presented. Uncertainties regarding income projections were discussed. Income projections were done conservatively and over \$74,000 was cut from the 2020 budget, primarily in capital expenditures. No COLA increase or additional contribution to the benefits package was budgeted. Staff stated that the Operations Committee recommended revisiting the budget at the November meetings, after having a better sense of what franchise fees would look like. At that time a COLA increase could be added to the budget if income warranted it. The Executive Committee expressed concern that cities wouldn't have time to approve changes to the budget. They recommended including an up to 3% COLA increase initially, with the possibility of decreasing it.

MOTION: To recommend approval of the 2021 NMTC budget, as presented, with recommended COLA changes. Motion made by D. Stoesz. Second, D. Swanson. Ayes: D. Stoesz, D. Swanson, B. Nelson. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

 North Metro TV has reopened to the public, with safety restrictions. Face masks and gloves are required, occupancy limits have been put in place, the public is restricted to certain parts of the building and all usage is by appointment only. Public areas are cleaned between uses.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

Executive Committee Meeting June 3, 2020 Page 2

NEW BUSINESS

• The summer meeting schedule was considered. If the budget is approved at the June meeting, the July and August Commission and Executive Committee meetings can be canceled. If circumstances warrant, a meeting could be rescheduled.

MOTION: To recommend canceling the July and August Executive Committee and full Commission meetings. Motion made by D. Stoesz. Second, D. Swanson. Ayes: D. Stoesz, D. Swanson, B. Nelson. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously.

<u>ADJOURN</u>

Motion to adjourn made by D. Swanson. Second, B. Nelsom. Ayes: D. Stoesz, D. Swanson, B. Nelson. Nays: None. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

North Metro TV

May 2020 Update

Program Production

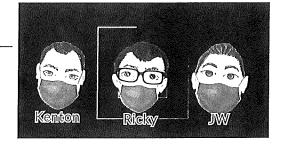
In May, a total of 65 **new programs** were produced utilizing the North Metro facilities, funds, and services. This constitutes **48:15:00 hours of new programming**.

- 9 programs were produced by the public
- 32 programs were produced by NMTV staff
- 24 programs were produced by City staff



Van Shoots

Due to the cancellation of all public events, the HD truck was not used during the month of May. The interior and exterior of the truck were cleaned and the generator was serviced.



Workshops

Workshop	Instructor	Organization	Students
Lecture Series – LIVE-The	Eric Houston	General Public via	51 Live,
Three Stooges: Comedy's Heavy Hitters		Youtube Live	31 VOD
Lecture Series – VOD	Eric Houston	General Public via	8 VOD
Hollywood Goes to the Dogs		Youtube	
Lecture Series – VOD	Eric Houston	General Public via	11 VOD
Mary Pickford: The World's		Youtube	
First Movie Star		٠	
Lecture Series – VOD The	Eric Houston	General Public via	74 VOD
Marx Brothers: Groucho,		Youtube	
Chico, Harpo, and			
Sometimes Zeppo			
1 Live Workshop			51 Live Students,
			93 Students w/VOD

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	192.75	69	4	13	415	\$639.00
February	286	69	86	18	1,020	\$3,595.00
March	343.25	58	107	0	3,587	\$627.00
April	0	0	0	0	341	\$0.00
May	0	0	0	0	495	\$0.00
TOTAL:	822.00	196	197	31	5,858	\$4,861.00

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	131	504.75
February	155	636.5
March	59	466.75
April	0	0
May	0	0
TOTAL PUBLIC USAGE:		1,608.00

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 May highlights include:

- Blaine Park Leaders Encourage Virtual Tours From Home
- Self-Employed Say They're Slow to Receive Unemployment Benefits
- State Fishing Opener Figures to be Busier Than Ever
- Organizers of Cruises for Causes Hope to Continue As Long As Social Distance is Necessary
- · Blaine Business Owner Honored at White House Ceremony
- · Distance Learning With Community Ed Helps Keep Everyone Connected
- Elections Could be Impacted by COVID19
- · COVID19 Affecting Pork Processing: Farmers Feeling Pinch
- · Ham Lake City Council Passes Resolutions In Response to COVID19 Shutdown\
- Lexington Family Provides For Community With Front Yard Food Pantry
- Memorial Day Observances Vastly Different in COVID19 Pandemic
- · SBM Firefighters Innovate Ways to Clean During COVID19 Pandemic
- Anoka County Slowly Reopens Person to Person Business for Residents



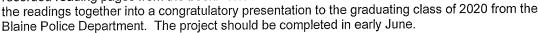
- School Leaders Discuss Plans for Graduations During COVID19 Pandemic and Shutdown
- USA Cup Cancelled
- · Blaine City Council Gives Business Some Breaks
- USA Cup Business Critical Loss In North Metro
- Anoka County Commission Passes Resolution in Defiance of Governor Walz
- Anoka County Fair Cancelled

In addition to daily playbacks of North Metro TV News on the cable systems, there are 672 local stories archived for viewers on the NMTV YouTube channel. The channel can be accessed through the northmetroty.com website.

Blaine PD Projects

T.J. worked with Blaine Police Department Community Outreach Specialist, Kim Kiley, to produce a series of PSAs. Topics include Bike Theft, Theft from Auto, Close Garage Doors, Neighborhood Watch, and Tex/Email Scams.

T.J. and Kim also collaborated on another project for the department. It is a presentation of "Oh The Places You'll Go" by Dr. Suess. Several officers were recorded reading pages from the book. T.J. will edit





Lecture Series

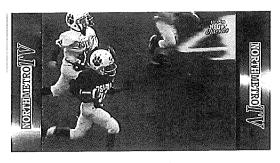
Instructor, Eric Houston continues to provide his lecture series remotely. In May, he presented one class, The Three Stooges: Comedy's Heavy-Hitters. One of the lecture participants, Tom Kiscaden of Blaine, said, "Love your presentations! I have attended a couple of your classes in studio, and am now enjoying your on-line stuff. Your narration and knowledge of movies and theater is always fabulous. You are a true credit to the NMTV operation. Think you so much for the hard work you put in to putting



these together, and hope that they will continue." Eric is indeed continuing. He is working on two new lectures. The first is The Quiz Show Scandals and Other Game Shows of the 50s and 60s, and Come On Down! Game shows of the 70s and 80s. After a lecture is presented live, it remains available to watch on demand. In May, previously taught classes were viewed 93 times.

Classic Games

Because everyone misses sports so much, Kenton and Jeremy continue to re-master and produce some of our classic high school sporting events. This month, in honor of the graduating class of 2020, they focused on youth football games from 2009 to 2015 that feature current graduates. For example, in 2009 the current seniors would have played in the 2nd/3rd grade championship game. In May, they got to relive the glory.



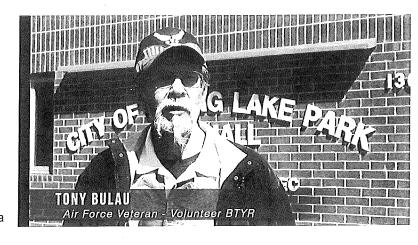
Preparing to ReOpen NMTV

In May, staff worked to create a plan for reopening NMTV to the public. Rules were established for designating parts of the building open to the public, number of people allowed in the facility at a time, distancing rules, limited hours of operation to allow for thorough sanitizing between uses, curbside drop-off and pick-up of equipment and tape transfers, and requiring masks and gloves while in the facility. Masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer will be available at the door for those who arrive without them.

