

Lower Makefield Township  
Electronic Media Advisory Council  
September 27, 2018  
Meeting Minutes

Present: Zachary Rubin, Chairman; Lisa Gage; John Lewis, BOS Liaison; Joshua Waldorf

Also in attendance was Bob Abrams, a Township resident

Mr. Rubin called the EMAC meeting to order at 7:30pm and asked Mr. Abrams to address the Council on his reason for attending.

Mr. Abrams explained that he had attended a Board of Supervisors meeting with a complaint about his contract with Verizon. At that meeting, the Supervisors had suggested that he present his complaint to the EMAC. The complaint revolved around what Mr. Abrams described as "bait and switch" on the part of Verizon. Mr. Abrams' previous contract had included a free DVR for life. When he recently renewed his contract, the free DVR was not included and he was told that, if he wanted the DVR, he would have to pay for it.

Mr. Rubin provided some background information on the Township's contract with Verizon. And he explained that the Township has no power over programming or pricing. After discussion of options for a next step, it was agreed that Mr. Lewis will get in touch with his contact at Verizon on behalf of Mr. Abrams.

**Approval of April minutes** – The minutes were not available for review.

**Discussion of 5G** – Mr. Rubin provided an article on 5G, the 5<sup>th</sup> generation of wireless technology, to update the Council on its status. On September 26, the FCC voted "to make it easier and cheaper to place 800,000 small antennas for super-fast 5G services on utility poles, traffic lights, sidewalks, and other public areas." The ruling was a victory for Verizon but raised concerns for some municipalities. Philadelphia, Santa Barbara, CA and other municipalities have criticized the new rules as "subsidies to profitable wireless companies through low fees and mandated quick response times for 5G antenna applications that will flood local government offices."

Mr. Rubin wanted to make the members aware that 5G will undoubtedly be an issue for Lower Makefield in the future.

**Verizon Franchise Negotiation** – There is nothing new to report on the franchise negotiation. The deadline is November 17.

**Community Clips** – Ms. Gage reported that the theme of the most recent video she and Ms. Schreiber produced was Community Pride Day, and she explained that this video is accessible to LMT residents in a variety of ways. The link will be sent out to the Townships' 7,400 emails. Their plan is to produce two shorter videos before the end of the year, one directed to new residents and one on economic

development. Ms. Gage will attend a budget meeting to advocate that there be money included in the 2019 budget for additional videos.

**Old Business** – Mr. Rubin expressed an interest in meeting with the new Township Manager, along with Mr. Waldorf, to discuss the possibility of adding a Communication Director position. Mr. Lewis said that they are focusing right now on budget talks and with all the budget challenges, he doesn't see that there is going to be enough in the budget to add this position in 2019.

With no further business to discuss, the September 27 meeting of the Electronic Media Advisory Council was adjourned at 8:45. The next meeting will be held on November 29, at 7:30pm, in the LMT Municipal Building.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zachary Rubin, Chairman