

1. Franchise Renewal – Discussion regarding the franchise renewal with Spectrum.
Our current franchise agreement expired in 2008 and is being used to in the absence of a new one. There are changes in law that will affect the renewal going forward to include federal law that will allow cable companies to bill back the cities for in-kind services like cable drops, digital boxes and other items deemed billable by the cable companies. This would have a negative impact on our current franchise fees and revenue streams for both PEG and the cities of L/A. It was mentioned that negotiations should wait until the appeals and changes become clearer and the cities can better negotiate the new agreement.
2. Other Law changes – Laws were passed in Maine that went into effect in November of 2019 that would require the cable companies to carry PEG signals based on the individual PEG station’s signal format. Currently cable providers only allow for standard definition signals to be transmitted. The new law would allow stations to broadcast in High Definition if they have the equipment to do so. Other changes would require cable companies to complete more build-out of services to rural communities.
3. Changes to By-Laws and Interlocal Agreement – Some changes need to be made to address meeting times and dates, establishing a quorum and other items.
4. Committee membership and recruitment – Ways to recruit new members and changes in city representation was discussed.
5. Budget and Equipment – Brief discussion on financial resources, budgeting considerations. Revenue from PEG comes from a 40% share in the franchise fees.
6. Chairperson – Discussed the need for a committee chairperson to schedule and coordinate meetings and record meeting minutes.
7. Programing – Question was asked about what shows do we air for programming and how do we obtain content. Phil L. will discuss at a later meeting.
8. Local Content for broadcast – Member asked about the types of locally produced content on GFTV. Current staff will cover local events like annual parades, adult ed graduations etc... We need to engage the community to get training and help produce more local content.
9. GFTV studio – GFTV shares a studio with the media arts program at Edward Little High School. There are issues with scheduling conflicts, accessible parking and the policy of guests needing to check in at the main desk to get access to the studio. Intercom and classroom noise make it difficult to record shows.