

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

Waterford Cable Commission Meeting 3/16/21
Tue, Mar 16, 2021 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM (EDT)

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



Waterford Township Cable Commission

Minutes of the Tuesday, February 16, 2021, Meeting

Members Present: Ken Fuerst, Nathan Shoemaker, Laura Petrusha, Jim Powers, Anthony Bartolotta, Bob Piggott,

Members Absent: Al Pavlish

Guests: Josh Bowren, Gary Allison (Cable Coordinator)

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Laura Petrusha at 6:36 p.m.

Roll Call: All members present but Al Pavlish. Commissioner Nathan Shoemaker arrived at 6:56.

Agenda – Bob Piggott motioned to approve the agenda for February 16, 2021, supported by Jim Powers. Roll call vote: approved unanimously.

Minutes – The motion to approve the minutes from October 20, 2020 was made by Anthony Bartolotta and supported by Bob Piggott. Roll call vote: approved unanimously.

Introduce New Commissioners – Chairperson Petrusha welcomed Jim Powers to the Cable Commission.

Election of Officers – Bob Piggott nominated Laura Petrusha for Chair, Jim Powers seconded the nomination. Roll call vote: approved unanimously. Laura Petrusha nominated Bob Piggott for Vice-Chair, Anthony Bartolotta seconded the nomination. Roll call vote: approved unanimously. Laura Petrusha nominated Ken Fuerst for Secretary, Anthony Bartolotta seconded the nomination. Roll call vote: approved unanimously.

Correspondence and Bills – Comcast channel changes, 2021 fees update, and intention to renew their franchise with Waterford Township in 2023.

Signal Quality – Nothing to report.

Subscriber Complaints – One subscriber complaint regarding a billing issue with Comcast.

Media Network Report – Josh Bowren reviewed the Media Network report. Following discussion, Jim Powers motioned to accept the report, Bob Piggott second it. Roll call vote: approved unanimously.

Cable Coordinator's Report – Gary Allison reviewed the Cable Coordinator report. Following discussion, Jim Powers motioned to accept the report, Ken Fuerst second it. Roll call vote: approved unanimously.

Comments – Chairperson Petrusha formally welcomed Nathan Shoemaker to the Cable Commission.

Adjournment – The motion to adjourn was made by Anthony Bartolotta and supported by Jim Powers. Roll call vote: approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ken Fuerst, Secretary

Township of Waterford
Cable Coordinator Report March 2021
Submitted by Gary Allison

- 2020 Comcast PEG & Franchise Fees Received for 2020 Q4
 - Comcast PEG & Franchise fees are 4.6% above 2021 projections for the 4th quarter of 2020, up 3.7% from the previous year.
- State of the Township
 - We successfully facilitated and broadcasted the State of the Township on February 24th.
 - Rebroadcast of the State of the Township will run through July 2021.
- Town Hall Auditorium
 - Working in conjunction with the IT Department in upgrading live display projection in the auditorium.
- Police Training Videos
 - Working with the Safety Management Office in producing SWAT training videos for the Waterford Police Department. Production will happen sometime in July/August of 2021.
- Michigan NATOA Membership
 - The Cable Department has renewed its Michigan NATOA membership for 2021.
- Public Meetings
 - Public meetings are to be held virtually until March 29, 2021 due to State Covid restrictions.
- FCC
 - The FCC issued its implementation order on 2/26/21 on the Congressional \$50/mo discount on internet connection fees and a computer for \$10-50. (see attached document)
 - Extract from Order:
 - *[T]he Emergency Broadband Benefit Program to support broadband services and devices to **help low-income households stay connected during the COVID-19 pandemic**...[the Act established] an Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund of **\$3.2 billion** in the Treasury of the United States for the fiscal year 2021 ...under which eligible **low-income households** may receive a discount off the cost of broadband service and certain connected devices during an emergency period relating to the COVID-19 pandemic...Participating providers will make available to eligible households a **monthly discount off the standard rate for an Internet service offering and associated equipment, up to \$50.00 per month.**^[1] On Tribal lands, the monthly discount may be up to*