City Productions

In May, Municipal Producer, Trevor Scholl, completed five productions, including several business profiles in a series for Centerville, coverage of a Beyond the Yellow Ribbon benefit, and the last of the spring Mayor's Minutes. Programs completed include:

- Lexington Mayor's Minutes: Spring 2020
- Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Benefit
- · Business Profile: Wiseguys Pizza
- Business Profile: Christa's Paw
 Sno
- · Business Profile: Corner Express



New and ongoing projects include:

- Continuing Centerville business profiles
- · Car seat videos with the SBM
- · Blaine COVID19 updates
- Small business impacts from the Corona Virus
- · Grandma's House non-profit profile
- · Summer Mayor's Minutes

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 assistance required.
- · Centerville
- No assistance required.

Circle Pines

· No assistance required.

Ham Lake

No assistance required.

Lexington

No assistance required.

Lino Lakes

- 5.27.20: Went to City Hall to check on a power issue. The Tripp Lite UPS battery back-up
 unit had bulging and leaking batteries. Removed. Called Tripp Lite for new batteries.
 Installed temporary power strip.
- 5.27.20: Received call that zoom broadcast not working. Checked all settings and did test. Found no problem. Could be glitch in zoom program or possibly an invisible space at end of code entry.

Spring Lake Park

No assistance required.

All Cities

· No assistance required.

City Channel 16 Playback Stats

City	Number of Times Long-Form Programs Played	Hours Programmed on Channel
Blaine	187	265:07:29
Centerville	67	154:09:54
Circle Pines	150	154:43:42
Ham Lake	81	74:29:48
Lexington	103	89:34:18
Lino Lakes	77	145:35:29

Spring Lake Park	157	147:48:41
Totals:	822 Program Playbacks	1,031:39:11 Hours of Video
	•	Programming on Channels

Programs Produced by the Public

Title	Producer	Runtime
Rice Creek Watershed District Meeting (2 episodes)	Theresa Stasica	04:07:19
Christ Lutheran Church (3 episodes)	Chance Amundson	02:38:25
Oak Park Community Church (4 episodes)	David Turnidge	02:36:32
9 New Programs		09:22:16 New Hours

Programs Produced by NMTV Staff

Title	Producer	Runtime
Anoka County Board Meeting (5/12/20)	T.J. Tronson	00:37:09
Anoka County Board Meeting (5/26/20)	T.J. Tronson	01:57:18
Blaine PD PSA: Theft From Auto	T.J. Tronson	00:00:45
Blaine PD PSA: Email/Text Scam	T.J. Tronson	00:00:54
Blaine PD PSA: Neighborhood Watch	T.J. Tronson	00:00:51
Blaine PD PSA: Close Garage Doors	T.J. Tronson	00:00:54
Blaine PD PSA: Bike Theft	T.J. Tronson	00:00:51
Blaine Community Scholarship Program	T.J. Tronson	00:12:36
NMTV News (4 episodes)	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	01:43:34
High School Graduations During a Pandemic	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	00:04:15
SBM Fire Creates A Quick Way to Clean	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	00:01:42
Lexington Family Creates Food Pantry	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	00:01:52
Blaine Truck Driver Recognized at White	Danika Peterson/Rusty Ray	00:01:51
House		
Lexington Mayor's Minutes: Spring 2020	Trevor Scholl	00:04:43
Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Benefit	Trevor Scholl	00:21:05
Business Profile: Wiseguys Pizza	Trevor Scholl	00:01:30
Business Profile: Christa's Paw Spa	Trevor Scholl	00:01:30
Business Profile: Corner Express	Trevor Scholl	00:01:30
COVID19 PSA: Stay Safe	Eric Houston	00:00:31
COVID19 PSA: Hand Washing	Eric Houston	00:00:45
COVID19 PSA: Hand Sanitizer	Eric Houston	00:01:00
COVID19 PSA: Medical Attention	Eric Houston	00:01:00
COVID19 PSA: Masks	Eric Houston	00:02:00
Bad Movie Brothers (2 episodes)	Eric Houston	00:57:19
Sports Den Quarantine: Winter Wrap-Up	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	00:29:28
Sports Den Quarantine: Spring Sports	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	00:20:15
Blaine High School National Honor	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	00:52:04
Society Induction Ceremony		
Sports Den Top 100 Plays of the Year	Kenton Kipp/J. Millington	01:03:11
32 New Programs		09:02:23 New Hours

Programs Produced by City Staff

Title	Producer	Runtime
Blaine City Council Meeting (5/4/20)	Blaine Staff	01:55:06
Blaine Planning Commission Meeting (5/12/20)	Blaine Staff	01:26:32
Blaine City Council Meeting (5/18/20)	Blaine Staff	00:29:52
Blaine City Council Emergency Meeting (5/26/20)	Blaine Staff	01:38:46
Centerville Planning & Zoning Meeting (5/5/20)	Centerville Staff	02:19:04
Centerville Park & Rec Meeting (5/6/20)	Centerville Staff	01:23:33
Centerville City Council Meeting (5/13/20)	Centerville Staff	02:17:27
Centerville EDA Meeting (5/20/20)	Centerville Staff	01:52:39
Centerville City Council Meeting (5/27/20)	Centerville Staff	02:20:25
Circle Pines City Council Meeting (5/13/20)	Circle Pines Staff	01:01:05
Circle Pines Utility Commission Meeting (5/20/20)	Circle Pines Staff	00:45:15
Circle Pines City Council Meeting (5/26/20)	Circle Pines Staff	00:30:48
Ham Lake City Council Meeting (5/4/20)	Ham Lake Staff	00:55:37
Ham Lake City Council Meeting (5/18/20)	Ham Lake Staff	00:52:51
Ham Lake Park& Tree Meeting (5/20/20)	Ham Lake Staff	00:45:06
Ham Lake Planning Commission Meeting (5/26/20)	Ham Lake Staff	00:06:58
Lexington City Council Meeting (5/7/20)	Lexington Staff	00:48:26
Lexington City Council Meeting (5/21/20)	Lexington Staff	00:09:04
Lino Lakes City Council Meeting (5/11/20)	Lino Lakes Staff	02:44:08
Lino Lakes City Council Meeting (5/26/20)	Lino Lakes Staff	01:18:39
Lino Lakes Environmental Board Meeting (5/27/20)	Lino Lakes Staff	00:54:19
Spring Lake Park City Council Meeting (5/4/20)	Spring Lake Park Staff	01:10:11
Spring Lake Park City Council Meeting (5/18/20)	Spring Lake Park Staff	01:23:57
Spring Lake Park Planning Commission Meeting (5/26/20)	Spring Lake Park Staff	00:45:27
24 New Programs		29:49:15 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 2020

