

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