

# Connecticut State-wide Video Advisory Council

June 26, 2019 - Regular Meeting  
Baci Grill, 134 Berlin Rd, Cromwell, CT

## Minutes

The Statewide Video Advisory Council meeting was held on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 and called to order at 7:00PM by Chair Merja Lehtinen.

In attendance were the following members: Merja Lehtinen, Tad Weinstein, Michael Meinz, Stephen Fuest, Alan Budkofsky, Philip Markuszka, Stewart Strelzer, Marco Iacoviello, Paul Batterson (Alternate for Elaine Buchardt) and David Bibbey (alternate for Gregory Davis)

Members Absent: Elaine Buchardt, Gregory Davis, Alex Fraser, Russell Gomes, Wayne Church, Stephen Simonin

Providers: Brad Palazzo from Comcast

Public in Attendance: Stephen Mindera from Skye Cable

The minutes from the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved. Motion made by Alan Budkofsky and seconded by Philip Markuszka. Motion passed with 3 abstentions.

Treasurers Report: Tad Weinstein report the current balance is \$31,614.23. A request was made to have a second signature for the account.

Provider Reports:

Brad spoke about Comcast expanding service to East Lyme, New London, Montville and Waterford. Comcast gave scholarships totaling \$50,000 to 17 students from various towns. They were \$2,500 each with one being for \$10,000.00.

Old Business:

Frontier billing issue:

- Merja Lehtinen told the council that she has received 15 phone calls since Frontier sent out the previous month's bills. Three of the individuals were forwarded to her from Frontier Customer Service which was a concern to Mike Cicchetti. The issue is the \$40.00 increase in the bills. A discussion was held about adding the complaints to the docket being reviewed by PURA.

Committee Reports:

Legal:

- Senate Bill 677 HD Upgrades –The Committee on Energy and Technology passed the bill by voice vote on March 14, 2019 and issued a joint favorable report. On March 26, 2019, Senator Needleman of the 33rd District, Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, reported that the bill ought to pass. There has been no further action.
- House Bill 5990 Funding – On February 5, 2019, passed by voice vote in the Energy and Technology Committee. A public hearing was held on February 19, 2019. There has been no further action.

- House Bill 5486 PEGPETIA – On February 20, 2019, passed by voice vote in the Joint Committee on Finance, Revenue and Bonding. A public hearing was held on March 4, 2019. No further action on this bill but House Bill 7424 (the biennium budget bill) includes two sections related to this issue.
  - Section 350 which states that the transfer of PEGPETIA funds to the General Fund shall end after June 30, 2021
  - Section 370 which states that before June 30, 2020, \$7,000,000 shall be transferred from the General Fund to PEGPETIA.
  
- FCC Docket 05-311 – No public action by the FCC. Cable companies and PEG organizations continue to lobby the FCC via written communication. Some cable companies have had ex-parte meetings with the FCC chairman. Altice USA submitted a letter on May 9, 2019.

Membership:

- Discussed attendance by providers to meetings. No issues at this time.

New Business:

- None

The next meeting is Wednesday, August 28.

Alan Budkofsky made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Weinstein  
SVAC Recording Secretary