20 Average	1082 92	921.63	4.67	3.40	4.08	3.35	9.50	10.77	18.05	7.35	0.75 7.75	27.75	36.73	76.03%	23.92%	8.42	90.9	44.92		41 46	2 33	2.50	22.08%	2 10	5.13 5.08%	11 21	18 52%	14 02	33,82%	19.69	47.49%		11.03	1.58	0.04	1.5.7	17 17		2 22	40.50	16.44	134.00
20 Total	12995 00	11059.50	56.00	40.75	49.00	40.25	114.00	129.25	219.00	88.25	105.00	333.00	438.00	76.03%	23.97%	101.00	72.75	539.00		497.50	28.00	109.75	22.05%	26.25	7.28%	494 50	99 40%	168.25	33.82%	236.25	47.49%		134 75	19.00	2 09	14 00	206.00		28.00	486.00	197.25	1608.00
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Σ	2632.00	2296.25	0.00	0.00	0.6	9.50	24.00	29.7	32.00	0.6	9.00	56.00	65.00	86.15%	13.85%	16.00	13.00	81.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%		00.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		1.00	51.00	0.0	0.00
⋖	2449.00	2145.25	7.00	2.50	16.00	12.00	23.00	31.50	45.00	12.50	23.00	68.00	91.00	74.73%	25.27%	20.00	12.00	00.11		2.50		2.50	100.		0.00%		0	0.00	0		0.00%			0.00							00'0	
M	2682.00	2251.00	15.00	11.50	5.00	2.00	22.00	23.00	28.00	10.00	20.00	50.00	70.00	71.43%	28.57%	24.00	19.50	94.00		144.00	4.00	18.00	12.50%	1.75			123.61%		- 1	86.00	59.72%		13.25	2.00	6.63	00.0	17.00		3.00		41.50	-
ш	2626.00	2106.50	20.00	15.75	12.00	8.25	21.00	23.00	61.00	30.00	32.00	82.00	114.00	71.93%	28.07%	25.00	16.25	139.00		169.00	12.00	36.50	21.60%	20.50	12.13%	222.25	131.51%	48.75	28.85%	102.75	60.80%		71.50	9.00	7.94	8.00	97.00		13.00	130.00	95.50	636.50
7	2606.00	2260.50	14.00	11.00	7.00	5.50	24.00	22.00	53.00	26.75	21.00	77.00	98.00	78.57%	21.43%	16.00	12.00	14.00		182.00	8.00	52.75	28.98%	4.00	2.20%	94.25	51.79%	89.00	48.90%	47.50	26.10%	A CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR	50.00	8.00	6.25	6.00	92.00		8.00	94.00	60.25	504.75
Programming Statistics	Cablecast Programs	Cablecast Hours	Programs Produced - Public	Program Hours Produced - Public	Prog. Produced - Amiliated Public	Prog. Hours Produced - Affil. Public	Programs Produced - City Staff	Prog. Hours Produced - City Staff	Programs Produced - NMTV Staff	Prog. Hours Produced - NMTV Staff	Total Public Programs Produced	Total Staff Programs Produced	Total Internal Programs Produced	% Staff Produced Programs	% Public Produced Programs	External Programs Submitted	External Program Hours	Farinment Heart Statistics	Equipment Usage Statistics	Facility Hours Available	Public Field Equipment Uses	Studio A	% of Available Time	Studio B	% of Available Time	Public MAC A Edit Suite	% of Available Time	Public MAC B Edit Suite	% of Available Time	Public MAC C Edit Suite	% of Available Time	Production Van Statistics	Production Hours	Number of Van Shoots	Average Hours Per Shoot	Number of New Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Public Access Statistics	Number of Workshops	Number of Students	PAP Volunteer Hours	lotal Public Facility Usage Hours

Stats
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	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	Ose Stats July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	Average
Studio A														
Morning Available Hours	35.00	34.00	30.00	2.50	0.00								101.50	8.46
Morning Hours Used	7.50	7.75	5.50	2.50	0.00								23.25	1.94
Percent of Available	21.43%	22.79%	18.33%	100.00%	#DIV/0i								22.91%	22.91%
Atternoon Available Hours	79.00	72.00	00.09	0.00	0.00								211.00	17.58
Atternoon Hours Used	8.00	9.00	6.50	0.00	0.00								23.50	1.96
Percent of Available	10.13%	12.50%	10.83%	0.00%	0.00%								11.14%	11.14%
Evening Available Hours	68.00	63.00	54.00	0.00	0.00								185.00	15.42
Evening Hours Used	37.25	19.75	5.50	0.00	0.00								62.50	5.21
Studio B	04:10/0	01.007/0	10.1370	0.0070	0.00%								33.78%	33.78%
	100	04.00	0000											
Morning Available Hours	35.00	34.00	30.00	0.00	0.00								00.66	8.25
Morning Hours Used	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00								0.00	0.00
Percent of Available	%00.0	%00.0	0.00%	%00.0	%00.0								0.00%	0.00%
Afternoon Available Hours	79.00	72.00	60.00	0.00	0.00								211 00	17.58
Afternoon Hours Used	0.50	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00								3.50	92.0
Percent of Available	0.63%	4.17%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%								1 66%	1 66%
Evening Available Hours	68.00	63.00	54.00	0.00	0.00								185.00	15.42
Evening Hours Used	3.50	17.50	1.75	0.00	0.00								22.25	1 90
Percent of Available	5.15%	27.78%	3.24%	%00.0	0.00%								12.30%	12.30%
Dirklic BAAC A Fait Suite														
Fublic MACA Edit Suite														
Morning Available Hours	35.00	53.00	46.00	0.00	0.00								134.00	11.17
Morning Hours Used	20.00	53.00	46.00	0.00	0.00								119.00	6 92
Percent of Available	57.14%	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%								88.81%	88.81%
Afternoon Available Hours	79.00	120.50	106.00	0.00	0.00								305.50	25.46
Affernoon Hours Used	53.75	120.50	106.00	00.0	00.0								280.25	23.35
Percent of Available	68.04%	100.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%								91 73%	91 73%
Evening Available Hours	68.00	63.00	54.00	0.00	0.00								185.00	15.42
Evening Hours Used	20.50	48.75	26.00	0.00	0.00								95.25	7 94
Percent of Available	30.15%	77.38%	48.15%	%00.0	%00.0								51.49%	51.49%
Public MAC B Edit Suite														
	00 10							-						
Worning Available Hours	35.00	34.00	30.00	0.00	0.00								99.00	8.25
Daso sinou fillilioni	13.50	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00								23.50	1.96
rercent of Available	38.57%	70.05	13.33%	0.00%	0.00%								23.74%	23.74%
Alteritioni Available Hours	78.00	72.00	60.00	0.00	0.00								211.00	17.58
Alternoon hours Used	33.73	71.75	13.00	0.00	0.00								66.50	5.54
Evening Available Deum	43.23%	24.03%	21.07%	0.00%	0.00%								31.52%	31.52%
Evening Available Hours	30.00	25.00	12.50	0.00	00.0								185.00	15.42
Percent of Available	58.46%	39.68%	25.00%	0000	0.00								78.25	6.52
			2000		0.00								42.30%	42.30%
Public MAC C Edit Suite														
Morning Available Hours	35.00	34.00	30.00	0.00	0.00								00 00	8.25
Morning Hours Used	3.25	13.50	14.00	0.00	0.00								30.75	2.56
Percent of Available	9.29%	39.71%	46.67%	%00.0	%00.0								31.06%	31 06%
Afternoon Available Hours	79.00	72.00	00.09	0.00	0.00								211.00	17.58
Afternoon Hours Used	29.00	18.25	26.75	0.00	0.00								74.00	6.17
Percent of Available	36.71%	25.35%	44.58%	%00.0	%000								35.07%	35.07%
Evening Available Houls Evening Houls	15.25	71.00	24.00 45.25	0.00	0.00								193.00	16.08
Percent of Available	22.43%	100.00%	83.80%	0.00%	0.00%								131.50	10.96 68 13%
													?	?

