

CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL (Litchfield)

MINUTES

Thursday, January 15, 2015

The regular meeting of the Cable Television Advisory Council was held on Thursday, January 15, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. at the Oliver Wolcott Library, South Street, Litchfield, CT. A quorum was present: Steven Simon, Chairman, Litchfield; Gary Lafferty, Watertown; Jeff Dunn, Thomaston; Andrew MacDavid, Cornwall; Diane Knox, Litchfield, Lucille Paige, Torrington. Absent: John Angevine, Warren; Richard Antonetti, Raymond Nardella, Denise Russ, Watertown, John Luciano, Torrington; Jerry Gault, Litchfield, Marie Soliani, Torrington. Also present: Jennifer Young, *Cablevision*.

Mr. Simonin called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Upon a motion by Diane Knox, seconded by Steven Simonin, the agenda was unanimously approved as submitted.

Public Participation: None

Correspondence: Diane Knox received written question from subscriber who was having problems setting her DVR in that the last 30 seconds of current program was passed over and the 30 seconds of the previous program were missed. This customer cannot seem to adjust it to the right sequence to cover those lost minutes. Both Jennifer Young and Steven Simonin were able to advise instructions.

Lucille Paige reported that she sent to Jennifer Young, at Cablevision, the letter of request for the \$2000. Stipend from *Cablevision* for this Council. Ms. Young will double check the process for prompt receipt of the stipend. (Stipend is used to award \$250. scholarships to the seven high schools in this franchise to a graduating senior at their awards ceremony.)

Upon a motion by Diane Knox, seconded by Andrew MacDavid, the minutes of the September 11, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

Diane Knox, Treasurer, reported a balance in the checking account of \$242.73, as of January 15, 2015. Jeff Dunn suggested that henceforth copies all reimbursement checks, scholarship checks, and related expenditures be submitted to both the Chairman and the Treasurer. All Council members present agreed.

Upon a motion by Lucille Paige, seconded by Diane Knox, STEVEN SIMONIN was nominated to serve another term as Chairman. Voted unanimous.

Upon a motion by Andrew MacDavid, seconded by Gary Lafferty, DIANE KNOX was nominated to serve as Vice Chairman. Voted unanimous.

Upon a motion by Steven Simonin, seconded by Lucille Paige, DIANE KNOX was nominated to serve as Treasurer for another term. Voted unanimous.

Upon a motion by Steven Simonin, seconded by Diane Knox, LUCILLE PAIGE was nominated to serve as Secretary for another term. Voted unanimous.

Town Representatives Report: Cornwall, none. Jeff Dunn, Thomaston, asked why the black decoder boxes are still needed for each TV in a dwelling. Why cannot the newly developed "card" system be used instead. IP delivery? Jennifer Young replied that *Cablevision* is not moving toward this. Steven Simonin suggested this would increase costs to subscribers. A brief discussion took place on the availability of using rabbit-ear type antenna for same results, in which regular channels off air are free. This change must emanate from the Federal level, not State. Steven Simonin is working with Senators Esty, Blumenthal, and Murphy on issues on behalf of Cable subscribers. The air waves are public. A brief discussion on the poor reception and delivery of the Russian channel was held, in that this channel drops off the box – re-activate? In addition, when watching the Russian channel, the picture size automatically reduces to a size too small to view. Why is the transmission rate reduced? Ms. Young will investigate. Lucille Paige received complaints from a few subscribers who resent the increases in costs of Cablevision.... Surcharges, internet, sports channels.

Steven Simonin had no report from the State Wide Cable Advisory Council.

It was noted that PURA no longer requests an annual report from each district Cable Advisory Council in the state.

New methods and contacts for increased notification about this Cable Advisory Council regarding meetings, activities and how to reach their (town) representatives were initiated. Input from the public, subscribers must be encouraged.

Upon a motion by Diane Knox, seconded by Lucille Paige, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille A. Paige, Secretary