

Division 5. Cable Television and Telecommunications Commission

Sec. 2-101. Definition.

(a) As used in this division, the term "commission" shall mean the cable television and telecommunications commission created by section 2-102.

(b) "PEG", as used in this division, is an acronym for "public, educational and governmental" access facilities relating to:

(1) Channel capacity designated for public, educational, or governmental use; and

(2) Facilities and equipment for the use of such channel equipment.

(Ord. No. 2-13, 6-27-00)

Sec. 2-102. Created.

There is hereby created, in and for the county, a commission to be known as the cable television and telecommunications commission.

(Code 1980, § 20.1-1; Ord. of 7-28-87(3); Ord. No. 2-13, 6-27-00)

Sec. 2-103. Composition; qualification of members.

The cable television and telecommunications commission shall consist of seven (7) voting members and five (5) non-voting members as follows:

(1) The seven (7) voting members shall be appointed by the board of supervisors and shall consist of one (1) resident of the county from each election district.

(2) The five (5) non-voting members shall be the county administrator or his designated representative, the school superintendent or his designated representative, the director of information services or his designated representative, the director of the Central Rappahannock Regional Library or his designated representative, and the director of information services for

Germanna Community College or his designated representative. The commission shall have the ability to increase the number of non-voting members from time to time as may be warranted.

(Code 1980, § 20.1-3(A); Ords. of 7-28-87(3); 5-9-89(1); Ord. No. 2-1, 3-27-90; Ord. No. 2-13, 6-27-00)

Sec. 2-104. Terms of members.

(a) Each of the seven (7) voting members appointed by the board of supervisors shall be appointed to four-year terms.

(b) The five (5) non-voting members shall be permanent commission members.

(Code 1980, § 20.1-3(C), (D); Ords. of 7-28-87(3); 5-9-89(1); Ord. No. 2-1, 3-27-90; Ord. No. 2-13, 6-27-00)

Sec. 2-105. Chairperson.

The chairperson of the commission shall be selected from the seven (7) voting members.

(Code 1980, § 20.1-3(B); Ords. of 7-28-87(3); 5-9-89(1); Ord. No. 2-1, 3-27-90)

Sec. 2-106. Purposes and duties.

The purposes and duties for which the commission has been established are as follows:

(1) Review and consider subscriber complaints regarding grantee services and operations; assist in resolving disputes regarding the conduct and performance of the grantee in accordance with the cable television ordinance and franchise;

(2) Make an annual report on the status of local cable television and telecommunications operations in the county and the activities of the commission. This report shall also include the status and activities of any regional operations group in which the commission may participate as a result of the cable service provider's interconnected PEG channel network;

(3) Advise and assist the board of supervisors by reviewing, recommending and coordinating the deployment and use of advancing cable television and telecommunications technologies; informing the board of potential opportunities to improve the technical capabilities of local and regional cable television and telecommunications systems; assist the board of supervisors by providing the oversight function for the operation of the local PEG channel network and providing such representatives as may be required to serve on a regional operations group for the larger community network;

(4) Develop ways and means for promoting and utilizing the cable television system to further the objective of increased public participation and awareness of local government activities and events of regional significance;

identify and recommend public and private funding sources to create, provide, expand and improve cable television and telecommunications content and services in the public interest;

(5) Advise and assist the board of supervisors in the consideration of the purchase of cable and related telecommunications equipment to achieve the stated objectives;

(6) Formulate recommendations to increase in-house governmental communications via the cable system;

(7) Advise the board of supervisors with regards to proposed rate changes for cable services;

(8) Monitor the activities and operation of the grantee to ascertain compliance with the requirements of the franchise; meet with representatives of the grantee as necessary to resolve problems and facilitate cable operations consistent with the franchise requirements;

(9) Keep the board of supervisors apprised of changes in FCC regulations and other statutes affecting the cable ordinance and system;

(10) Encourage the use of public access channels among a broad range of individuals, groups and institutions within the county; make recommendations of general policy to grantee relating to the use of public access channels;

(11) Assist the board of supervisors in the overall process of cable franchisement, as required by the board of supervisors;

(12) Conduct periodic informal hearings to solicit and evaluate subscriber views of cable service.

(Code 1980, § 20.1-2; Ord. of 7-28-87(3); Ord. No. 2-13, 6-27-00)

Sec. 2-107. Meetings.

(a) The commission shall meet at least six (6) times per year. Additional meetings may be held, as required, and shall be called by the chairperson upon a minimum of ten (10) days notice to all members. Such notice may be waived upon the presence and consent of all members at any meeting called by the chairperson.

(b) All meetings shall be open to the public in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Code of Virginia, §2.1-390 et seq.).

(c) ~~Four (4) voting members shall constitute a quorum.~~ Quorum and Method of Voting -

1. Current members of the Commission are referred to as “active” members. A “Quorum” is defined as the minimum number of officers and members of a constituted body who must be present for the valid transaction of business. The number necessary to represent a quorum for the Commission is the majority of the non-vacant seats of “active” members.

2. If a member misses three consecutive meetings during the calendar year, the Board has the option to declare them an “inactive” member. An “inactive” member is then sent a letter from the Director of Information Services requesting their objective in serving as a member of the Commission. If it is the desire of the member to step down, the Commission will request the Board of Supervisors to appoint a successor. However, if the member wishes to continue to serve on the Commission, he is to contact the Director of Information Services stating his intentions to continue his service on the Commission.

(Code 1980, § 20.1-3; Ords. of 7-28-87(3); 5-9-89(1); Ord. No. 2-1, 3-27-90; Ord. No. 2-13, 6-27-00)

Secs. 2-108--2-125. Reserved.