2021 North Metro Telecommunications Commission Budget Talking Points

Overall Organizational Goals

- Assume responsibility for recording city meetings.
- Establish income parameters, for organization's future, based on the outcome of the appeal of the FCC's Third Order and Report, level of cable consumer change, and economic impact of the COVID19 pandemic.
- Hire a consultant to assist with an organizational assessment and re-org strategy.
- Investigate cost effective ways to provide closed captioning services for both live and post production insertion. Implement if possible.
- Develop strategy for commercial remote productions service.
- Continue with franchise renewal negotiations. Conduct any necessary needs assessments.
- Continue to be responsive to cities communications needs.
- Maintain accessibility of all channels through live streaming, OTT channels, and video on demand services, 24-hours-a-day, on any device.
- Provide program playback, video transport, channel management services, video equipment maintenance and consulting services, internet streaming services for city channels, VOD libraries for meetings, meeting management software licenses and bookmarking services, program production and event coverage services, and public access to television production for our cities, schools and general public.

Estimated Fund Balance/Revenues/Expenses

- The beginning fund balances for 2021 are estimates based on previous allocations, planned spending for 2020, and estimated income.
- Estimated revenues include: Franchise fees, including the actual first quarter franchise fee payment, with anticipated reductions across quarters two through four. PEG fees based on estimated number of subscribers, throughout 2021, multiplied by the PEG fee. Other income includes dub fees, home movie transfers, drone, and production services. Interest income is estimated based on the first quarter interest earnings of this year.
- Estimated expenditures include the operating expenses, capital expenses, the bond payment and the franchise fee payment to the cities.
- The year end fund balances include:
 - The Operating reserve traditionally at 25% of the operating budget.
 Temporarily includes additional allocations for possible 2021 budgetary support.
 - o Accrued vacation, sick and comp time. The total value of owed vacation, sick, and comp time to employees.

- O The **capital equipment fund** is intended for emergency replacement of unplanned equipment failures. Could also be used for closed captioning equipment.
- O The vehicle replacement fund is to cover the cost of a new fleet vehicle.
- O The **building repair fund** is to cover major costs related to the building such as windows, roof, furnace, parking lot, AC replacement and painting, carpet replacement etc.
- The **franchise renewal fund** is a reserve fund for the NMTC's franchise renewal process. Franchise renewal can be very expensive, with the informal negotiation process historically costing around \$200,000 across the renewal period. Moving to a formal negotiation process is more expensive. These costs include needs assessments, consulting, and legal fees.

Budget

- The recommended operating budget for the organization totals \$1,337,676. This number is a \$26,892 increase over last year's operating budget. If income does not meet expectations, COLA increases will be reexamined.
- Budgeted capital purchases for 2021 are set at \$355, 430. A majority of this amount is dedicated to the HD bond payment of \$227,430. Budgeted capital items for 2021 include a tripod system for the truck, microphones, and support and maintenance contracts for Tightrope, Haivision, Carousel and Ross equipment. The capital budget also includes routine computer/software upgrades, and software licenses. The total amount budgeted for video equipment replacement/support is \$128,000. The 2021 capital budget is \$69,200 less than last year.
- Franchise fees paid to the cities are budgeted at \$400,000. This is the same amount as last year, but represents a higher percentage of total franchise fees.
- The total 2021 NMTC budget is \$42,306 less than the total 2020 budget.

Closing Points

- We have worked together to create a thriving and dynamic service for our cities, schools, producers, and viewers. Through program playback and channel management, internet streaming of city meetings including an agenda bookmarking tool, channel live streaming, Roku and AppleTV channels, video equipment consulting, drone services, and video production services, our cities are seeing real benefits from their investment of franchise fees and PEG fees. Our cable subscribers are benefiting from this investment with educational opportunities, tape and film transfer services, and varied, informative and interesting programming regarding their communities.
- While financial circumstances may dictate modifications, North Metro TV will continue to serve as a vital, responsive, and economical local communication resource.

2021 will be a busy year for the Commission. Franchise renewal will move forward, questions regarding funding will be answered, and new services of producing city meetings and introducing closed captioning will be provided...all under a backdrop of self-examination and responsive change.

North Metro Telecommunications Commission 2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Estimated Fund Balances/Revenues/Expenditures.

BEGINNING FUND BALANCES Operating Reserve Accrued Vac, Sick, Comp Capital Equip. Fund Vehicle Replacement Fund Bldg Repair Reserve Franchise Renewal Fund Bond Reserve		\$353,327 \$120,000 \$253,323 \$45,000 \$200,000 \$200,000	
	TOTAL:	\$1,171,650	
ESTIMATED REVENUES Franchise Fees PEG Fees Other Income Interest Income Income From Reserve Funds (franchise renewal/equipment)	TOTAL:	\$1,150,000 \$712,800 \$25,000 \$35,000 \$170,306 \$2,093,106	
	1 2 17 1241	, _, ,	
ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES Operating Expenses Capital Expenses: Equipment Capital Expenses: Bond Payment Fees Back to Cities	TOTAL:	\$1,337,676 \$128,000 \$227,430 \$400,000 \$2,093,106	
YEAR END FUND BALANCES Operating Reserve Accrued Vac, Sick, Comp Capital Equip. Fund Truck Replacement Fund Bldg Repair Reserve Franchise Renewal Fund Bond Reserve		\$183,021 \$120,000 \$253,323 \$45,000 \$200,000 \$200,000	Increase(Decrease) -\$170,306 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0

TOTAL:

-\$170,306

\$1,001,344

North Metro Telecommunications Commission Budget Line Item Supporting Information

Personnel

- The personnel total could increase by \$31,505. The possible increase would cover step increases for three employees, an up to 3% COLA increase, and an additional \$5,000 for freelancers to tape city meetings. In the first draft of the budget, no increase was included for COLA. The original plan had been to add a COLA increase in November, after having a better indication of income for 2021. However, the Executive Committee recommended including a COLA increase so that cities would be able to approve it. To comply, a line item was added for a contingency COLA increase of up to 3%, should income surpass expectations. Final salary determinations can be made when a clearer understanding of income for 2021 is known.
- Part-time staff are divided into two groups; freelancers and 20 hour-per-week staff.
 Employees in the freelancer group are contracted when needed for a sports shoot or to cover a city meeting and generally do not work enough to qualify for PERA. The second part-time designation is for two 20 hours per week positions that do qualify for PERA. Neither category is eligible for health benefits. Payroll taxes apply.
- It is being recommended that the monthly stipend for cable commissioners be eliminated.

