

Minutes
Waverly Cable/Telecommunications Commission
September 8, 2010
City of Waverly Conference Room (Administration Office)
12 P.M.

CORRECTED

Commission Members Present: Donna Kay Oberheu (term expires Feb. 1, 2012), Ael Suhr (term expires Feb. 1, 2013), Linda Schrage (term expires on Feb. 1, 2015), Tara Harn (term expires on Feb. 1, 2011), Bruce Bahlmann (term expires on Feb. 1, 2011).

City of Waverly Staff Present: Dick Crayne, Jo Raap and Tab Ray and Mayor Bob Brunkhorst.

Mediacom Representatives Present: Lee Grassley, Greg Nank

Wartburg Representatives Present: Jeff Stein and Jim Olmstede

Agenda: Commission members approved the agenda.

Moved By: Schrage

Yes: 5

No: 0

Absent: 0

Minutes: Commission members approved the minutes of March 24, 2010.

Moved By: Harn

Yes: 5

No: 0

Absent: 0

New Business:

A. **Review of Response to Mediacom regarding changing of public access channels.**

Lee Grassley informed the Commission that Mr. Doug Frank Regional Vice President of Mediacom received correspondence from the City of Waverly and Wartburg College regarding a 90 day extension of time before Mediacom moves the public access channels and the request was granted. The Federal Government has mandated Mediacom to go to digital programming by June, 2012. Mediacom customers want High Definition and faster internet which require more bandwidth. Waterloo has gone to digital programming. The City would like to keep the public access channels of 8 and 10, ensure quality and ease of access to PEG channels, have a marketing plan for the transition, and ensure that Wartburg students have access to the Wartburg TV Channel. Mediacom will work with Wartburg to try and keep the public access channels on Channel 8 and 10. Mr. Grassley stated that users that have HD channels are compressed to 4:1 those that do not have HD are compressed 10:1. Members viewed the ETI box that users will have to use if they do not have digital TV's. Mediacom will provide users with the ETI box free of charge and have personnel available for installation. If users have two TV's they will have to rent the 2nd box for \$1.99 a month. Mediacom sent a letter to each Waterloo customer, put an ad in the newspaper, and produced an infomercial on the public access channels about their change to digital. Mediacom will conduct a public forum if the City requests it. Wartburg students can also do installation of said boxes. After KWWL did their digital conversion the antenna strength was reduced. Mr. Grassley stated that channels 8 and 10 are being used by Mediacom for internet, video on demand and high definition. If Channels 8 and

10 are changed to 81 and 82 Mediacom will help market said change. If the City changed to Channel 15 or 16 they could possibly keep their analog signal but still would have to go digital in 2012. Everything will change again when digital is changed to SWITCHED digital. There will be 11 more channels with digital TV. The Mayor requested that the Commission receive the analog to digital boxes before the switch is implemented. Mayor Brunkhorst will get a map of new developments so Mediacom can do an engineering walkout and feasibility study. Discussion followed on lines for Centennial Oaks and Eisenach Village. Jeff Stein appreciated that Mediacom will wait 90 days to change over to digital and so Wartburg can work on technical issues. Dr. Stein suggested having a day where citizens can come and pickup boxes and personnel available to hook up the boxes for citizens before the change over. **This is an effort to test out the service to better inform residents how their current analog service is going to change and particularly how they will need to use this box to view the city's public access channel.** Wartburg College feels that they have more exposure on Channel 8. Mediacom might be able to create a hub on the Wartburg Campus so that students will not need a box for their TV's. The boxes have to be activated and could be assigned by serial number and activated on a specific date. Jim Olmstede stated that marketing is a key factor and the change over should be announced on Channel 8 and 10. Federal law says that if Mediacom sends out a signal with an antenna they have the right to be within channels 8 through 22. Mediacom will work with Wartburg College and get back to the City when the Cable/Telecommunication Commission can meet again on the conversion from analog to digital cable programming.

B. Review of streaming video results.

Leisure Services Director Ray informed the Commission that the streaming video started May 3rd. There were 883 hits from May 3rd to September 3rd and there were 15 to 16 meetings during this time. There is an average of 15 people a night viewing the meetings. Most people watch the meetings in the evenings. Mr. Ray stated there is room to grow and feels the investment is where it should be as far as storage is concerned. Currently there are three meetings stored in the system. Staff will promote the streaming video and will check on Media on Demand.

Bruce Bahlmann was chosen as the chair of the Cable Telecommunications Commission.

Set Next Meeting Date: To be announced.

Adjournment: Suhr motioned adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo Raap, City Clerk