

Statewide Video Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2015

The Statewide Video Advisory Council meeting was held on January 14, 2015 at the Baci Grille and was called to order at 7:10PM by Chair - Merja Lehtinen. In attendance were Merja Lehtinen, Alex Fraser, Stephen Mindera, Mike Meinz, Gregory Davis, Paul Batterson, Gerald Speeno, Jennifer Young, Tad Weinstein, Russ Gomes and Lori Weinstein. Jonathan Bernan, the Alternate for Area 19 came as a guest.

David Goldberg, from Frontier had come for the meeting but left shortly afterwards due to a medical emergency. As there were new members we all introduced ourselves at the start of the meeting.

The minutes from October meeting were reviewed and a motion was made by Alex Fraser to accept the minutes and seconded by Mike Meinz. Minutes were passed unanimously.

Appointment of Committees: Russ Gomes for Legislative Committee – Motion to approve by Mike Meinz and seconded by Gerry Speno. No opposition so vote passes. Steve Fuest for Nominations Committee- Tad Weinstein made the motion to approve and seconded by Alex Fraser. No opposition so vote passes. All through this process Gregory Davis kept saying we did not follow the rules and Merja Lehtinen tried to explain how the term was annual. Tad Weinstein was nominated to revise the Bylaws and motion was made to approve by Mike Meinz and seconded by Alex Fraser.

Provider Reports:

Jennifer Young from Cablevision spoke about the rate increase and surcharges. Itemizing fees will now be on invoices. Focus is on the broadband. Four tiers are currently offered by Cablevision.

New Business:

Jonathan Bernan gave a speech on how we need to follow our Bylaws regardless that the weather kept us from holding elections and that the elections should have been first and he felt that Gregory was correct in making his point of elections being first. Merja Lehtinen made her rebuttal that all was moved due to weather and that Tad Weinstein will be adjusting the Bylaws and they will be followed. She also explained how the last election was made in February to accommodate Gregory and that it is her right as the Chair to make nominations.

Alex Fraser spoke how he was on a show with Senator Kissell and he discussed the grants and how he did follow through as promised – PEGPETIA – the monies paid to the state funds will be returned for Public Access (3.5 Million).

Tad Weinstein gave the Treasurer's Report and Annual Report – he said how \$2000 each was collected by Cablevision and AT&T- \$75,000 Meal Reimbursement and with Recording Secretary's fees and office expenses began year at \$21,428.56 and the ending balance was \$22,854.40. Treasurer's Report - Paul Battison made motion to accept and seconded by Alex Fraser – motion passed unanimously. Annual Report - Alex Fraser made motion to approve and seconded by Gerald Speeno and Paul Battison.

Alex Fraser received complaints from Frontier customers where they have made appointments and no one arrives. Service isn't restored and customer cancels goes with another provider and keeps receiving bills each month. Another service that isn't working properly is the caller ID on the television as well as Fox not being available On Demand. Cancellation fees are other issues that were discussed.

Upcoming meetings to be: 2/11/15: 4/8/15: 6/10/15: 8/12/15: 10/14/15: 12/9/15 – a special e-mail will be sent out if we cancel due to inclement weather.

Gregory Davis spoke on Community Access having financial issues which is problematic. Even small percentages can mean layoffs. Cost is high for some (seniors) to have the basic cable package (\$37.00/extended basic \$75.00) or with internet which can be over \$100.00. There is a loophole in Connecticut Law and Gregory wants a motion to have the subscriber fee for all subscribers not just some. Russ Gomes suggested that this be presented to each district for their input so the motion is to be tabled and discussed at the next meeting.

Merja Lehtinen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30PM.