Benefits

- The NMTC employee benefits package budget is typically based on the values of the benefits packages offered by the Member Cities to their employees. It is budgeted at \$1,195.00 per person/per month. This is the same as last year. This amount is less than the average of Member City package values for 2020. (average = \$1,223)
- All indications are that the NMTC's contribution to PERA will remain at 7.5% in 2021.

Administrative Expenses

 Budgeted administrative expenses are the same as 2020. While there were some reductions overall to Administrative expenses, the inclusion of \$20,000 for a re-org consultant erased the reductions. It is anticipated that there will be no need to conduct a technical audit or additional franchise or PEG fee audits of Comcast in 2021.

Production Expenses

 Budgeted production expenses are \$13,000 less than 2020. The advertising, equipment maintenance/parts, intern, and media supply budgets were reduced, and the awards ceremony/entry-fees line item was eliminated. The vehicle maintenance line-item was increased in anticipation of more problems with the fleet vehicle, as it is aging. • All other production expenses remain near the 2020 level.

Office Expenses

- Office expenses are budgeted \$3,800 more than the 2020 level.
- The building maintenance line-item remains at \$30,000. Building maintenance includes the furnace/AC maintenance contract, lawn care, snow removal, carpet and window cleaning, fire inspection, and landscaping and building mechanical services.
- The building utilities line item remains at \$30,000. Building utilities include sewer, water, gas, and electric.
- Insurance includes all property, liability, crime, volunteer, vehicle, and monument sign coverage.
- Office supply line item includes all office supplies, and maintenance contracts on printers and copiers.
- The Telephone/Internet/Web Hosting line-item was increased by \$3,000 over the 2020 budget. The increase will cover probable cost increases for bandwidth. Bandwidth is required to transport signals from city hall. NMTV continues to pay a fee to house video-on-demand and streaming content on a remote server. This allows for unlimited simultaneous viewing, without a reduction in speed, or an inordinate amount of bandwidth for that purpose. The line-item also covers the wireless live transmission of sporting events and other field productions. The website maintenance contract, web hosting, telephone costs, license fees for our Roku and AppleTV apps, and the annual phone software upgrade are also included.
- Postage covers the cost of mailing dubs and equipment for contract maintenance, and other postage for the NMTC.
- Property tax is for the recycling assessment.
- Building cleaning, trash, recycling, and hazardous material disposal/recycling.

Capital Expenditures

- The 2021 capital budget is set at \$355,430. This is \$69,200 less than last year. The majority of this amount is dedicated to the HD bond payment of \$227,430. Capital items for 2021 have been kept to a bare minimum and include a tripod system for the production truck, microphone replacements, and the annual maintenance/support/insurance contracts for city and NMTV Tightrope, Ross, Haivision and Carousel equipment. Monthly music licensing costs are also included.
- Office equipment includes routine computer and software upgrades, and software licenses for office and editing computers

<u>Summary</u>

- Depending on income and COLA decisions to be made at the end of the year, operating expenses could be \$4,920 less than in 2020, or up to \$26,892 more than was budgeted in 2020.
- Capital costs are \$69,200 less than last year. The majority of the capital budget is for the bond payment. Other expenditures include one tripod system for the truck and

- maintenance contracts. The office computer and software line-item remains at \$28,000. The bond payment is set at \$227,430.
- Franchise fees back to Cities are budgeted at \$400,000. This is the same as last year, but as the NMTC budget shrinks for the second year and the amount of franchise fees decreases, the percentage of franchise fees returned to cities continues to increase.
- The overall 2021 budget is at least \$42,306 less than the 2020 budget. If no COLA increases are included it will be \$74,120 less. The decrease is primarily in capital expenditures.

2021 North Metro Telecommunications Commission Budget

			i		
	2019		20	2021	
	ACTUAL		DGET	BUDGET	NOTES
DEDOONNE!		Budget	April Act.		100 mm m
PERSONNEL					
Director Meeting Per Diam	3,510	3,780	945	0	7-per-month-@-\$45
Director Meeting Per Diem Executive Director (1) FT	89,440	92,122	31,889	92,122	
IT Engineer/ Administrative Asst.	66,893	68,900	23,854	68,900	F-)
Video Engineer (1) FT	66,036	68,900	23,854	68,900	F3
Sports Director (1) FT	60,133	61,940	21,442	61,940	51
News Director (1) FT	58,283	61,940	21,442	61,940	
Programming Coord. (1) FT	54,954	56,606	19,591	56,606	
Ed./Special Projects Coor. (1) FT	54,954	56,606	19,591	56,606	
Municipal Producer (1) FT	43,213	47,351	15,784	49,722	Trevor Scholl
Sports Producer (1) FT	42,968	47,351	15,697	49,722	
News Producer (1) FT	40,415	45,092	14,861	47,351	Rusty Ray
Studio Manager (1) FT	54,954	56,606	19,591	56,606	
Freelancers/Sports/Meetings	76,317	67,304	26,260	72,304	
20 Hour per Week Assistants (2)	12,847	33,383	516	33,383	
Contingency Up to 3% COLA	0)		0	23,284	
PERSONNEL TOTAL:	724,917	767,881	255,317	799,386	COLA increase dependent on income
	İ				3 staff w/ step increases
BENEFITS		'			•
FICA	53,509	47,375	18,801	47,808	6.2% of gross wages
Medicare	00,000	11,080	.0,00.	11,181	1.45% of gross wages
PERA	60,403	57,308	17,901	57,833	7.50% of FT gross wages
Benefits Package	163,371	157,740	65,483	157,740	Health/Dental/STD, LTD, ADD
Workers Compensation	0	2,000	. 0	2,000	
Electronic Filing Charges	1,566	2,000	505	2,000	
Contingency COLA Tax Increase				3,528	Dependent on any COLA increase
BENEFITS TOTAL:	278,849	277,503	102,690	282,090	
				e and a second	
					*Benefits package = based on cities
					\$1,195 per employee/per month
					No increase over 2020
			i i		

