

ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT
to the
Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051
of the State of Connecticut

Twelve-month period ending December 31, 2025

Name of Advisory Council	State-wide Video Advisory Council
Mailing Address	39 Homonick Rd, Colchester, CT 06415
Telephone	(860) 800-4989
E-Mail Address	colchestereditor@gmail.com
Contact Person	Merja Lehtinen
Towns Served	State-wide
Cable Franchise Holder	Frontier, Altice USA, Comcast CVFA areas

Names of Council Members	Titles
Merja Lehtinen	Chair - Greater Norwich area
Gregory Davis	Vice-Chair- Western Area
Stephen Fuest	Secretary – Branford Area
Alan Budofsky	Treasurer – Hartford area
Vacant	Upper Fairfield area
Vacant	Clinton area
Vacant	Lyme area
Elaine Buchardt	Vernon area
Vacant	Manchester area
Marco Iacoviello	Middletown area
Elaine Primeau	Plainville Area
Stephen Simonin	Litchfield area
Peaches Quinn	New Haven area
Temosticles R Valdes	Waterford area

This report is mandatory per § 16-331c of the General Statutes of Connecticut
and § 16-333-30 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies

Council Meeting Dates*	Location
February 26	Via Zoom
April 23	Meeting Cancelled- No Quorum
June 25	Meeting Cancelled -No Quorum
August 27	Café Fiore, 134 Berlin Rd, Cromwell, CT- In person only
October 22	Café Fiore, 134 Berlin Rd, Cromwell, CT- in person and zoom
December 11	Via Zoom- No minutes- Informational only

*Attach minutes of meetings

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES:

Include any comments or concerns not reflected in meeting minutes, including identification of member vacancies (attach sheets if needed)

2026-2027 Goals for SVAC

The SVAC will continue to advocate for consumers, and oversee issues of accessibility to airwaves..

This year goals are to revise our Charter by April 30, 2026 and hold elections for all terms ending July 1, 2026.

That is our stated focus for 2026-2027

- 2026 Meeting Dates
- Wed Feb 25
- Wed April 22
- Wed June 24
- Wed August 26
- Wed October 28
- Wed Dec 9th

Sincerely,
 Respectfully submitted,
 Merja Helen Lehtinen
 Chairwoman SVAC
 860-800-4989
 39 Homonick Road
 Colchester, CT 06415

Accounting of Financial Activities Twelve-month period ending December 31, 2025

Beginning Cash Balance Jan. 1, 2025	\$57,052.77
Total Cash received in calendar year	\$10,000.00
Total Cash disbursed in calendar year	\$1,103.80
Ending Cash Balance Dec. 31, 2025	\$65,948.97

<u>REVENUE/INCOME</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Cable Company Cash Contribution	4000.00	10000.00
Other Contributions		
Grants		
Dues		
Fundraising		
Interest Income		
Other		
Other		
Total Revenue/Income	4000.00	10000.00

EXPENSES

Zoom Annual Fee	200	170.05
Postage		
Printing/Advertising		
Accounting Fees		
Zoom		
Legal Fees		
Domain Name Fee		
Website Hosting Fee/Wix	400	405.03
Meeting Expense	800	528.72
Microsoft Office Software		
Total Expenses	1400	1,103.80

FINANCIAL NOTES:

Include any Cable Franchise Holder In-Kind Services (attach sheets if needed)

Frontier paid \$6,000 this year that was back owed from Prev years.

