

North Metro Telecommunications Commission Meeting Talking Points

June 17, 2020

- ▶ North Metro TV has reopened to the public. Safety measures such as distancing, occupancy limits, requiring masks and gloves, and sanitizing between uses are in place. The public is restricted to certain portions of the building. Staff is working staggered shifts and some continue to work from home as appropriate.
- ▶ NMTV staff worked with Blaine and Centennial High Schools to produce virtual graduation ceremonies.
- ▶ The Commission approved the recommended 2021 NMTC budget. Overall, the budget was \$42, 306 less than the previous year's budget. Franchise and PEG fee income were estimated very conservatively. While an up to 3% COLA increase was budgeted, that amount will be revisited after the third quarter, when income for 2021 is more concrete. NMTV will begin providing freelancers to record all city meetings beginning in January 2021. This will save cities money as staff will no longer be paid from city budgets to record meetings. Franchise fees being returned to cities remains at the 2020 level. However, as franchise fees decrease, the percentage of franchise fees returned to cities has increased.
- ▶ Comcast has submitted a proposal for settling the Franchise and PEG Fee Audit covering the period from January 1, 2015 through March 31, 2018. Staff and legal counsel will meet with Comcast over the summer to consider the proposal. It is estimated that a settlement agreement could be ready to be presented to the Operations Committee and Cable Commission in September.

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.