2021 North Metro Telecommunications Commission Budget

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	2019 ACTUAL	20:	20	2021	NOTES
		Budget	April Act.		NOTES
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	I	_ augui	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	Laborato Dictoria	
Audit:Commission	16,425	16,500	13,575	16,500	Annual audit of Commission finances
Audit: Company	0	0	0	0	
Conferences	0,	1,000	0	500	MACTA conference
Consultants	20	15,000	0	20,000	Reorg Consultant
General/Special Meeting Expenses	1,707	3,000	452	1,000	
Government/Legislative Affairs	0	0	0	0	
Legal Fees	33,895	50,000	23,750	50,000	Franchise renewal/FCC Issues
Membership Dues	5,149	5,500	5,221	5,500	NATOA, MACTA, Arts Alliance, Cof C
Mileage Reimbursement	994	2,000	782	1,500	
Personnel Recruitment	0	0	0	0	
Tuition and Training	30	2,000	140	0	
Contingency Expenses	0	0	0	0	
ADMINISTRATIVE EX. TOTAL:	58,220	95,000	43,920	95,000	
				·	
PRODUCTION EXPENSES				, =0.0	Deleted and a feet of the second
Advertising/Marketing	5,638	4,000	300	1,500	Printed materials, Ads/billboards
Awards Ceremony/ Entry Fees	3,916	1,500	65	0	
Bulbs/Batteries/Other Prod. Costs	2,384	5,000	1,086	4,000	Bulbs, Camera Batt. Duct tape
Interns	4,169	9,000	1,800	5,500	\$500 stipend for 100 hours of work for 18
Truck/Fleet Vehicle Gas/Oil	3,062	2,500	875	2,500	Prod. Van & fleet vehicles
Truck/Fleet Vehicle Maint/Lic.	5,690	4,000	203	6,000	Prod. Van & fleet vehicles
Video Equipment/Parts/Maint.	1,353	8,500	55	5,000	Parts and Maintenance for video equip.
DVDs/Flash Drives/Cases	3,489	8,000	515	5,000	Blank media for masters/copies
PRODUCTION EX. TOTAL:	29,701	42,500	4,899	29,500	
OFFICE EVENIOES		}			
OFFICE EXPENSES	EC 690	20,000	0.035	20,000	Plda 9 Prop /Eiro Inch /Euro Contract
Building Maintenance	56,682 673	30,000 500	9,035 269	30,000 800	Bldg & Prop./Fire Insp./Furn. Contract
Building Security	26,947	30,000	9,353	30,000	Sewer, Water, Gas & Electric
Building Utilities	10,833	12,000	1,828	12,500	Liability/property/vehicle/volunteeer
Insurance Office Supp./Office Equip. Maint.	15,027	16,500	2,446	16,500	Copier & Fax maint. contracts, Supplies
Phone/Internt Service/Web Hosting	28,542	30,000	11,836	33,000	VOD, Live Streaming, web maint., bandwidth
Postage/Shipping	1,858	2,000	300	2,000	equipment/dub/packet postage
Property Tax	389	400	389	400	Recycling assessment
Trash/Recycling/Janitorial	6,256	6,500	2,098	6,500	recycling assessment
OFFICE EXPENSES TOTAL:	147,207	127,900	37,554	131,700	
OPERATIONS TOTAL:	1,091,687	1,310,784	444,380	1,337,676	
				Company Company	
	[-]		- [-]	<u> </u>	

2021 North Metro Telecommunications Commission Budget 2020 2021 2019 NOTES ACTUAL Budget April Act. CAPITAL EXPENDITURES Video Equipment 79,545 165,000 57,166 100,000 Equipment contracts, tripod system, Mics 28,000 Computer/Office Equipment/Sftwre 16,735 4,991 28,000 office systems, software licenses Vehicles 0 0 0 Building Expenditures 0 0 0 HD Upgrade 227,430 Bond Payment 230,475 231,630 231,630 **CAPITAL EXP. TOTAL:** 326,755 424,630 293,787 355,430 1,693,106 **GRAND TOTAL:** 1,418,442 1,735,414 738,167

	T.042	11000	7500	750	18000	5982.52	9500	76.76176		Total	7500	11000.00	Total 0	0	Total 0	0	Total	13000	1000	3000		Total	0	Total	0	Total	0	Total	0	Total
	-	11000	7500	750	18000	12000	0056			Unit Price	7500		Unit Price		Unit Price		Unit Price	13000	1000	3000		Unit Price		Unit Price		Unit Price		Unit Price		Unit Price
	Š	<u> </u>	-	_	-	-				ξģ.	- -		Qty		Qth		Otty		-			Qty		Qty		Qty		aty		Q V1
	Description	(25% Discount) Tightrope Hardware Assurance for Flex 4 16TB (SN: 0055767, 768, 769,	Cablecast Software Assurance per Channel (17 Channels billed as 12) 1-Year	VOD / PRO Tightrope Hardware & Serivice Contract	Ross Service Contract Quote 30330 - Studio Xpression, Studio Carbointes, Blackstorm, Tr	Imagine Communical Imagine Contract for MC Router, Encoder Grass Vallay	Lyno Service Colligati -Renew in March-	The state of the s		Premium Maintenance & Support 1-Year -Renew in November-	Cablecast Live Stream Server Subscription - 3 Channels		Description	and the second of the second o	Description	en e	Description	Vinten VISION 250 Carbon Fiber Tripod System with Mid-Spreader (Black) Panasonic AG-0X10 4K Camporder with NDMAY	Manfrotto Nitrotech N12 Head & Carbon Fiber Twin Leg Video Tripod Kit	em with RE50B		Description		Description		Description		Description		Description
	Make	Tightrope	Tightrope	Tightrope	\neg		7		100 CT	Haivision	Tightrope		Make		Make		Make	Vinten	Manfrotto	Lectrosonic		Make	and the second s	Make		Make		Make		Make
Master Control Service & Subscriptions	Model No.	CBL-CG330-SDI-HA	CBL-SAS-CH-1YR	CBL-VOD-PRO-BOX	Ross Equipment Support	K2-ESA-1VP	175-L'3M-111N	Fallinmont		M-PREM-SUPP-1	CBL-REFLECT-BND	Studio A	Model No.	Studio B	Model No.	ıck	Model No.	VB250-CP2M	MVKN12TWINGCUS	LEHMAA1K2		Model No.	the state of the s	Model No.	lent	Model No.	9.	Model No.	Vies	Model No.
laster Contro	ID No.				Т	2021-5	7	Master Control Equipment	ON CI	2021-10	2021-11	Control Room/Studio A	ID No. 2021-20	Control Room/Studio B	ID No. 2021-30	Production Truck	ID No.	2021-40	2021-42	2021-43	Sports Department	ID No. 2021-47	Public Access	ID No. 2021-50	News Department	ID No.	Special Events	ID No. 2021-70	Municipal Servies	ID No.

Tech Shon Faminment	inment			0
ID No.	Model No	odeM		
2021-90		Mane	Description Oty Unit Price Total	Total
201				5000
			KUU	2000
Various Small Items	tems		500	2000
SN CI	DA LABORA			
2000	Model No.	Make	Description	Total
2021-100	-	1	Lore Mindones of	- 1
2021-101				10000
				0
	-		1000	10000
			Grand Total 98732.55	98732.52

