

# Connecticut State-wide Video Advisory Council

December 12, 2018 - Regular Meeting  
Baci Grill, 134 Berlin Rd, Cromwell, CT

## Minutes

The Statewide Video Advisory Council meeting was held on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 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, Russell Gomes, Gregory Davis, Alan Budkovsky, Philip Markuszka, Marco Iacoviello

Members absent: Stewart Strelzer, Wayne Church, Alex Fraser, Stephen Simonin

Providers: Brad Palazzo from Comcast

Public in Attendance: Gil Martinez from Hartford Public Access, Stephen Mindera from Skye Cable.

Secretary Report: The minutes from the October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved. Motion made by Stephen Fuest and seconded by Marco Iacoviello. Motion passed with two abstentions.

Treasurers Report: Tad Weinstein gave the report. Motion made by Russell Gomes and seconded by Alan Budkovsky. Motion passed unanimously.

Provider Reports: Brad Palazzo from Comcast made the 2019 payment and spoke about Amazon Prime TV which is similar to Netflix and YouTube. He told the council about a community impact program where they brought Veterans to a school and they spoke with children in New London. He also spoke about different packages offered.

Old Business:

Motion for purposes of discussion made by Michael Meinz and seconded by Russell Gomes to discuss the issue of a Customer that disputed \$330 balance for 1½ years on matter closed by Frontier at October. Gregory Davis proposed amendment to have the Treasurer make \$330 payment for the amount Paid Under Protest directly to Frontier on behalf of the Customer to make the customer whole. Letter to be sent to PURA and Frontier. Motion made by Michael Meinz and seconded by Gregory Davis. Motion passed 6 to 3.

Motion to support in concept hiring of a lobbyist with funds up to \$1,000 provided other groups also support and raise \$11,000 for total of \$12,000 requested and that lobbyist report regularly to SVAC Legislative Committee for directions and regular oversight. Motion made by Alan Budkovsky and seconded by Russell Gomes. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to address a letter to PURA requesting that PURA issue an order to providers to upgrade Community Access channels to HD. Motion made by Gregory Davis and seconded by Russell Gomes. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports: Tabled until next meeting.

New Business:

Motion to approve up to \$750 for new SVAC laptop and old one to be retained and returned to SVAC at next meeting. Motion was made by Steve Fuest and seconded by Marco Iacoviello. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to respond to FCC Docket 05-311. Motion was made by Gregory Davis and seconded by Russell Gomes. Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting is Wednesday, February 27.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori B. Weinstein

SVAC – Recording Secretary