



GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD CABLE COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

KEEGO HARBOR • ORCHARD LAKE • SYLVAN LAKE • WEST BLOOMFIELD

MINUTES

September 10, 2020

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Harvey Gersin, at 7:34PM via ZOOM teleconference.

2. Roll Call

Members Present:

Representing Orchard Lake: Dan Krause

Representing Sylvan Lake: Phil Ross

Representing West Bloomfield: Harvey Gersin, Nada Jamoua (arrived at 7:50PM),
Mark Kowalsky, Suzanne Levine, Deborah Macon,
Jonathan Warshay

Members Absent:

Representing Orchard Lake: Anne Dziuba

Others in Attendance:

Dave Scott (General Manager, Civic Center TV/Lakes FM), David Albery (Executive Director, GWBCCC)

Mrs. Macon led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Krause, support from Ms. Levine:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission approve the agenda as provided for the September 10, 2020 meeting.”

Voting YES: Gersin, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

4. Public Comment

The Chairperson stated that residents are provided an opportunity to address the Commission regarding cable-related issues at the beginning and the end of each meeting. Those unable to attend should contact the Commission at gwbcable.org.

No member of the public asked to address the Commission.

5. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Ross, support from Ms. Levine:

“That the Minutes of the August 13, 2020 meeting, the August 25, 2020 joint meeting, and the September 8, 2020 joint meeting be approved as presented.”

Voting YES: Gersin, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

6. Acceptance of Financial Reports

The Executive Director presented the budget report for January through August of 2020 and the report of payments from cable operators for the second quarter of the year.

In response to a question from Mr. Kowalsky regarding the calculations underlying the cable operator payments, the Executive Director stated that the gross revenue calculation that applies to both Comcast and AT&T in Greater West Bloomfield includes only revenue from cable, both the service and associated equipment, and does not include revenue from any non-cable source. He added that some larger cities in states that have not enacted cable franchise legislation are able to negotiate agreements that expand the gross revenue definition. He also stated that Comcast provides the calculation on a quarterly basis, which the communities could audit at any time, with the caveat that audits conducted by other communities in Michigan have not found inaccuracies which would justify the cost of the audit.

The Executive Director asked the commissioners who attended the virtual NATOA Annual Conference to let him know in which session the gross revenue calculation was discussed, specifically regarding a community which has an expanded definition.

Motion by Mr. Warshay, support from Mr. Krause:

“That the Financial Reports be accepted.”

Voting YES: Gersin, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

7. Committee Reports

The Chairperson stated that this portion of the agenda provides an opportunity for committees to report to the Commission.

Report of the Finance Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was presented by Mr. Ross, the committee chairperson. Commissioners suggested revisions to the report regarding the location and those in attendance.

Committee Recommendation:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission adopt its 2021 operating and special projects budgets and recommend approval by the four communities.”

Ms. Jamoua arrived at 7:50PM.

Report of the Community Programming Committee

Commissioners were provided a written report which was presented by Mrs. Macon, the committee vice-chairperson.

Motion by Mr. Krause, support from Mr. Kowalsky:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission accept the reports of the Finance and Community Programming committees and consider committee recommendations under New Business later in this meeting.”

Voting YES: Gersin, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

8. Executive Director's Report

Civic Center TV/Lakes FM

Commissioners were provided a written report of programming cablecast on Civic Center TV in August and early September. Mr. Scott addressed the Commission regarding the operation of Civic Center TV and Lakes FM, focusing on public awareness as evidenced by on-line and social media metrics for both the live “Megacast” each day and the archives of programs, interviews, and clips. He stated that the metrics show massive increases in visits to the CCT web site and the Facebook pages of the Commission’s daily “Megacast” partners and emphasized the visibility of CCT and Lakes FM at community events such as the “State of the Communities”, the Black Lives Matter event at West Bloomfield High School, summer concerts at Marshbank,

Laker Football coverage, both radio and television, and the upcoming Chamber “VIBE” event in late October.

Mr. Krause reminded commissioners of the multiplicity of school districts in Greater West Bloomfield. In response to his question regarding the geographical location of on-line visitors, Mr. Scott stated that such information is not available.

The Chairperson commended Mr. Scott’s appearance on the “Megacast” earlier in the day and the focus on the advantages of long-form interviews as compared to two to three-minute news stories.

Cable Operators

Commissioners were provided copies of a communication from Comcast.

Cable Industry News

The number of homes in the U.S. with broadband service and no wired video service has increased 80 percent from the first half of 2019 to the first half of 2020.

The Federal Communications Commission has ended its proceedings in regard to regulation of cable television navigation and security devices, such as converters and cable cards, leaving the matter to consumers and the marketplace.

Comcast’s investment in start-ups, Lift Labs Accelerator, is focusing this year on diversity, with half of the new companies led by females and more than half showing significant racial and/or ethnic diversity.

The FCC’s “Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative” is proposing changes in the rules regarding notifications provided to subscribers in the areas of service changes and operator ownership interest in program providers.

Communication

No communication was received.

Commission Assistance to Residents

A Comcast subcontractor damaged a resident’s driveway and yard in the process of accessing overhead wiring. Reimbursement for the cost of repair is in process. Resolution of a similar situation last year took over six months.

Two subscribers contacted the Commission regarding recent large increases in their monthly

bills, and, as usual, the culprit was the expiration of a promotional offer. In such cases, upon the Commission's request, Comcast explains the billing to the subscriber and often makes some adjustments to soften the increase.

Preview

The Executive Director presented his agenda for the time period between this meeting and the next.

9. Unfinished Business

No items of Unfinished Business were presented.

10. New Business

Recommendation of the Finance Committee – 2021 GWBCCC Budgets

The Chairperson stated that the Finance Committee is recommending that the Commission adopt the budgets and recommend their approval by the four communities. He added that as a committee recommendation, the motion does not require support,

The Executive Director summarized the budget presentation document.

Motion by Mr. Ross, Finance Committee chairperson:

“That the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission adopt its 2021 operating and special projects budgets and recommend approval by the four communities.”

In response to a question from Mrs. Macon regarding the evening of Monday, October 5, the Executive Director stated that traditionally, consideration of the Commission budgets by the West Bloomfield Township Board is an early agenda item and that with the Township meeting starting at 6:00PM, the Commission Operations and Strategic Planning Committee should be able to start at 6:30 or shortly thereafter.

Voting YES: Gersin, Jamoua, Kowalsky, Krause, Levine, Macon, Ross, Warshay

Voting NO:

The motion carried.

11. Public Comment

The Chairperson stated that residents are provided an opportunity to address the Commission regarding cable-related issues at the beginning and the end of each meeting.

No member of the public asked to address the Commission.

12. Commissioner Comments

Mr. Krause mentioned discussion at the NATOA Annual Conference regarding the FCC's 2019 franchise fee order.

Mr. Warshay stated that the semi-annual Household Hazardous Waste event will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 25 and 26 at the Township Civic Center.

Ms. Levine announced the Chamber of Commerce's Virtual Innovative Business Event at the end of October. Sessions will focus on health, leadership, communication, community, and commerce.

Mrs. Macon reported the drive-through community flu shot clinic at West Bloomfield Town Hall on October 1. She added that voting begins in Michigan on September 24.

The Executive Director commended Motown Digital for its role in creating the virtual platform for the NATOA Annual Conference in early September and for the upcoming VIBE event in October.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 8:32PM.

The next meeting of the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission is **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2020, at 7:30PM** via **ZOOM** teleconference.