

Connecticut State-wide Video Advisory Council

March 6, 2019 - Special Meeting
Baci Grill, 134 Berlin Rd, Cromwell, CT

Minutes

The Statewide Video Advisory Council special meeting was held on Wednesday, March 6, 2019 and called to order at 7:00PM by Chair Merja Lehtinen.

In attendance were the following members: Merja Lehtinen, , Michael Meinz, Stephen Fuest, Russell Gomes, Gregory Davis, Alan Budkofsky, Philip Markuszka, Stewart Strelzer, Wayne Church, Alex Fraser

Members absent:, Stephen Simonin, Tad Weinstein, Marco Iacoviello

Providers: None

Public in Attendance: Stephen Mindera from Skye Cable, Andrew Jones from FairTV Commission

The minutes from the December 12th meeting were approved. Motion made by Russell Gomes and seconded by Alan Budkofsky. Motion passed with two abstentions.

Treasurers Report: 2018 end of year and February treasury report were reviewed. The current balance is \$32,801.64.

Provider Reports: None

Old Business:

Frontier billing issue: Merja reported that the bill was paid and the customer attempted to cancel their service. Frontier billed the customer for another month. The customer has complained to the attorney general. The attorney general has requested a letter from SVAC to articulate SVAC's position on the issue.

PEGPETIA Lobbyist: Alan Budkofsky and Michael Meinz reported that the effort by Gil Martinez has not recruited enough contributions. Current belief is that a lobbyist will not be hired this year.

Motion directing Gregory Davis to write and send letter on behalf of SVAC to PURA declaring SVAC's support for HD PEG channels by Russell Gomes, seconded by Steve Fuest. Passed unanimously.

FCC Docket 05-311: No new information.

SVAC Laptop: There was no need to purchase a new laptop. Tad Weinstein repaired the current laptop with the purchase of a part.

Committee Reports:

Legal: Monitoring bills before legislative committees. Attended Energy & Technology committee public hearing on SB 73, SB 677 and HB 5990.

Membership: Nine email messages sent to regional advisory councils with no SVAC representation. No responses received.

Technology: None.

New Business:

Motion to support proposed Senate Bill 677 by Russell Gomes, seconded by Wayne Church. Passed unanimously.

Senate Bill 677: That the general statutes be amended to require providers of telecommunications services to deliver the same level of technology for all stations, including public access stations, and require such providers to upgrade the equipment of public access stations if the providers upgrade their own equipment.

Motion to support proposed House Bill 5990 by Russell Gomes, seconded by Wayne Church. Passed unanimously.
That section 16-331a of the general statutes be amended to require the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority to establish the fee that the company or organization responsible for community access operations will receive from multichannel video programming distributors for every customer account served under their multichannel video programming distributor license.

Motion to support proposed House Bill 5486 by Russell Gomes, seconded by Wayne Church. Passed unanimously.
That section 16-331ii of the general statutes be repealed.

Annual SVAC Objectives:

- Support legislation through letters and public hearings.
- Use press releases and media contacts to support legislation.
- Support consumers

Motion to approve Annual Report made by Gregory Davis, seconded by Russell Gomes. Passed unanimously.

FOIA discussion: Merja suggested members attend their town's FOIA training session, use a separate email address for advisory council business, reminded members not to discuss business in emails unless part of a designated committee, and that only motions and their votes are required in the minutes. Verbatim discussions are not required to be included.

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 17.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Mainz
Vice Chair