

Cable Television Advisory Council (Litchfield)  
Tuesday, September 9, 2010

A regular meeting of the Cable Television Advisory Council of Litchfield was held on September 9, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., at the Sullivan Senior Center, Torrington, CT 06790. A quorum was seated: Chairman, Steven Simonin, Litchfield; John Luciano, Lucille Paige, Torrington; Jeff Dunn, Thomaston; John Willink, Litchfield; Gerry Crowley, Torrington Board of Education; Diane Knox, Litchfield; Bernie Harrington, Goshen; Chris Anderson, Torrington.

Also attending: Jennifer Young, Cablevision, Inc.

Mr. Simonin called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Upon a motion by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Mr. Willink, the agenda was approved as submitted.

Upon a motion by Mr. Willink, seconded by Mr. Luciano, the minutes of the June 24, 2010 meeting were approved as corrected. Mrs. Knox abstained.

Mr. Donald Heuschkel, Torrington asked about a Cable TV Council website and what the "charge" is of the Cable TV Advisory Council. Ombudsman for subscribers/public to DPUC, but have no regulatory powers. Mr. Heuschkel recommended legislation be passed to empower the Advisory Council and that he had had conversations with Sen. Liberman's office and Rep. Michelle Cook.

Mr. Harrington had correspondence regarding residents. Residents of Workman Apts. had problems with different charges on their Cablevision bills. Ms. Young of Cablevision will investigate.

Mrs. Knox reported that new releases and petitions should be dropped off at individual Town Halls within the franchise.

Mr. Simonin gave details of his conversations and correspondence with the FCC, US legislators. Any action must go to and come from the Federal level.

A representative from the League of Women's Voters took issue with the "quality" of programs on Public Access Channel 5. Asked how to get tapes to Cable Channel 5. Discussed public funding for these public access channels. They endeavor to contact people from each town in the franchise to open up public access to televise various town meetings. Mrs. Young (Cablevision) will send them information how to do this.

Upon a motion by Mr. Dunn, seconded by Mr. Luciano, the meeting dates for 2011 were approved via the Secretary to cast one vote.

Mrs. Knox reported a balance in the treasury: \$897.76, from which a motion was made by Ms. Paige, seconded by Mr. Willink, to unanimously approve the Treasurer's report.

Mr. Anderson reported that a Website Committee be formed with a nominal cost for a domain (.com). Each town in the franchise will be asked to create a "link" for their town.

Mr. Dunn reported disappointment that analog was formally dropped and that a \$5.00 charge was passed on to subscribers who pay their Cablevision bill via credit card (for cost of using a person). Also he still takes complaints from his townspeople about the cost of the required "boxes" w/digital.

Mr. Crowley reported that the Torrington BOE uses "boxes" and some other schools do also. Mr. Harrington reported that in contacting the BOE's in each of the towns regarding representation on the Council, he's received only three replies. Mr. Luciano spoke about Planet Fitness and satellite TV. Mr. Willink reported disappointment in that small kitchen TV sets are unable to accommodate the big size required "boxes" to get digital. Mr. Simonin strongly urged Cablevision to provide one box that is able to service multiple TV's in one household. He also expressed his frustration in working with the Cablevision TV repairman when he lost channels when Cablevision switched over from analog to digital. Mr. Crowley spoke about public access, Channel 5 being put "on demand". Mr. Willink spoke about live video on computers.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Knox, seconded by Ms. Paige, the Council adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille A. Paige  
Secretary