[1]

*\$75.00 per month.... Participating providers that also supply an eligible household with a connected device, defined in the Consolidated Appropriations Act as a **laptop, desktop computer, or tablet**, for use during the emergency period may receive a single reimbursement of up to \$100.00 for the connected device, if the charge to the eligible household for that device is more than **\$10.00 but less than \$50.00**. A participating provider may receive reimbursement for only one supported device per eligible household. (Order at Sec's 1-5)*

- *...in order to participate in the EBB Program a carrier must have provided broadband Internet access service to households as of **December 1, 2020**. (Order Sec 10)*
- **BB Tax exemption:** Mi Legislature moving 3 Bills that if enacted will exempt telecommunications BB infrastructure from property taxes.
 - See HB 4209
[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(yn1uozhuup5uk5zur5ge1owq\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=BillStatus&objectname=2021-HB-4209](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(yn1uozhuup5uk5zur5ge1owq))/mileg.aspx?page=BillStatus&objectname=2021-HB-4209) ,
 - HB 4210
[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(yn1uozhuup5uk5zur5ge1owq\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2021-HB-4210](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(yn1uozhuup5uk5zur5ge1owq))/mileg.aspx?page=getobject&objectname=2021-HB-4210) and
 - SB 46
[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(yn1uozhuup5uk5zur5ge1owq\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2021-SB-0046](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(yn1uozhuup5uk5zur5ge1owq))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2021-SB-0046)
- **Electric Transmission “Rights” expansion:** Mi Legislature is moving SB 103
[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(ngmjvcpvjxncwcupbgehuter\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2021-SB-0103](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(ngmjvcpvjxncwcupbgehuter))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=2021-SB-0103)
 - Bill grants greater but ambiguous “Rights” to Michigan based electric transmission businesses. Because the purposes of the Bill are ambiguous at best based upon current language, PROTEC has filed opposition to the Bill.

Media Contact:

Paloma Perez
paloma.perez@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release

**FCC ADOPTS REPORT AND ORDER TO IMPLEMENT EMERGENCY
BROADBAND BENEFIT PROGRAM**

Unanimous Vote Establishes Federally Funded Broadband Discount Program to Help Households Afford Internet Service During the Pandemic; FCC Intends to Open Program to Eligible Households within 60 Days As Providers Sign Up and Systems Put in Place

WASHINGTON, February 25, 2021—Today, the FCC voted to formally adopt a Report and Order that establishes the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, a \$3.2 billion federal initiative to provide qualifying households discounts on their internet service bills and an opportunity to receive a discount on a computer or tablet.

“Today the Federal Communications Commission made history. It adopted rules for the nation’s largest-ever program to help households nationwide afford broadband service. This \$3.2 billion program was designed to lower the cost of high-speed internet service for those struggling to get the connectivity they need during the ongoing pandemic. It’s a challenge that is all too real for too many families.

“This is a program that will help those at risk of digital disconnection. It will help those sitting in cars in parking lots just to catch a Wi-Fi signal to go online for work. It will help those lingering outside the library with a laptop just to get a wireless signal for remote learning. It will help those who worry about choosing between paying a broadband bill and paying rent or buying groceries. In short, this program can make a meaningful difference in the lives of people across the country. That’s why our work is already underway to get this program up and running, and I expect it to be open to eligible households within the next 60 days as providers sign up and program systems are put in place. I have confidence in our staff that we will do this carefully, swiftly and the right way,” **said Acting Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel.**

The Emergency Broadband Benefit Program will provide eligible households with discounts of up to \$50 a month for broadband service, and up to \$75 a month if the household is on Tribal lands. It also will provide a one-time discount of up to \$100 on a computer or tablet for eligible households.

Under the law, the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program is open to households that participate in an existing low-income or pandemic relief program offered by a broadband provider; Lifeline subscribers, including those that are on Medicaid or accept SNAP benefits; households with kids receiving free and reduced-price lunch or school breakfast; Pell grant recipients; and those who have lost jobs and seen their income reduced in the last year.

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).