

MINUTES
Harris Town Board
PUBLIC HEARING – Cable PEG Fees
May 4th, 2011 – Harris Town Hall

The Harris Town Board met on Wednesday, May 4th, 2011 at 7:30pm at the Harris Town Hall for a public hearing as posted and published on April 24, 2011. The purpose of this public hearing was to discuss the request from the Grand Rapids Area Cable Commission (GRACC) to increase PEG fees from cable television subscribers by \$0.25/month as allowed by the franchising authority with Mediacom and Paul Bunyan Communications.

The following officers were present: Supervisors Dennis Kortekaas, Gary Rosato, and Larry Key, and Clerk Michele Smith. Absent: Treasurer Becky Adams.

Also in attendance was Beth George, representing both GRACC and ICTV. There were no residents in attendance.

The Public Hearing was called to order by Chairman Rosato at 7:30pm, and turned over to Beth George.

Beth explained to the board that in 2006, the Cable Commission and its supporting communities implemented a PEG (Public, Education and Government) fee as allowable by the Franchise Agreements with Paul Bunyan and Mediacom. Since inception, Paul Bunyan allowed up to a \$2.00 monthly fee while the Franchise Agreement with Mediacom was set at \$.75 monthly for the first three years. Language in the Franchise Agreement with Mediacom does allow \$.25 incremental increases in the PEG fees after that first three years.

Any increase in fees requires a public hearing, and unanimous approval of the increase, by the all supporting entities: City of Grand Rapids, City of Cohasset, City of LaPrairie and the Township of Harris.

The Cable Commission is requesting that all Paul Bunyan and Mediacom cable customers pay an additional \$0.25 per month, per subscriber, effective January 2012. They are currently paying \$0.75/month per subscriber. **The overall increase for any one subscriber would be an additional \$3.00 a year.**

The additional PEG fees would raise approximately \$1,600 /year from Harris Township subscribers, and would go to support Itasca Community Television, Inc. (ICTV) capital expenditures, such as updating their cameras, and equipment.

With no further questions by the board, and no residents in attendance, a motion was made by Supervisor Kortekaas, seconded by Supervisor Key, to close the public hearing for PEG fees at 7:35pm. Discussion: A vote on this issue will be put on the agenda for the May 11th Regular Meeting of the Harris Town Board. Upon roll call, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Smith, Harris Twp Clerk