



# Forest Lake Cable Commission Meeting



Regular Meeting  
~ Minutes ~

Wednesday, July 27th, 2022, • 4:00 PM • Forest Lake City Center

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting was called to order at **4:03 PM** by Dianne Halfen

## 2. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Dianne Halfen	Chair	Present	
Hanna Valento	Commissioner	Absent	
Sue Wagamon	Commissioner	Present	
Doug Wood	Commissioner	Present	

Other noted attendees:

- Paul Peterson – LATV Access Coordinator
- Jill Green – LATV Administrative Assistant
- Jason Sachs (MIDCO)
- Casey Morris (MIDCO)

## MIDCO MINUTES JULY 27, 2022

Jason started the meeting by sharing subscriber counts. Forest Lake had 5019 in 2021 and 5252 in 2022, a gain of 233. Columbus had 608 in 2021 and 646 in 2022, a gain of 38. As a note: Scandia had 717 in 2021 and 844 in 2022, a gain of 87.

Video subscribers (PEG Revenue) in Forest Lake in 2021 were 1860 and 1888 in 2022 a gain of 28, Columbus had 252 in 2021 and 237 in 2022, a loss of 15.

Midco has gained 231 subscribers in Forest Lake and 91 in Columbus from 2021 to 2022. These were data customer gains not video.

From a franchise perspective, LATV gained 13 video subscribers, which in return is more revenue for LATV.

Jason mentioned the new IP tv product benefit to subscribers, he stated it doesn't help LATV due to it being categorized as a data customer not a video subscriber.

MIDCO TV is available in the Forest Lake area, the product was launched in February 2022. It is an add-on to regular service. The goal is to encourage customers to get MIDCO TV as it will free up bandwidth.

MIDCO is expanding to 84 homes and businesses in Forest Lake on Jensen Avenue and in the Goodview business park due to a Washington County grant.



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In Columbus, projects that have passed to expand to developments which will give 284 homes access to MIDCO.

MIDCO has also been working in conjunction with Forest Lake to put in a MN State Broadband Grant that will encompass 341 homes. The grant also includes a small part of Columbus, If approved, the project will start in 2023.

Jason talked about a new product that MIDCO is developing: an app that would be downloaded to your phone, tablet etc. And customers would be able to stream T.V from their device. Much like a firestick would work.

“Plume” is a new mesh network WIFI product that MIDCO is hoping to roll out to customers at the end of this year or early next year. The “Plume” is a WIFI extender. It plugs into an outlet and “talks” to your network, so you won’t need to use numerous extenders. This new product can also tell you what is going on with your internet if you are having any issues.

Over the next 6 or 7 years, MIDCO will be doing existing network upgrades. They will be splitting fibers in all locations to increase the speed for customers.

2021 was the first year MIDCO was able to be considered for the JD Power Award Program. They rank internet providers by region. MIDCO is part of the western region and was ranked number 1 in customer satisfaction for residential services and for performance reliability, communications and billing payments.

Jason finished up the meeting by discussing a MIDCO grant that nonprofits can apply for. Paul and Jason discussed this in detail as Paul will be applying for it and using Jason as a sponsor.

*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 Cable Commission.*

*Lakes Area Television’s vision is to Educate, Inform, Entertain, and Involve people within the Cities of the Joint Powers Agreement as directed by the Forest Lake Cable Commission.*