

Cable Television Advisory Council
Tuesday, April 17, 2013

A regular meeting of the Cable Television Advisory Council of Litchfield was held on Wednesday, April 17, 2013. A quorum was present: Chairman, Stephen Simonin, Litchfield; Gary Gault, Litchfield; Andrew MacDavid, Cornwall; John Angevine, Warren; Gary Crowley, Torrington Board of Education; Lucille Paige, Torrington. Absent: Jeff Dunn, Thomaston; Gary Lafferty, Watertown; Diane Knox, Litchfield; John Luciano, Torrington and Christopher Anderson, Torrington.

Also present: Jennifer Young, *Cablevision*; Mary-Ellen Spiegel, Litchfield; Joseph Manes, Litchfield; James Schultz, Warren.

Mr. Simonin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Upon a motion by Ms. Paige, seconded by Mr. Angevine, the Council moved unanimously to approve the minutes of January 24, 2013. Reporting for Treasurer, Diane Knox, Mr. Simonin reported the balance of \$350.43 in the Council's checkbook. In that the stipend from *Cablevision* (\$2,000) was not received, nor has the check been shown as cashed, Mrs. Young will cancel the original and FEDEX a new check to Mr. Simonin, who in turn will mail the check to Treasurer, Knox.

Under Town Representatives' reports, Mr. Gault has been given informal conversation from some of his constituents in Litchfield wherein a majority feel they are against the \$5.00 increase in fees; many residents are exploring alternatives to *Cablevision* for cable provider. Mr. Angevine reported that many residents are very unhappy with the surcharge now appearing on all *Cablevision* billing for solely receiving sports programs in their chosen tier. Mrs. Young explained the reasons for these increases. A discussion took place on "ala carte" choices for *Cablevision* customers. Mr. Schultz explained how to get rid of the "box" and still receive prime channels – TV's having QAM tuner.

A discussion was held regarding power outages and the results of loss of power relative to *Cablevision*. Most *Cablevision* lines are overhead, but new lines installed in new building divisions are going underground.

Mr. Simonin reported his repeated attempts to get answers from Representative John Piscopo, Chairman of the Energy and Technology Committee in the legislature regarding new bills relative to cable television. A discussion took place on a bill that would rescind regulations on the cable television providers in the state of Connecticut. Conversely, the FCC sent information regarding digital transport, along with mandated "proof of performance test". One can google FCC and find bill number 12-217 for more details.

Upon a motion by Mr. Gault, seconded by Mr. Angevine, the Council unanimously moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**The next meeting of this Council will be held on
Thursday, June 27, 2013, 7:00 p.m. at the Oliver
Wolcott Library, South St., Litchfield, CT.**

Lucille A. Paige, Secretary

CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL
Thursday, January 24, 2013

A meeting of the Litchfield Cable Television Advisory Council was held on Thursday, January 24, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Oliver Wolcott Library in Litchfield, Connecticut. Present: Stephen Simonin, Chairman; Diane Knox, Litchfield; Lucille Paige, Torrington; Michael Chowaniec, *Cablevision*; Darlene Clouther, Litchfield Democratic Town Committee.

Mr. Simonin called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Ms. Paige, the agenda was approved as submitted.

Under public participation, Mrs. Clouther questioned the increases in her *Cablevision* services. Mr. Chowaniec explained the price increases noting the small increase of \$5.00 on Optimum Online and \$5.00 on basic broadcast.

Mrs. Knox asked Mr. Chowaniec if *Cablevision* had experienced decrease in subscriptions to change overs Direct TV. Mr. Chowaniec advised there has been some movement, but increases in other services from Cablevision. He cited the increase in completion with *Netflix*, video service.

Under correspondence, Ms. Paige reported on the inquiry from Thomaston High School regarding the Council's annual scholarship distribution. Mrs. Clouther received correspondence from a member of the town of Cornwall indicating interest in television on the local station the town's Selectmen's meetings and the Cornwall Board of Education meetings. Litchfield and Torrington televise their Board of Education meetings. Mr. Chowaniec will have Mrs. Jennifer Young (*Cablevision*) investigate the process.

Mrs. Knox, Treasurer, reported that the balance in the Council's account as of 1/24/13 is \$493.10.

The consensus of the members in attendance approved Mr. Stephen Simonin to serve on the State of Connecticut Video Advisory Council. There are twenty-four (24) State Council members representing cable television providers.

A discussion was held that arrived at proposed meeting dates for 2013 for public notification:

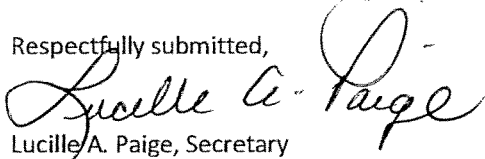
Wednesday, March 6, 2013
Thursday, June 27, 2013
Thursday, September 12, 2013
Thursday, January 9, 2014

Ms. Paige will contact Mr. Doug Parker for notice to be made in the *LitchfieldBZ news paper*, WZBG Radio, as well as the other standard newspapers in the area franchise.

Mr. Chowaniec, *Cablevision* representative reported that *Cablevision* adequately addressed the recent outages in service. Future techniques will enable customers/subscribers to monitor their own service to their homes via the internet. Credits to customers' statements can be given but only from a phone call to *Cablevision*; credits due to outages cannot be given automatically.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Lucille A. Paige, Secretary

Approved as submitted at the April 17, 2013 meeting.