

Work Session
Public meeting PEG Fees
April 5, 2017 7:00 pm
Minutes

Present were Supervisor Jim Kelley, Supervisor Peggy Clayton, Supervisor Mike Scheck, Supervisor Ken Haubrich, Burl Ives, Beth George, Charles Beck, Clerk Cari Alleman.

1. **Pledge to the flag**, followed by the reading of the township mission statement
2. Question from the floor about the PEG Fees- ICTV- Beth George Executive Director for ICTV we receive two sets of fees from communities for ICTV. The franchise fee is 3% of the franchise fees we get from Media Com and Paul Bunyan.

Media Com say you can go up to 2 dollars per household total, and Paul Bunyan says you can only do a .25 increase once every three years.

Building, cameras, cameras to loan to community, and to keep everything operational, and keeping the computers updated are some of the things the franchise fees help pay for. The back room "brains" keeps the programing going. We have the maintenance and heat maintenance project we are currently saving up for. Part of that is we are saving up for a new roof so it won't leak. Nice amount to plan for if we raise the franchise fee to \$3.00 per house hold.

The franchise fees that are collected though Harris Township we are able to keep about 3% or \$500, the rest goes to the cable commission and they give about 80% of the fees to ICTV. The cable commission did a project to buy nice sound equipment. The biggest expense ICTV has is people. The cost and the budget is about \$300,000 a year. They have to fundraise about \$100,000 a year.

One of the biggest things for the Supervisors of Harris Township is when you are in the grocery store and people come up to you and say they saw you on TV. Our community in unique as we have a nice community based TV station. Other communities who have public stations they are not quite as nice as ours. As community public TV we have a very good public TV stations and it keeps our community informed very well. A lot more people watch the ICTV stations then we thought.

ICTV has channels 2,5, & 7. Channel two is lectures. Channel 5 is the community bulletin. Anything that is happening at Harris Township is all on the middle channel. Channel 7 is government 24/7. We have the live TV and we have web page which is called live on demand and you can watch TV all on demand. We maintain a You Tube channel; "Outdoors with Tom Chappen". You tube came and gave them pointers to get more views. They have about 300 followers on Facebook.

A question was asked if they have numbers how many people know how many watch Harris Township meetings? Beth explained we know there are lots who watch the meetings, but there is not a way to look to see who watches it as it could be on either media com or Paul Bunyan.

Bulletin channel is channel 5 and the board asked if the public meeting schedule is on there; and how do we get eh information to ICTV to put on the bulletin channel? Email is the most popular and we have staff that cross references the newspaper to put it on our bulletin channel and on our website. The email is ictv@watchictv.com we can send them and they will put it on the bulletin page.

Charles Beck has utilized ICTV with Car Club and the Northern Minnesota Building Association and he is amazed how many people watch and come up to and say they saw you on TV. It is a great asset to our community.

We (ICTV) would like to eventually educate people of the franchise agreements, and what the future holds for this agreement. These franchise agreements are only contracted for 15 years and then we have to re-do a contract. In the next couple of years they are going to change and we might not have a chance to get funding like this or it will change the dynamics to what we are doing and

what we are able to do in the future. We are learning what coming down the pipe and internet providers and not going to call themselves telephone providers anymore. ICTV would like a representative from Harris Township to travel to the meeting MACTA is having to see all the people who deal with telecommunications. It would be great to have a representative go to the meeting. It's the loss of control for the township because the companies can then decide where and when they are going to go in. They don't have to ask for permission and it's losing the rights of our ditches that we have to maintain. We could be pulling in more franchise fees, more peg fees, more money. We need to talk to community relations person for Media Com.

Losing control of the ditches and land for Harris Township, is a concern for us.

Motion to adjourn made by Supervisor Haubrich seconded by Supervisor Clayton at 7:25 pm.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cami".