

North Metro Telecommunications Commission Meeting Talking Points

June 15, 2022

- ▶ NMTV has a busy summer schedule with coverage of graduations, city festivals, parades, events, and USA Cup soccer.
- ▶ The News team has started the election season off with a story highlighting several local races. Viewers were introduced to the candidates for the Anoka County Board of Commissioners, Blaine City Council, Anoka County Sheriff, and Anoka County Attorney. Danika and Rusty will be posting candidate biographies on the NMTV website, and producing in-studio interviews with each candidate. They will also produce a live election results show. .
- ▶ All of the equipment required to provide closed captioning has been installed. The next steps are to complete the commissioning process, run some tests, work out any bugs and then go live with captioning on all live and prerecorded programs
- ▶ First quarter franchise and PEG fees were received from Comcast at the end of April. While both were down, as expected, the franchise fees remain at a relatively steady amount, with PEG fees dropping more, as subscriber levels drop off.
- ▶ The 2023 North Metro Telecommunications Commission budget was approved. The recommended operating budget increased by \$59,589 over the 2022 budget. Increases include a COLA increase of up to 2.75% for staff, a \$30 per month/per employee increase in the benefits package, building maintenance, bandwidth, insurance, and building utilities line-items. Capital expenditures decreased by \$39,161 from the 2022 budget. Recommended capital expenditures include a replay system for the production truck, tripods, cameras, office computers, parking lot repairs, a new electronic sign, the HD bond payment, and PEG fees returned to cities. The total 2023 budget is \$20, 248 higher than the 2022 budget.
- ▶ On-boarding materials for new operations committee and cable commission members were presented. They include a summary of the duties and procedures of the organization, services provided by NMTV, a Meet the Staff document, meeting schedules, contact information, and links to several documents including the history of the 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.