NORTH METRO FRANCHISE FEE HISTORY

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
	N	\$ 279,208.95	\$319,025.00	\$372,357.22	\$419,605.63	\$451,142.07	\$489,867.99	\$489,867.99	\$507,790.06
Centerville \$	17,019.97	\$ 17,335.34	\$20,586.00	\$24,471.73	\$27,709.99	\$30,394.00	\$33,396.69	\$33,396.69	\$34,466.27
Circle Pines	\$ 24,038.71 \$	\$ 26,111.31	\$32,761.00	\$37,791.19	\$42,127.90	\$44,077.04	\$48,214.82	\$48,214.82	\$51,160.77
Ham Lake \$	58,094.40 \$	\$ 61,562.41	\$72,454.00	\$89,622.56	\$101,055.23	\$110,300.91	\$120,788.01	\$120,788.01	\$126,979.69
Lexington \$	3 12,215.15 \$	\$ 12,467.38	\$13,358.00	\$14,226.57	\$15,843.48	\$16,149.47	\$17,332.08	\$17,332.08	\$17,229.92
Lino Lakes \$	3 78,388.13 \$	8 78,656.36	\$91,430.00	\$108,733.61	\$124,734.06	\$138,088.24	\$154,839.41	\$154,839.41	\$164,197.27
Spring Lake Park	41,874.85 \$	\$ 41,883.42	\$45,333.00	\$48,737.21	\$52,724.02	\$55,191.43	\$58,168.63	\$58,168.63	\$57,343.08
Total Franchise Fee: \$	\$ 495,385.14 \$	\$ 517,225.17	\$594,947.00	\$695,940.09	\$783,800.31	\$845,343.16	\$922,607.63	\$930,414.06	\$959,167.06
Change Over Past Year \$	17,758.43	\$ 21,840.03	\$77,721.83	\$100,993.09	\$87,860.22	\$61,542.85	\$77,264.47	\$7,806.43	\$28,753.00
Budget/Other: \$	358,410.00	\$ 420,319.00	\$474,719.00	\$522,855.00	\$583,800.31	\$645,343.16	\$722,607.63	\$595,029.06	\$620,851.06
Back to Cities: \$	136,975.14	\$ 96,906.17	\$120,228.00	\$173,085.09	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$335,385.00	\$338,316.00
	2011	000	0.00						
	103	2102	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Blaine	\$503,339.13	\$533,294.81	\$567,390.18	\$585,645.69	\$619,449.94	\$686,830.44	\$726,688.09	\$697,516.93	\$680,768.66
Centerville	\$32,296.67	\$33,949.63	\$35,408.93	\$37,140.41	\$38,397.37	\$43,277.43	\$46,134.63	\$43,436.19	\$42,197.35
Circle Pines	\$51,388.95	\$52,777.06	\$54,350.50	\$54,304.86	\$55,068.52	\$58,815.23	\$61,193.34	\$56,271.77	\$55,217.74
Ham Lake	\$131,446.66	\$139,834.48	\$147,412.39	\$152,919.27	\$160,540.12	\$174,071.97	\$181,449.70	\$169,763.88	\$167,088.15
Lexington	\$16,913.54	\$17,630.79	\$19,045.04	\$19,361.48	\$20,666.91	\$21,905.05	\$23,179.45	\$20,441.94	\$19,774.97
Lino Lakes	\$164,334.42	\$170,600.73	\$177,278.96	\$182,147.16	\$189,802.00	\$202,824.99	\$211,952.77	\$203,309.05	\$197,297.77
Spring Lake Park	\$58,600.64	\$61,520.23	\$63,916.34	\$65,641.10	\$66,231.13	\$69,664.14	\$73,309.11	\$69,721.29	\$67,700.33
Total Franchise Fee:	\$958,320.01	\$1,009,607.73	\$1,064,802.34	\$1,097,159.97	\$1,150,155.99	\$1,257,389.25	\$1,323,907.09	\$1,260,461.05	\$1,230,044.97
Change Over Past Year	(\$847.05)	\$51,287.72	\$55,194.61	\$32,357.63	\$52,996.02	\$107,233.26	\$66,517.84	(\$63,446.04)	(\$30,416.08)
Budget/Other:	\$673,600.01	\$724,608.00	\$744,802.00	\$777,159.90	\$830,156.00	\$912,389.25	\$923,907.09	\$860,461.05	\$830,044.97
Back to Cities:	\$284,720.00	\$284,999.73	\$320,000.34	\$320,000.00	\$320,000.00	\$345,000.00	\$400,000.00	\$400,000.00	\$400,000.00

Report: 23% of vMVPD Subscribers Also Have Pay-TV

telecompetitor.com/report-23-of-vmvpd-subscribers-also-have-pay-tv/

Phil Britt

Nearly one quarter (23%) of vMVPD subscribers also have traditional pay-TV subscriptions, according to a new report from TDG, a division of Screen Engine/ASI.

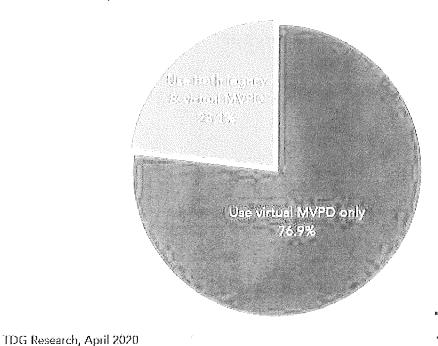
It's a surprising finding, considering that virtual multi-channel video programming services, streamed over a broadband connection, are designed to replace traditional pay-TV offerings such as cable and satellite TV.



The research said that as of 2018, many consumers found the traditional service necessary because their vMVPD provider's service didn't include the major networks – ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC. At that time, 37% of vMVPD subscribers also had a pay-TV subscription.

Nearly One-Fourth of Virtual Pay-TV Subscribers Also Use a Legacy Pay-TV Service

% of vMVPD users, n≈249



Source: TDG Research

The need for a second service has dropped significantly as Hulu Live TV and YouTube TV – both of which include programming from the major networks – have become market leaders. As a result, TDG predicts that dual service use will fall to only 10% by 2022.

"Simply adding legacy and virtual pay-TV subscription counts to arrive at cumulative estimates of pay-TV subscriptions is invalid," said Michael Greeson, TDG co-founder and president, in a prepared statement about the research on vMVPD subscribers. "The overlap between the two services should be recognized, as it is quite real, and speaks to the continuing reticence about service substitution value among many virtual pay-TV users."

As more vMVPD providers add channels to their initial "skinny bundle" offerings, those packages are becoming more popular, Greeson added: "Most OTT pay TV services now provide a full complement of both broadcast and cable channels, meaning they are more capable of competing head-to-head with 'fat' legacy offerings. This, in turn, has led to a decline in the number of dual-service users."

Research firm MoffettNathanson has a bit different take. They said late last year that vMVPD services weren't satisfying consumers' appetite for television content, so only about 40% of people who cancel traditional linear TV convert to a vMVPD service, as Telecompetitor reported.

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Comcast Blames Lack of Regional Sports Fee Refunds On Leagues

By Jess Barnes on May 18, 2020 at 7:00 am CDT in News 29 Comments

With live sports on hold, many cable customers are wondering why they're paying fees for content they're not getting. After weeks of customers speaking out and asking for refunds, Comcast is responding.

Regional sports networks pay for the rights to broadcast sports. Comcast, like all cable companies, pays those networks for rights to carry their channels, delivering sports to their customers. Comcast says that, because of that chain, it's up to the leagues to issue refunds.

Comcast made this statement: "Any rebates will be determined once the NBA, NHL, and MLB announce the course of action for their seasons, including the number of games that will be played, and of course we will pass those rebates or other adjustments along to our customers."

Customers aren't alone in calling on everyone involved to resolve the issue. "The whole chain should just pause and think about all of the upheaval in the world and all of the financial worries that customers have," said New Jersey Assemblyman Paul Moriarty, head of the state Legislature's Consumer Affairs Committee, according to The Philadelphia Inquirer. "They should not be imposing these prices on people at a time when everyone else is being asked to forgo mortgage, rent, etc."

The cable providers argue that the channels are still available, airing <u>classic sports events</u>, <u>documentaries</u>, and some <u>unique sports programming</u> to fill the void left by regular live sports.

"They won't throw money at their customers when their costs of goods hasn't changed," said Craig Moffett, an analyst for MoffettNathanson for the New York Times.

