



# Forest Lake Cable Commission Meeting

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~



Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 • 4:00 PM • Lakes Area TV/FLHS Production Studio

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at **4:05 PM** by Dianne Halfen

## 2. ROLE CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Dianne Halfen	Chair	Present	
Paul Girard	Commissioner	Present	
Jeff Duraine	Commissioner	Present	
Doug Wood	Commissioner	Present	

Jason Sachs -Midco

Dan Udem – FL City Administrator Assistant

Paul Peterson – LATV Access Coordinator

Jill Green – LATV Administrative Assistant

## MIDCO MINUTES May 2019

Jason Sachs started out the Annual Midco Meeting with an update as to where Midco is as well as the new products being introduced in the future.

Midco is launching a new business product called “Hosted VoIP”. It is a phone/voicemail supply for businesses. This is hopefully going to be ready in 2020.

The new MDU bulk internet/wireless for apartment buildings is in process as well. This is an option for buildings to pay for the whole building to have internet/wireless as opposed to each tenant purchasing on their own.

About a year ago, Midco purchased a fixed wireless company. They received a 39-million-dollar grant that will be used to help them expand into more rural areas and keep their business growing.

Regarding Forest Lake and the expansion of internet capabilities, when Midco put the head end of fibers by the water tower, they were unaware it was over water lines, so they are going to use the head ends in Cambridge. A head end can push internet out from the fibers and moving to Cambridge will not affect internet in Forest Lake or Columbus at all. It is just changing which head end is being used as the main starting point.

Midco is working on a new product called “ITP TV”. This product is like Netflix and Hulu where you



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download an app on your phone, tablet or smart tv. They are hoping to launch this closer to the end of the 2019 year.

Cable subscriptions are dropping, which is typical and was expected, it is common everywhere with Netflix and Hulu being available. Paul stated he would like a list of subscribers and wasn't sure where to get those numbers. He is going to talk with Colleen and see if she gets a monthly subscriber list when she receives the monthly payment from franchise fees.

Jason is also going to investigate it and let Paul know what he finds out.

Jeff was curious if Columbus was going to get service in the new development areas off Broadway and Notre Dame and if there were fibers ran to the NE Corner of 97 E and 35E. Jason stated there is internet service in the new development area but Midco was not a part of it and Midco does have fibers run to the 35 – 97 split.

Columbus is in process of going live, Jason offered some solutions and a tech will be scheduled to come take a look.

Dianne mentioned the FCC document that was discussed at a Cable Commission meeting earlier in the year. Jason stated the biggest change will be with the "free accounts", meaning the City hall, Fire Departments, Police stations etc. These are free because of the franchise agreement within the city. This change hasn't been approved and if it is, it will make the "free accounts" payable through franchise fees. If anything changes, Jason assured the commission that they will know well in advance.

Current Subscribers in Forest Lake are as follows: 2244 Video, 3998 Video, 854 Phone  
Columbus: 253 video, 427 internet, 135 phone. Internet is steadily rising.

*Lakes Area Television's mission is to collaborate with people and organizations in the communities we serve to bring quality programming and learning opportunities while being fiscally responsible under direction of the Forest Lake  
Lakes Area Television's vision is to Educate, Inform, Entertain and Involve people  
Cable Commission.*

*within the Cities of the Joint Powers Agreement as directed by the Forest Lake Cable Commission.*