

VERIZON FIOS TV UPDATE

Many residents, when trying to obtain FIOS TV from Verizon, are told that the Township is holding things up. This is not the case. The Township is waiting for Verizon to present us with a franchise agreement. Mr. Daniel Reavy, the Verizon municipal representative assigned to Franklin Township has repeatedly stated that the holdup is with Verizon, not the Township. If you speak to a representative who blames the holdup on the Township, please get the name of the representative and contact Mr. Reavy at 215-362-1900.

As you may know, the franchise agreement provides a source of revenue for the Township from the cable supplier. Under federal law, municipalities essentially serve as the cable company's "landlord". For a fee, the companies place cable lines and other equipment in the public rights-of-way. The agreement between the cable company and the township for payment of this fee is the basis of the franchise agreement.

Background: In early 2013, Mr. Todd Darlington (former municipal representative) and an attorney from the Verizon Franchise Department met with Township Supervisors and staff to discuss the franchise agreement and timeline. Verizon stated that they would be offering FIOS TV to those residents who already have the FIOS infrastructure in place (approx. 94% of the Township) and a franchise agreement was in the works.

Although we were in contact with Verizon over the next several months, no agreement was presented. In late 2013, a representative of Verizon stated we were in a holding pattern and Verizon resources would be directed to different areas of Pennsylvania. That's the last information the Township has.

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