

North Metro Telecommunications Commission Meeting Talking Points

October 21, 2020

- ▶ The North Metro TV News Team produced 40 “Meet the Candidate” forums across three weeks. The forums included candidates for local mayoral, city council, school board, county board, and state house and senate seats. Production staff also recorded League of Women Voters and Ham Lake Chamber of Commerce sponsored debates. Election related programming has gotten over 14,400 views on the NMTV YouTube page.
- ▶ The North Metro TV Sports Team has set the goal of producing every high school sporting event, for all three of the high schools they cover, LIVE. With attendance at sporting events limited, it seemed like providing a live feed of every game would be a service the community valued. This is being accomplished with the production truck and several single camera packages. The single camera feed is sent over the internet to the studio where a remote director adds graphics and then sends it out over the system. Only one feed can go out live on the cable and streaming channels at a time, but all feeds are available via a live Facebook and YouTube feed.
- ▶ The annual youth football championship bowls were recorded. The 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grade games went out live on all formats. There are many orders for blu-ray copies of the games and there will be a youth football marathon on the channels on Thanksgiving.
- ▶ NMTV staff is gearing up to assume responsibility for providing staff to tape city meetings starting in January. Staff is organizing schedules and starting the interview process for several freelancers.
- ▶ A tentative settlement agreement has been reached regarding the Franchise and PEG Fee Review. A few final details are still being discussed. There should be a final recommendation to present to the Operations Committee and Cable Commission at the next meetings.
- ▶ The North Metro Telecommunications Commission is going through franchise renewal. A draft franchise document has been submitted to Comcast. We are waiting for their response to the document.
- ▶ All briefs have been filed in the FCC’s 621 Order. We are not waiting for oral arguments to be scheduled.
- ▶ CenturyLink has filed notice that they plan to leave the cable TV market, in the North Metro, by December 16, 2020. They will still provide broadband and telephone service.
- ▶ Blaine Commission member, Richard Swanson, was recognized for his 23 years serving on the Cable Commission.

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.