Connecticut State-wide Video Advisory Council

February 26th, 2025

Zoom Only Minutes

In Attendance: Alan Budkofsky, Gregory Davis, Merja Lehtinen, Stephen Fuest, Elaine Buchardt

Members Absent: Peaches Quinn, Stuart Strelzer, Marco Iacoviello, Steven Simonin

Providers: Comcast, Judy Geise, Frontier, Matt Skane, Comcast

- 1) Meet was called to order at 7 pm by Merja Lehtinen, Chairman. Roll-Call was held
- 2) Approval of minutes of Feb 26th, 2025- Alan made a motion to approve, Steve Seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.
- 3) Alan gave Treasurers Report- Received \$2,000 from Altice, Spent \$405 on website and domain name and \$170.00 on zoom. Cash Balance of \$48,477.69 plus \$10,000 in Treasury CD. Discussion ensued about if Comcast and Frontier paid their \$2,000 annual dues. Judy will look into this.
- 4) Provider Reports:
Judy Geise- Frontier- Frontier putting lot of effort into upcoming Verizon Transaction. Expected to close the first quarter of 2026. Continuing as usual for now. More information as process continues. Frontier continues to expand Fiber.
Matt Skane- Comcast- Comcast putting out resources for Winter Season for Business and Residential Customers as far as maintain service during weather events. Comcast has finished network expansion project in eastern part of Ct. Added 20K homes and business to network. Will send information along via email. Matt will look into funding for SVAC for 2025.
Alan asked if the two complaints were followed up on. Matt said they were both addressed.
- 5) Old Business- No Old Business
- 6) New Business- Elaine and Greg have new business. Elaine discussed the funding of public access being dwindling and how the legislation being proposed in 2024 was not successful. Many stations have cut personnel and other expenses. Trying to work with legislative session to discuss next steps to create new bill and ask for funding from state to take care of the gap. At some point this group may be asking for funding from SVAC to help with lobbyist- probably in 2026. Everything is coming to a standstill at the moment. Wanted to bring this up. Discussion ensued about the funding.

Greg discussed the inquiry from OCC about CTSVAC relationship with providers. Docket 24-11-06. Email was sent to tac@cableadvisory.org This is incorrect reference to our council.

The council credibility was discussed as were payments to the council from the providers. The council needs to correct this issue. Discussion ensued.

Merja nominated Greg Davis to be vice chairmen of the CTSVAC in emergency Session. Steve Seconded. Vote is unanimous. Greg will investigate the contact path for access to the council.

The council members present expressed appreciation for Greg for doing what he is doing for this council.

- 7) Chairmen Report- Merja has received quite a few complaints about extra fees consumers are receiving. This is from Comcast and Frontier and other providers. In particular \$3.50 for Three way calling fee. Being charged for internet services when they don't have internet services. Merja contacted Frontier who will solve problem on one by one basis. Judy said that increase messages are always put on bill messages at least 30 days in advance. Discussion ensued. Merja is concerned this is something that is happening throughout the industry.
- 8) Adjournment at 8:40 pm

Connecticut State-wide Video Advisory Council

August 27th, 2025

Café Fiore Cromwell- In Person Only

In Attendance: Alan Budkofsky, Gregory Davis, Merja Lehtinen, Stephen Fuest, Elaine Buchardt

Members Absent: Peaches Quinn, Stuart Strelzer, Marco Iacoviello, Steven Simonin, Temosticles Valdes

Providers: None

Alternate: Johnes Ruta (New Haven)

- 1) Meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Merja Lehtinen, Chairman. Roll-Call was held
- 2) Merja read the minutes from the Feb 26th, 2025 Meeting. Greg Moved to Accept, Steve Seconded- minutes accepted unanimously.
- 3) Alan gave Treasurers Report- Feb 27th- \$357 expense for Website, Received \$6,000 from Frontier for 3 years. Total is 54,477.69 plus 10,000.00 CD
- 4) Chairmen Report- Merja reported she has been receiving many calls about fees that consumers are getting charged for services they did not pay for. Complaints sent on to providers and PURA. Complaints can also be filed with FTC as providers can not charge you for something you do not receive. Merja reported her franchise had not lost any income like many PEG studios but they don't have many people putting on shows. Discussion ensued about Company Vs Privately run PEG facilities.
- 5) Old Business- Discussion of Election Slate- October there will discussion of the slate and in December we will have an election of the new Board which will take over Feb 2026
- 6) New Business- Johnes asked emails he was receiving from Comcast about email being obsolete. Merja mentioned it was a phishing and to update email goto the comcast website. Discussion ensued.

