

Cable Television Advisory Council – Litchfield
Meeting
January 14, 2010

A meeting of the Cable Television Advisory Council was held on Thursday, January 14, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at the Sullivan Senior Center, Torrington, Connecticut.

A quorum was seated: Chairman, Stephen Simonin, Litchfield; Diane Knox, Litchfield; Lucille Paige, John Luciano, Torrington; Andrew MacDavid, Cornwall; Bernie Harrington, Goshen; John Angevine, Warren; Jeff Dunn, Thomaston. Also present were Jennifer Young, Adam Falk, and Michael Chowniac and Representative Craig Miner, Litchfield.

Mr. Simonin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Upon a motion by Mr. Harrington, seconded by Mrs. Knox, the agenda was unanimously approved as submitted.

Correspondence: Letter from Mayor Ryan Bingham explaining that Cable Television Advisory Group, nor his office has any power to select the cable television provider for this area. Lucille Paige has received many e-mails from general public about Foodnetwork and HGTV loss during negotiations.

Upon a motion by Mr. Simonin, seconded by Mrs. Knox, the minutes of the meeting of October 22, 2009 were unanimously approved as submitted.

Mrs. Knox submitted the Treasurer's report: \$1,089.22 balance in CTAC checkbook as of 1/14/10.

Mr. Dunn commented on paying his Cablevision bill on-line and the timelines involved in payment being received. Mr. Harrington announced he will asked for responses for a new column "Town Topic". A consensus of the Cable Advisory Council members favored the creation of a website for public access. Mrs. Knox reported that she has received tons of e-mails and asked for information about the cost process of providing channels to subscribers. Mr. Angevine also wanted the same information; also he cited that there are cable boxes for each set that can be had that use only ½ the power that Cablevision boxes currently use. Ms. Paige asked if Cablevision has planned to offer credits to all their subscribers for the two channels that were lost, Foodnetwork/HCTV? Cablevision representative replied that they will not; citing packages vs. ala carte are not allowed. Mr. Dunn felt it would excellent PR if Cablevision announced that they would credit each subscriber's bill for the loss of the channels incurred by subscribers.

Representative Craig Miner @ Litchfield, asked if the State can enter into the mediation process with DPUC. He referred to the Connecticut General Statutes that a customer can compel DPUC, Sec.16-331 J©, requires 30 day notice. The contract with cable television providers cannot be held secret and should be published before the contract is signed, not after. Cablevision representatives present felt a 30-day prior notice was not feasible.

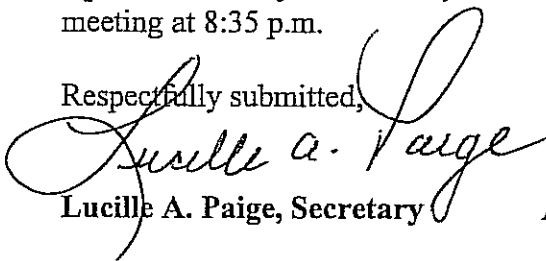
Mrs. Young, Cablevision, announced that a programming for public viewing with WAMOGO and Litchfield High School was up and running.

Mr. Simonin reported on his correspondence and meetings with Sen. Chris Dodd, Attorney Richard Blumenthal, Senator Lieberman's office and a letter sent to President Obama on the feasibility of getting a law in place that in creating "quality of picture" standards would also promote job creation; a bill of rights for consumers, create competition between cable and satellite. He cited the law that has arisen regarding the audio volume from commercials. Currently the DPUC has nothing in their regulations regarding video signal, stop/freezes on picture, channel compression, etc. The FCC requires Cablevision to provide a "box" for each TV, but it is Cablevision who chooses only to rent and not allow customers to purchase the box. A federal law is needed through FCC to regulate the cable television industry. Both Mrs. Knox and Mr. Dunn feel the State of Ct. needs to step in. Representative Miner suggested going through the Energy and Technology Department. A federal law for franchises must be non-exclusive.

Mr. MacDavid suggested I contact Vera Dineen, Town Clerk in Cornwall for the particular CGS that applies to swearing in and terms of Cable Television Advisory Council members.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mr. Dunn, the Council unanimously adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lucille A. Paige". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

Lucille A. Paige, Secretary

Approved as corrected at the March 11, 2010 meeting