

# Connecticut State-wide Video Advisory Council

## October 27, 2021 - Regular Meeting

### Via WebEx

### Minutes

The Statewide Video Advisory Council meeting was held on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 and called to order at 8:00PM by Chair Merja Lehtinen.

In attendance were the following members: Merja Lehtinen, Michael Meinz, Elaine Buchardt, Stephen Simonin, Stephen Fuest, Philip Markuszka, Alan Budkofsky, Marco Iacoviello, Gregory Davis, Stuart Strelzer

Members Absent: Peaches Quinn, Alex Fraser, Russell Gomes, Wayne Church

Providers: Esme Lombard (Altice)

The minutes from the August 25, 2021 meeting were approved. Motion made by Alan Budkofsky and seconded by Stuart Strelzer. Motion passed with one abstention.

Treasurers Report:

- Alan Budkofsky gave the treasury report. The current balance is \$43,223.51.

Chairwoman's Report / Correspondence:

- Seasonal subscribers seem to have recurring issues with incorrect billing.
- Individual SVAC members may contribute their comments to PURA dockets citing their SVAC and regional Advisory Council membership without asking the chair for permission.

Provider Reports:

- Esme Lombard reported that Altice has re-branded their low-income Internet offering to *Optimum Advantage Internet*. \$14.99/month. Improved upload and download speeds. Altice has made it easier to apply for Federal Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB).

Committee Reports:

Technology:

- The State building inspector did not agree with Stephen Simonin's explanation that the building code does not adequately provide for protection from lightning strikes on TV/Internet cables.
- Stephen Simonin suggested and his town adopted a plan to use ARP money to run fiber between town buildings and fire stations and, as a by-product, offer free Wi-Fi using that fiber.

Legal:

- Gregory Davis and Philip Markuszka will work together to draft letters in response to Docket 21-09-07 Investigation of Frontier Communications and Docket 21-07-26 The Annual Community Access Support Review for 2022.

Membership:

- Annual \$2000 stipend from Frontier as well as P.E.G. fees may cease if Frontier continues the plan to become an Internet and streaming provider instead of a cable TV and Internet provider.

Old Business:

- Elaine Buchardt completed work on re-writing the Advisory Council paragraph for the Comcast bills in her region. Chairwoman Lehtinen asked Elaine to rewrite the Advisory Council paragraph for Frontier.

New Business:

- Draft Decision for SVAC to support OCC petition for PURA 21-09-07 Investigation of Frontier Communications – SVAC Letter to PURA
  - Motion by Stuart Strelzer. Seconded by Stephen Fuest. Approved unanimously.
- 21-07-26, The Annual Community Access Support Review for 2022 – SVAC Letter to PURA and OCC
  - Motion by Stephen Fuest. Seconded by Marco Iacoviello. Approved unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Alan Budofsky. Seconded by Stuart Strelzer.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Mainz  
Vice-Chair