

**Waterford Cable Commission**  
**AGENDA**  
**6:30 pm, Tuesday, February 16, 2021**  
**Virtual**

Cable Commission Meeting

Tue, Feb 16, 2021 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM (EST)

**Please join the Cable Commission meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

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1. Approval of agenda
2. Approval of minutes
3. Introduce new commissioners
4. Election of officers
5. Correspondence and bills
6. Signal quality
7. Subscriber complaints
8. Report from Media Network
9. Report from Cable Coordinator
10. Comments
11. Adjourn



# Waterford Township Cable Commission

Minutes of the Tuesday, October 20, 2020, Meeting

Members Present: Ken Fuerst, Kathy Hepler, Laura Petrusha, Steven Thomas, Bob Piggott, Gary Allison (Cable Coordinator)

Members Absent: Al Pavlish

Guests: Josh Bowren

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Laura Petrusha at 6:40 p.m.

Roll Call.

Agenda – Bob Piggott motioned to approve the agenda for October 20, 2020, supported by Steve Thomas. Approved unanimously.

Minutes – The motion to approve the minutes from September 15, 2020 was made by Kathy Hepler and supported by Ken Fuerst. Approved unanimously.

Correspondence and Bills – Nothing to report.

Signal Quality – Nothing to report.

Subscriber Complaints – One subscriber complaint regarding a remote control not pairing with a cable box unit.

Media Network Report – Josh Bowren reviewed the Media Network report. Following discussion, report was accepted by the commission.

Cable Coordinator's Report – Gary Allison reviewed the Cable Coordinator report. Following discussion, report was accepted by the commission.

Comments – Steve Thomas reminded everyone to vote and use the drop box at Town Hall or hand deliver to the Clerk's Office if voting absentee.

Adjournment – The motion to adjourn was made by Steve Thomas and supported by Bob Piggott. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Piggott, Secretary



*Sent Certified Mail/Return Receipt*

December 10, 2020

Ms. Kim Markee, Township Clerk  
Waterford Township  
5200 Civic Center Drive  
Waterford, MI 48329

Dear Ms. Markee:

Comcast of Michigan/Mississippi/Tennessee, Inc. is pleased to have provided cable television service to the Township of Waterford. We value the good working relationship we have with the Township and its elected officials.

As you may know, our franchise to provide cable television service will expire on November 1, 2023. Although Michigan's Public Act 480 of 2006 controls the renewal process, the purpose of this letter is to preserve our rights to the formal renewal process under Section 626 of the Federal Cable Act in the event the State statute is amended, repealed or otherwise modified before our current franchise expires.

Accordingly, if there is a change in the State law or other circumstances requiring renewal under Federal law procedures, Comcast hereby gives notice that it will seek renewal of its cable television franchise pursuant to the provisions of 47 U.S.C. 546 and request commencement of renewal proceedings pursuant to 47 U.S.C. 546(a) if that becomes necessary in the future due to a change in State law. We intend to renew the current Franchise in the manner provided by State law. This letter is simply a reservation of our rights under the Federal Cable Act in the event State law changes. Comcast is not asking you to take specific action at this time.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at [REDACTED] should you have any questions regarding this letter or our service in general.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shannon E. Dulin".

Shannon E. Dulin  
Manager, External Affairs  
Comcast, Heartland Region  
[REDACTED]

Southfield, MI 48034

Township of Waterford  
Cable Coordinator Report November 2020 – February 2021  
Submitted by Gary Allison

- Election
  - 2020 Election results broadcast went well, as they did during the primaries. The Castus unit allows for real time updates.
- 2020 PEG & Franchise Received Q3 & 4
  - AT&T PEG & Franchise fees are 12% below 2020 projections for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.
    - Overall, AT&T fell 6.7% below 2020 projections.
  - AT&T PEG & Franchise fees are 1% above 2021 projections for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020.
  - Comcast PEG & Franchise fees are 1.8% above 2020 projections for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.
    - Overall, Comcast rose about 3% above 2020 projections.
  - The 2020 cable department revenue fell approximately 3% below projections.
- Public Budget Meetings
  - The Board of Trustees votes on the 2021 budget December 9, 2020.
  - The Board of Trustees voted to approve the Cable Department budget for 2021.
- Production
  - Very little production at this time. Gary Allison is doing a voice over project for the Waterford Township Library. Unfortunately, most municipal productions have been cancelled due to the pandemic.
  - We produced the first Inside Waterford for 2021 virtually.
  - State of the Township is scheduled for February 24, 2021, and will be virtual, as well as broadcasted live on Municipal Channel 20.
- Encoder/Decoder
  - Issues with the decoder located at the Waterford Mott studio have led the cable department to explore alternative broadcasting avenues, in relation to sending our signal to Comcast and AT&T. Currently Advanced Lighting & Sound is looking into having all broadcast signals sent directly from town hall, removing the Waterford Mott studio from the equation.
- Comcast Franchise Renewal
  - See inserted letter.
- Public Meetings
  - Public meetings are to be held virtually until March 29, 2021 due to State Covid restrictions.
- FCC
  - In perhaps the 1<sup>st</sup> clear Telecom/Internet related about face by the Biden FCC and DOJ, the DOJ yesterday entered a Voluntary Dismissal of a lawsuit filed by Trump's FCC/DOJ challenging California's attempt to reassert its own Internet

Neutrality Rules. The dismissal leaves the California law intact for the benefit of internet consumers.

- We expect this to have an impact on similar state laws across the country, but it is unclear how.
- The Michigan Senate is back to work considering the communications industry bill **exempting all of its related facilities from all property tax**. Though advertised as applying only to new facilities, that does not appear to be the case given the language of the bill, which is all encompassing, but for cable facilities that are more than 10 years old.
- *Municipals v. NETFLIX Class Action for Unpaid Cable Franchise Fees*: PROTEC is continuing to monitor developments around the country on this issue and researching our potential for such litigation here.
- On December 31, 2020, per Senate Bill (SB) 283 mandate, a bipartisan Bill, the Oregon Health Authority issued a considerably more restrained “*review of peer-reviewed, independently funded scientific studies of the health effects of exposure to microwave radiation, particularly exposure that results from the use of wireless network technologies in schools or similar environments*”. Interestingly, it specifically declined to look at “occupational settings” due to the high[er] exposures” in those settings, (and perhaps more definite linkages) as noted in some of the reviewed publications. – Report at p. 4
  - Its conclusion was similar to that of the New Hampshire report. “...**the available epidemiology research examining RFR health effects does not provide sufficient evidence to conclude that RFR exposure in school settings is associated with adverse health effects. However, as mentioned above, more research is needed. This is in line with conclusions on RFR exposures and health by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (114), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (115), the National Cancer Institute (116) and other agencies that work to protect population health.**” – Report Conclusion at p.31