

Statewide Video Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2016

The Statewide Video Advisory Council meeting was held on March 9, 2016 and called to order at 7:00PM by Chair, Merja Lehtinen.

Mike Meinz did the roll call and the following were in attendance:

Stephen Simonin: Stephen Fuest: Russell Gomes: Tad Weinstein: Merja Lehtinen: Douglas Poger: Alex Fraser: Mike Meinz: James Kelley

Members not in attendance: Paul Curtis: Gerard Speeno: Gregory Davis: Wayne Church: John Pulino: Paul Batterson: Ed Pizzella: Richard Campbell

Providers in Attendance: Mike Cicchetti and Donna Hamzy - Frontier: Jennifer Young – Cablevision

Secretary Report:

The minutes from the December 9, 2015 meeting were missed and the wrong set was printed out. Lori Weinstein will send the minutes to all the members by e-mail.

Treasurer's Report:

Tad Weinstein gave his report saying that the total for the fiscal year ending 12/31/15 was \$24,941.51 which was under budget. For the new fiscal year, both providers made their yearly payment, which was early and the total are currently \$28,941.51. Mike Meinz made a motion to approve the treasurer's report which was seconded by Stephen Fuest and it passed unanimously.

Annual Report Review:

The Annual Report was passed out for all to review and Tad Weinstein explained each page. The motion to approve the Annual Report was made at the last meeting.

Provider Reports:

Jennifer Young from Cablevision said that the sale to Altese has not yet been finalized as more approvals are needed and there is an issue with New York City. Hopefully it should be done by the end of May or beginning of June. They have also made some program changes.

Mike Cicchetti from Frontier spoke about the acquisition of Verizon should be complete this month in California, Texas and Florida. This is only landlines at the present time. He brought along Donna Hamzey who is working with him and will be coming to our meetings. He spoke about the audits due to promotional period now being over and that they will now have to pay the full amount. Merja Lehtinen said that a letter should go to all customers to avoid more issues. She is currently having issues and to date nothing is happening.

Technology Report:

Steven Simonin said if you have an antenna in the air you can get a signal. He had a discussion with Senator Blumenthal about how people could not get emergency service from the storm and that suggested changing the FCC laws so residents can get all their local channels so emergency broadcasting would be made available. This is being looked into. Merja Lehtinen suggested a letter be sent out and explained clearly especially for seniors.

Membership Committee:

Mike Mainz wrote to regional councils without members who attend meetings. He even wrote to Ed Pizzella asking him if he wishes to continue to be on the council. We are waiting to hear back from him.

Legislative Committee:

Russell Gomes reported how the last year and a half has been bizarre in how things are going. Spoke of how in hearing room very few people. He introduced himself to those involved. There is a tax that CTN is looking to add to each bill to expand services – asking .40/month and it doesn't look as though this will happen. Both Frontier and Cablevision are fighting this tax and there will be a consensus discussion vote at our next meeting.

Old Business:

Mike Mainz spoke of not yet hearing back from PURA. Merja Lethinen reminded the council members to confirm their appointment to SVAC to avoid any issues.

New Business:

Jim Kelley is concerned about forcing providers who have a state license to come to at least 2 of the SVAC meetings and to pay the \$2,000 fee. Motion that was approved: Mike Mainz shall, upon the request of the Statewide Video Advisory Council (SVAC), withdraw item 4 from his November 17, 2015 email to Thomas Sholtes (subject Questions concerning Connecticut State Statute Section 16-331i). This item (4) concerns Thames Valley Communications (TVC). IT is withdrawn because TVC is reporting to their local council, the Cable Television Advisory Council of Southeastern Connecticut (CTACSC).

Alex Fraser spoke about Pegpetia. They are still accepting the programming fee even though they are no longer giving grants. Propose a motion that the state release the pegpetia funds to PURA for distribution (Bill 286). Motion made by Alex Fraser and seconded by Jim Kelley. Motion passed unanimously and Merja Lethinen asked Alex Fraser to send out a memo for this.

HB5243 Bill – Mike Cicchetti said that Frontier does not support this bill and Jennifer Young said that Cablevision also doesn't support this so it is tabled at this time.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 25th. Steven Fuest made a motion to change the date from April to May. Tad Weinstein seconded the motion. This passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori B. Weinstein

Recording Secretary