

North Metro Telecommunications Commission Meeting Talking Points

September 21, 2022

- ▶ North Metro TV's fall sports schedule is underway. Over the last month sports programming has been viewed over 14,000 times on the NMTV Youtube channel.
- ▶ The news team is busy with election related coverage. Candidate biographies are being posted to the website, candidate interviews for contested city races will be produced, and a live election results program will be produced.
- ▶ A new reporter/host/anchor has been hired to replace Rusty Ray. Rusty left NMTV in August for a full time reporting job at WCCO AM radio. Eric Nelson has years of experience in broadcast news for affiliates in Iowa and for CCX in Brooklyn Park. He has also been a sports announcer for CBS and WCCO radio. He will start on October 4th, just in time for election programming!
- ▶ Closed captioning is now available on all North Metro TV cable and streaming platforms. There were a lot of technical problems that took the entire summer to work out, but the technical staff of Video Engineer, Matt Waldron, and Programming Coordinator, Michele Silvester, made it happen. There hasn't been an announcement yet, as staff wants to be sure it continues to work, and that they are completely comfortable with the process.
- ▶ The second quarter franchise and PEG fees from Comcast were received. PEG fees continue to slowly decrease, as expected, but the franchise fees were slightly higher than last quarter.
- ▶ The results of a metro-wide pay study are being considered by the Operations Committee. According to the data it appears that North Metro salaries are on the low end. The Committee is working on several issues, including exempt vs. non-exempt status for certain jobs, positions that have changed with the addition of new responsibilities, and how best to equitably introduce any step payment plan changes, if necessary. Other considerations include the budget and timing for any changes.
- ▶ The 2021 Commission audit was presented and approved.

PLEASE encourage your council members to call me if they have any questions you can't answer. I would be happy to answer any questions they may have. Heidi Arnson at NMTV. Direct line is 763-231-2801. Email is harnson@northmetrotv.com.