**CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Thursday September 13, 2018**

**ATTENTION! New Facebook page for Cable Television Advisory Council *- LitchfieldCTAC***

The regular meeting of the Cable Television Advisory Council of Litchfield was held on Thursday, September 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Oliver Wolcott Library, South St., Litchfield, CT. A quorum was present: Chairman Stephen Simonin, Denise Russ, Thomas Lambert, Gary Bernier, Gary Lafferty, Watertown; Lucille Paige, Torrington; David Rosaler, Goshen, Andy MacDavid, Cornwall.

Also present: Representing the public: James Schultz, Warren; Paul Honig, Democratic candidate for State House, Dist. 76 and Alex Larsson, Bantam, Democratic candidate for State House, Dist. 66; Michael Lefebvre.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Stephen Simonin at 6:35 p.m.

**In a motion** made by Thomas Lambert seconded by Andrew MacDavid, it was **voted** to approve the agenda as submitted. Voted unanimous.

**In a motion** made by David Rosaler, seconded by Gary Bernier, it was **voted** to approved the minutes of the June 28, 2018 minutes as presented. Voted unanimous.

The current balance in the checking account is $ 8,298.74. A written report was distributed to the members present. This report indicated the withdrawals for the student recipients of the Diane Knox Scholarship. **In a motion** made by John Angevine, seconded by David Rosaler, the report of the Treasurer was approved as submitted. **Voted** unanimous.

Secretary Paige read aloud the name of the students who received the 2018 Diane Knox Scholarships:

 Ellenette Barrows – Litchfield

 Joshua Gallo – Thomaston

 Abagail Hanlon – Oliver Wolcott Technical School

 Emily Alfieri – Torrington

 Jonathan Senior – Watertown

 Waled Radwan – WAMOGO

 Charles MacDavid – Cornwall

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Chairman Simonin distributed several photo descriptions of pixilating, breakup can be caused by noise ingressing on the RF cables and interfering with the cable signals on internet and the digital video signals. Cablevision points to issues with the connectors and cables inside the home. He described in detail the problem with the connectors on the pole outside going into the customers’ home that affects the performance level of the cable channel and QAM256 quality. The set top box inside the home is unable to receive the signals clearly. The spectrum of the home showed a 8MHz noise ingress from sources like Home wireless phones and home Wi-Fi. The FCC had regulations and testing for TV video signals but cable no longer uses any raw video. It is all now carried on IF 6MHz channels as QAM256 at 38Mbit data for each encoder. Cable still measures these IF video channels twice a year to verify that the RF and optical levels are maintained at the nodes but they are not obligated to measure at the home. Homes that had proper signal levels a few years ago with TV signals may now be too low to maintain a clean data transport to the home. The set top box cannot detect the ingress and interference in the home, only the input signal levels from the RF cables coming in. A technician from Cable needs to enter the home with an expensive meter to measure the ingress on the home cables.

There is a clause in the cable contract that states if there is a “problem inside the homeowner’s residence” – then the homeowner/subscriber is liable for the costs to repair. Chairman contacted PURA regarding the “proof of performance tests”. There exists no representation in the Legislature in Hartford for the public/people; no protection. Each town has ability to provide “proof of performance” at the poles that ALTICE uses for these connections. Deregulation should provide for spectrum tests with analyzers.

Chairman Simonin provided two (2) letters from ALTICE stating their *increases* in charges to their subscribers.

We need new laws to cover these new data TV signals and protect the interest of the home owners.

7. Town Representatives’ Report:

Thomas Lambert reported on the extreme difficulties he and his wife encountered with ALTICE – black screen, then picture with pixilation; he tried unsuccessfully to “reboot” as was directed by ALTICE representative on phone. Countless calls back and forth with ALTICE service and supervisors provided no fix to the problem. This went on for a whole month. The Lambert’s received no “credit” to their billing statement, despite having gone without channels services they were paying for. Mr. Lambert described the frustration with this whole problem not to mention the time incurred.

**In a motion** made by Thomas Lambert, seconded by John Angevine, the Council **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille A. Paige, Secretary