While customers may have always accepted sports fees as a necessary cost to get the channel package they wanted, cord cutting has opened up new possibilities for an alternative to those costs. Cord cutting has been on the rise since the beginning of the pandemic, with <u>young adults</u> looking to avoid sports fees leading the pack of new streamers.

With many cable customers only keeping the service for the sake of watching their favorite teams, and that benefit now taken away, will cable survive the pandemic?

"Now imagine you have pulled out the last piece of the Jenga puzzle, which is that sports are no longer on the air," Moffett said. "The whole foundation, the linchpin that was keeping it together, is gone, and the Jenga tower collapses."

Pandemic Colors View of Broadband Deployment

One added color is the green of potential new investment in closing digital divide

Broadband deployment is still a work in progress, but it's progressing at a pace that does not require regulatory intervention to speed it up.

That is what the Federal Communications Commission is signaling, but not without some caveats from the Republican majority, amplified by the COVID-19 spotlight on the need for universal broadband ASAP.

It is a conclusion being challenged by critics of the pace of broadband deployment, who argue that old definitions of reasonable deployment should not hold in the new normal of a pandemic.

Republican commissioner Michael O'Rielly has called the FCC's broadband data "debatable" and "problematic."

Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

As has been the case with such reports under chairman Ajit Pai, the FCC's just-released report on whether or not broadband is being deployed to all Americans on a reasonable and timely basis concluded that is indeed still the case.

That determination comes as Congress is pumping money into telehealth and the FCC is temporarily deregulating broadband subsidy programs to get and keep as many people online during the COVID-19 outbreak as possible.

Pandemic as Prism

As with everything else in the country and the world, deployment is now seen through the lens of a pandemic, which magnifies the longstanding issues with the quality, or lack thereof, of FCC data collection on broadband availability, a lens with a view that depends on who is looking through it. Activist groups find virtually anything short of universal service a failure, while the FCC's Republican majority and industry see the glass as mostly full, thanks to billions of dollars in investment from both the private sector and government money.

Congressional Democrats, who tend to look at the empty part of the glass, are calling for billions of dollars in the next COVID-19 stimulus package to make sure that everyone gets connected to broadband. One thing the pandemic has done is show that Congress is willing to put large amounts of money into coronavirus aid.

Even on the Republican side, though, the pandemic appears to have added a note of urgency to getting the rest of the glass filled.

Commissioner Michael O'Rielly said

the pandemic brings heightened attention to the issue, though he said that, even in a crisis, the FCC can only do what is within its congressional authority. The goal of getting broadband to every American is the FCC's highest priority, he said on a podcast last week.

O'Rielly conceded too many people still don't have broadband at sufficient speeds and that the numbers were greater than the FCC was reporting due to problems with its data collection. He called that data "debatable" and "problematic."

O'Rielly said even those numbers show that 8.3 million Americans don't even have speeds of 10 Megabits per second and 1 Mbps upstream today, which is the FCC's former high-speed definition, now effectively raised to 25/3. At that speed, he said, "we're talking 18 million," calling it a "really huge population."

Then, he said, they have to acknowledge that those numbers "are actually higher than that."

In his statement for the Section 706 report, O'Rielly said the "reasonable and timely" finding "does not suggest that we have succeeded in our mission to bring broadband access to all Americans."

But under Pai, the FCC's focus has been on the process, not a destination, at least when it comes to the report. That is important because if the report concludes broadband is not being deployed in a reasonable and timely fashion, the FCC is empowered to regulate to make sure that happens, including potentially rate regulation, the third rail for internet access providers.

The FCC under recent Democratic chairs had consistently concluded that, without universal access, the deployment was not reasonable and timely, which Pai, when he was in a minority, pushed back on strongly and changed when he got the chairmanship.

Dem Pushback

Current FCC Democrats continue that tradition, again with the COVID-19 pandemic for an exclamation point. "This report is baffling," Democratic commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel said. "We are in the middle of a pandemic. So much of modern life has migrated online. As a result, it has become painfully clear there are too many people in the United States who lack access to broadband. In fact, if this crisis has revealed anything, it is the hard truth that the digital divide is very real and very big. But you'll find no evidence acknowledging that in today's [report]."

The FCC again said it would not factor in price and affordability in the equation of deployment, an omission Rosenworcel said makes the entire report "suspect." (The other Democrat on the five-member panel is Geoffrey Starks.)

The Open Technology Institute, whose backers include technology companies, hammered the report as "out of touch" with the COVID-19 reality.

It said that the FCC's idea of what reasonable deployment needs to change given how crucial that deployment now is.

Joshua Stager, senior counsel at New America's Open Technology Institute, said in the time of the novel coronavirus, continuing to maintain that the current pace of deployment is reasonable and timely "strains credulity," particularly given that it is based on faulty data. But he goes even farther, saying the conclusions undermine the fight against the virus. The stay-at-home defense strategy presumes people can bridge the social distancing via broadband connections.

The FCC has failed to understand that the pandemic "has understandably raised the bar for what reasonable broadband looks like," Stager said.

The new working world

In a matter of weeks, the coronavirus crisis has triggered indelible shifts in the way America works.

The big picture: The pandemic is accelerating the onset of new trends in work — toward telecommuting, new office layouts and a different work-life balance. And we're already seeing signs that these effects will outlast the crisis.

Teleworking has taken over. Many of us are entering the second full month of working from home — and growing steadily accustomed to that lifestyle. "Remote work has gone from an HR-level discussion to a C-suite-level discussion," says Prithwiraj Choudhury, a professor at Harvard Business School.

- Staggering stat: Before the pandemic, <u>less than 4%</u> of American employees worked from home full time.
- Now, that has jumped to more than half, <u>per Brookings</u>. Among the top 20% of earners
 — who are more likely to have desk jobs that can be done from anywhere that share is closer to 70%.
- Not all of those people will immediately or ever go back to their offices when states reopen.
- With many companies directing employees to work from home for the rest of the summer (or longer), lots of people are leaving urban hotspots, where coronavirus cases are concentrated, Axios' Kim Hart reports. If the trend sticks, it will start to reverse a century-long move toward urbanization.
- "Remote work is going to increase dramatically" after the crisis abates, says Isabel Sawhill of the Brookings Institution. "There's a demonstration effect that this current crisis is producing: It's showing that work can be done from home."

Families are changing. Suddenly, Americans are doing their jobs, schooling their children, and spending family time in the same space. Despite the inevitable tensions, these months of togetherness could strengthen family ties for years to come.

- <u>Several families tell Axios</u> they plan to cook more meals at home or do more arts and crafts with kids after the pandemic incorporating crisis-era practices into normal life.
- On the other hand, many working parents are more exhausted than ever, now that they have no break from either set of responsibilities and no clear end in sight.

Workspaces are transforming. The offices workers eventually return to won't look like those they left in March.

- Tightly packed conference rooms and co-working spaces will at least temporarily give way to spread-out office layouts that allow for social distancing.
- And as a greater share of Americans work remotely, look for builders of new houses to give more thought to the home office (which has the added perk of being tax-deductible).

The bottom line: It's still too early to gauge the extent of coronavirus' impacts on work, but the changes it's already creating have implications for everything from how we conduct meetings with colleagues to how we file income taxes to the nature of our lunch breaks.

• Says Sawhill: "Humans are creatures of habit, and right now we're forming new habits."