

North Metro Telecommunications Commission Meeting Talking Points

June 16, 2021

- ▶ North Metro TV's production schedule has returned to normal. Summer events such as graduations, parades, USA Cup Soccer and safety camp are back in production. The first in-person, video production class series in over a year has been scheduled for mid-July.
- ▶ The proposed 2022 North Metro Telecommunications Commission was approved. There are some variables regarding income in 2022 so options were considered regarding capital purchases and whether to include a COLA increase for staff. 2022 should bring more clarity regarding income, and it was determined that budget reductions could take place, if necessary, when income questions are answered. The Operating budget would increase by \$14, 617 over the 2021 budget. The budget must be received by the Member Cities by August 1.
- ▶ The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals reached a decision regarding the appeal of the FCC's 621 Order concerning franchise fees. The Court upheld the Order, meaning that some services, which were previously provided at no cost to the Commission, will now have a cost. Originally the Order stated that cable companies could charge market rates for these services, but the Court ruled that only "marginal cost" could be recovered. That was a win for the Commission. Comcast must contact the Commission to determine what services we would like to continue receiving. Deductions from franchise fees should not happen until those decisions are made.

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.