

CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL (Litchfield)

MINUTES

Thursday, September 10, 2015

The regular meeting of the Cable Television Advisory Council (Litchfield) was held on Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the Oliver Wolcott Library, South Street, Litchfield, Connecticut. A quorum was present: Steven Simonin, Chairman, Lucille Paige, Torrington; Richard Antonetti, Denise Russ, Watertown; Marie Soliani, Torrington, Andy MacDavid, Cornwall, John Angevine, Warren. Absent: Jeff Dunn, Thomaston; John Luciano, Torrington; Gary Lafferty, Watertown; Diane Knox, Litchfield

Also present: Jennifer Young, *Cablevision*.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Upon a motion by Lucille Paige, seconded by Denise Russ, the agenda was approved as presented. Vote unanimous.

Correspondence/E-mails: None

Treasurer's Report: None

Upon a motion by Richard Antonetti, seconded by Denise Russ, the minutes of the meetings of March 12, 2015 and June 25, 2015 were approved as submitted. Voted unanimous.

Town Representatives' Reports:

Richard Antonetti, Watertown, reported on his and the City of Watertown's representation on this Council. Lucille Paige will send an updated copy of the Cable Television Advisory Council By-Laws to the Selectman of Watertown, which states the number of representatives seating per town is guided by that town's population.

Mr. Antonetti cited the good response to his constituents from Jennifer Young, *Cablevision* representative to this Council. He also questioned if the renting of the black boxes will continue or will *Cablevision* allow the boxes to be purchased outright from *Cablevision*. Ms. Young reported that the FCC is reviewing the entire Cable Television Act and issues with security factors, etc. This conversation/activity is ongoing now with the FCC. She suggested that feedback regarding the boxes and other items may be forthcoming.

Andrew MacDavid and the people from Cornwall – Cornwall is the only town in Region One School District that is within the *Cablevision* franchise – are questioning the granting of the Cable Television Scholarship to a Housatonic Valley Regional High School senior from other towns that are not under the *Cablevision* franchise. Lucille Paige, Secretary, will contact the Guidance Department at Housatonic Valley Regional High School for clarification.

Denise Russ asked why some programs such as Diners, Drive-ins and Dives, Food Network, telecast the same programs repeatedly. Jennifer Young will investigate.

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John Angevine suggested that the awarding of the Cable Television Advisory Council can be expanded to students attending agriculture programs or other studies. Additionally, customer service representatives of *Cablevision* often do not speak “understandable” English, resulting in the serviceman not bringing the proper equipment, or parts to service the problem. This has required three or four visits from the *Cablevision* serviceman to fix the one problem.

Tech Netflix account was not working for 2/3 months.

Marie Soliani received complaints about the tier “packages” being tied in with too many Spanish speaking channels. While she doesn’t object to Spanish channels being offered, her subscribers of who do not speak/nor understand Spanish are being forced to pay for channels they cannot watch because they are tied in with those channels they want and do watch. Jennifer Young explained that some packages are required to carry Spanish channels by the FCC. She added that the FCC is moving in the direction of “ala carte” offerings (due to overwhelming demand nationally). Currently “ala carte” can be had through the internet only.

Steven Simonin, in his ongoing dialogue with US Senator Blumenthal and others, will stress the dissatisfaction with the majority of consumers to forced programming with “tiers” and denial of “ala carte” offerings.

Steven Simonin again rendered his complaint of black out of the Russian channels that he subscribes to. He mentioned the connector if amplifier levels from the pole onto the house and this signal loss not being picked up by the head end department. The head end department should be able to detect his signal before a call is necessary.

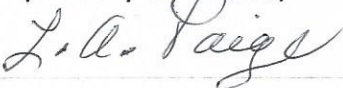
Jennifer Young reported that from the FCC study/review of the Cable Television Act, an “executive summary” will be available before a final report is made public.

Ms. Young also reported that a new “free on demand” “H2” program is now available. This channel concentrates on history, science, technology and pop culture. TV to go.

HBO is now on the internet service launch; many are “on demand”, some are stand alone service through *Cablevision* if you are a broad-band subscriber.

Upon a motion by Richard Antonetti, seconded by John Angevine, the Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Lucille A. Paige, Secretary