The December meeting will be December 10th. It will be in Person unless we cannot get a quorum then we will do zoom or hybrid.

- 7) Committee Reports: Legislative- Greg reported that nothing was done for Community access this past session. No money from Appropriations committee was received. Discussion ensued about cable advisory councils and community access in the state of CT and how long it will exist and discussion of legislative activity and the longevity of cables advisory councils and the SVAC. Steve mentioned that advisory boards are self-dissolving as no one want to get

involved and some have not had meetings in a few years. You cannot force someone to be on an advisory council.

Greg reported that PURA was not paying attention to Public Access or Cable Advisory issues. Discussion ensued about shortage of community access fees and only charging subscriber fees on customers who only received cable tv services. Legislation was not passed about trying to get advisory fees to where they should be – on any service on the wire.

Greg reported he was at a meeting of the evaluation of the merger of Charter Spectrum and Cox Cable. Three Franchises- Charter taking over Cox- studios may close. Sale was stopped do to some issues. Discussion ensued about this issue. Greg drafted a letter of some requirements that should be met for this merger to occur- including upgrading quality of public access signals in the state (HD), dissolving company run community access channels (making them independently owned) and to provide community access programming to the lowest tyre of wired services (internet) and to require compliant with CT statues involving community access television. Greg can provide a copy of the letter. Discussion ensued.

8) Adjournment at 8:15 pm

Connecticut State-wide Video Advisory Council

October 22nd, 2025

Café Fiore Cromwell- Hybrid- In person and Zoom

In Attendance (in person): Alan Budkofsky, Gregory Davis, Merja Lehtinen, Stephen Fuest, Elaine Primeau

In Attendance (Via Zoom): Elaine Buchardt

Members Absent: Peaches Quinn, Stuart Strelzer, Marco Iacoviello, Steven Simonin, Temosticles Valdes

Providers: Brad Palazzo, Comcast. Casandra Knight, Frontier.

1) Meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Merja Lehtinen, Chairman. Roll-Call was held

2) Approval of Minutes from August 27,th 2025 meeting. Moved by Alan, Elaine Seconded, Greg made change to modify Johans Ruta as Alternate- Not Guest. With change it passed unanimously with Elaine P abstaining.

3) Treasurers Report- Balance- \$54,179.69 plus 10K in CD for Total of \$64,179.69

4) Old Business- None

5) New Business- None

6) Providers Reports

Comcast- Brad- No Major updates from Comcast- Merja asked about New TVs and having to setup a new TV and not defaulting to comcast. Steve mentioned that smart TVs work on internet and that is what they are designed to do. This is not a comcast issue but technicians need to know. Discussion ensued.

Frontier: Cassandra- No Major updates from Frontier- Verizon acquisition still on track for 1st quarter 2026. Elaine just got Frontier asked if Frontier customers would be informed about what changes would happen and would customers be informed. Cassandra said that customers would be informed about what was in the agreement. Discussion ensued. Steve asked if Frontier Tv would restart with Verizon taking over. Cassandra said it was a TBD.

7) Committee Reports- Membership: Welcome to Elaine Primeau- Area 16 New Member Legislative: Greg discussed the docket between the Merger of Cox and Spectrum Charter- is getting very complex and will be moving more slowly and deliberations taking place next year.

8) Merja wanted to appoint an elections committee for elections in 2026. Greg wanted it in minutes that chairmen stated that at the last meeting it stated that elections would be held in December 2025. This was in the minutes. Discussion ensued. Greg made a motion to suspend the bylaws for how elections are held. Elaine Primeau seconded it. Discussion ensued. The vote was 3-3. Motion does not pass. ML, AB, EB Not in Favor, SF, ML, EP voted in favor.

9) Meeting Adjourned at 7:36 pm