

Statewide Video Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

October 28, 2015

The Statewide Video Advisory Council meeting was held on October 28, 2015 and called to order at 7:00PM by Chair, Merja Lehtinen.

In attendance were the following: Steve Fuest, Douglas Poger, Tad Weinstein, Merja Lehtinen, Mike Mainz, Russ Gomes and Lori Weinstein. Alex Fraser attended by Conference Call.

Members not in attendance: Hal Levy, Stephen Simonin, Gerard Speeno, Gregory Davis, Wayne Church, Richard Ostop, Anna McGuire, John Pulino, Paul Tontini, Paul Batterson, Ed Pizzella, Richard Campbell, Jim Kelley, Gene Sellers

Providers in Attendance: Mike Chicchetti (Frontier)

Treasurer's Report: Tad Weinstein gave Treasurer's Report stating that the payments were made by both Frontier and Cablevision and he received payment of \$7.00 for a drink from a guest. The expenses were two payments of \$125.00 for the Recording Secretary and \$89.79 for antivirus renewal. Mike Mainz made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and it was seconded by Doug Poger. Russ Gomes asked about what to do with the money and it was brought up about making a \$250.00 to the Library in Waterbury in memory of Raymond Widziewicz. Motion to accept Treasurer's Report was passed unanimously.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Steve Fuest abstained from voting as he was not present at the previous meeting. Tad Weinstein made a motion to accept the minutes and Russ Gomes seconded the motion and it then passed unanimously.

Provider Reports: Mike Cicchetti who has been with Frontier since May gave his report about how the billing issues and loss of service is more under control with many issues now resolved. Media made it more than it actually was. Frontier is looking into increasing its customer base which is stabilized and now has a new name Frontier TV. They are hoping to expand on the internet access and video service as well. Doug Poger asked if they have resolved the appointment problems and Mike Cicchetti said that they now have worked out the issues with the union – contract now settled and they are not contracting out as they are now hiring new techs and purchasing new trucks, etc. He is willing to help out should any issues arise. Tad Weinstein spoke about how the quality of service has been very good and Steve Fuest said he also has had good service from Frontier. The difference is that the service techs are true employees of Frontier.

By-Laws Review and Approval: Tad Weinstein spoke and said that he asked Doug Poger and Steve Fuest to be on his committee. There were two changes made – number of changes for members to vote. A quorum is five members need to be present to vote. Steve Fuest suggested that we change the five

members to be 30% of active membership and change actual to active. If three consecutive meetings are missed then they don't need to be counted for the quorum. Officer's term shall be 2 years (from January 1st) and committee of three members appointed by the Chair at second regular meeting. Take out state statutes as some are PURA regulations to avoid issues later. Mike Mainz made motion to accept and Russ Gomes seconded and it passed unanimously.

Steve Fuest is in charge of the nominations and the current slate was presented. Alex Fraser was ill and by conference call cast one ballot for the current slate that will be presented at the next meeting. The motion passed and anyone wishing to run for office should be in contact with Steve Fuest.

New Business: Talked about other carriers not joining in as Verizon and Cox said they didn't have to join due to the numbers. In the past refused and now Mike Mainz is going to review this again as the license they have is video provider license. Merja Lehtinen referred him to Thomas Sholtes at PURA to explain why they aren't joining at this time.

Legislative Affairs: Russ Gomes said that this was a very disappointing and frustrating session and nothing really happened. Russ said he is willing to bring up any issues that the members may have. Discussed Gregory Davis' idea of charging the fee for internet service which was not approved at the previous meeting. Discussion on getting the money back from Pegpetia.

No Citizens were present for questions.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM – Steve Fuest made the motion to adjourn and Mike Mainz seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori B. Weinstein

Recording Secretary