

**Bedford Cable Committee Meeting
June 20, 2005**

Attendance: Steve Lennex	Gene Stock	Denise Hill
Nick Karay	Sigmund Geremski	Bernice Heidelberg
Tom Dawson: Buckeye Cable		Mike Murphy, excused

Temporary Chairperson Steve Lennex called the Bedford Cable Committee meeting to order at 7:16 PM in the Bedford Township Board Room. A motion made by Gene Stock and seconded by Sigmund Geremski approved the May minutes. Motion passed.

Election of Officers was re-visited from the May meeting. Sigmund Geremski was elected Vice Chair. A permanent Chairperson was not elected again this evening. The committee felt that a Township Board member should be attending these meetings and that this person should chair this committee.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to the Township Supervisor expressing our concern about the lack of a township presence. It was also suggested that the letter contain a request for information that would be helpful to this committee. The Cable Committee Secretary will write the letter.

The remaining time of the meeting was spent in discussion with Buckeye Representative, Tom Dawson. The group reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting with Mr. Dawson. The May minutes contained several questions concerning the Cable agreement between the company and the township. The committee felt Mr. Dawson could resolve several issues for them. The following is a review of the discussion.

44.005: This questioned the available services. Mr. Dawson informed the group that Buckeye provides multi-channel videos and the township receives the franchise fees for this service. High Speed Internet service fees are paid to the State of Michigan in the Metro Authority Act. The state would in turn send the payment to the municipalities. The fees charged are based on a cost (cents) per foot in the road right of ways. The committee would like to know if the township has received any fees from the metro Act, how much in fees and what was the money used for.

44.008: Funding for Local Origination Mr. Dawson informed the group that part of the franchise fees paid by Buckeye Cable was to be used as the providers share of the local programming costs. The group expressed concern about the money allocated to Bedford Schools in the original agreement. They believe that the township is using the money collected in the franchise fees to support the local origination programming. The group felt this issue should be further investigated.

Mr. Dawson presented to the Committee secretary copies of quarterly report and fees paid to both Whiteford and Bedford Townships for the last year. The group would like to know what the township is using the franchise fees for.

44.09 Tom Dawson reminded the group that 2 channels are provided to the township for Public Education(69) and Local Government (11). The company put generators in place for "VOD" to Bedford and Whiteford. The 2 townships

- would then be able to post its own information. The cable committee feels that the township is not utilizing its cable assets to their full potential.
- 44.10 Many residents have expressed concern and displeasure over the closure of the local cable office. Tom Dawson told the group that the Lewis Avenue office did not have enough walk in traffic to keep it open. After closing Lewis Avenue, the office moved to Foodtown in Lambertville. That office was forced to close when the store was sold. Efforts were made to make new arrangements with either the new Foodtown owners or the Kroger store across the street to no success. Mr. Dawson told the group that Buckeye would look into this again.

Mr. Dawson was asked if he felt that the cable agreement should be re-written. He responded that he felt that the company was complying in all of the areas of concern with the exception of the local office.

Cable Fees It was stated that many customers do not understand the franchise fee charges on their bills and question why it is passed on to the customer. Mr. Dawson responded that this was the result of legislation in 1992 that deregulated the cable industry. The fees are paid to the township for the franchise. In the past, the cable provider paid these fees to the township, as a part of doing business. In 1992, the new legislation allowed for these fees to be passed on to the customers.

Some concern was expressed over the increase in the customer cable costs and customer notification of this action. Mr. Dawson responded by saying that each subscriber receives a written notice that is included with the monthly statement. The increase notice is provided 30 days prior to the increase. The Cable Company also announces the increase in the Toledo Blade. It was suggested that the notice be placed in the Monroe Evening news and the Bedford Now.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Bedford Cable Committee Meeting
July 18, 2005

Attendance: Steve Lennex	Gene Stock	Denise Hill
Larry O'Dell	Walt Wilburn	Bernice Heidelberg
Visitor		
Absent: Sigmund Geremski	Mike Murphy	Nick Karay
Tom Dawson		

Temporary Chairman Steve Lennex called the meeting to order at 7:10p.m. in the Bedford Township Hall and asked the members present to review the minutes from the June 20, 2005 meeting.

Election of a Chairman for the committee was brought up again since a township board member was present at the meeting. Township officials asked Mr. Lennex to state the reasons why it is essential for the township representative to be the chair. After a brief discussion, Larry O'Dell, trustee, and Walt Wilburn, supervisor, asked Steve Lennex to remain as chair temporarily until Mr. O'Dell is brought up to date with the cable committee history. Mr. Lennex agreed to remain temporarily.

The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the previous minutes and concerns of the committee members.

- 1) The concern remains concerning local origination and the contract that was entered into supporting it. It was decided that Mike Murphy, Medd Barr, Lamar Frederick and John White should be invited to a meeting to discuss the funding for the studio at Bedford Schools. It also agreed that that portion of the contract might need to be re-written or that section amended.
- 2) The committee had received copies of the Metro Act. This document was requested at an earlier meeting. It was determined that the Metro Act funds were for road right of way projects only.
- 3) The committee would like to find out how the franchise fees paid to the township are being used. Walt Wilburn said he would research this. It was mentioned again that the residents do not understand the listing of the franchise fee on their cable statement.
- 4) The group felt that the township should make better use of the local government channel. One thought was to have a posted schedule of announcements for easier use of the residents.
- 5) The contract also included a cable office in the township. That will be investigated further.

The next meeting will be August 16, 2005. Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

B. Heidelberg