

CBLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL

March 14, 2019

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, March 14, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the Oliver Wolcott Library, South St., Litchfield, CT. A quorum was present: Chairman Stephen Simonin, Thomas Lambert, Gary Bernier, Watertown; Lucille Paige, Torrington; David Rosaler, Goshen, John Angevine, Warren; Andy MacDavid, Cornwall; Jeff Dunn, Thomaston. Excused: Denise Russ, and Gary Lafferty, Watertown
Also present: Laura Jordan - ALTICE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Stephen Simonin at 6:37 p.m.
In a motion made by Thomas Lambert seconded by Gary Bernier, it was **voted** to approve the agenda as submitted. Voted unanimous.

In a motion made by Gary Bernier, seconded by Stephen Simonin, it was **voted** to approved the minutes of the January 10, 2019 minutes as corrected. David Rosaler's statement regarding no notice shutoff for late payments. He stated late payments do not have to be made "up front". Voted unanimous.

The current balance in the checking account is \$8,218.74. No formal report was submitted.

At the meeting of January 10th, a discussion took place among the members centered around how to get the message out to the public and subscribers as to the various methods that have been used by the current Cable provider to raise prices without any resistance from PURA. For example, previously all signals to the cable "box" were under FCC regulation. Now, unbeknownst to the public, subscribers, are paying increased prices because the "regulations" **have been changed over to "data signals"**. PURA and FCC have *no set regulations or bylaws that cover "data signals"*. Who knew? This was never made public. This current regulation and pricing has literally become a legitimate "monopoly". The State of Connecticut abolished all regulations concerning the previous category of "digital". Chairman Simonin talked briefly about House Bill HB

Several “letters to the editors”, appeared in local newspapers bring this information to the attention of the public, in particular those who subscribe to Optimum/ALTICE.

Town Representative Reports:

Goshen: David Rosaler spoke about there being “no sound” from Channel 5. Lucille Paige mentioned work being done on a road in Goshen to make cable connections to the neighboring homes. Laura Jordan stated that she will be meeting in Goshen tomorrow to visit the sight and talk with area representatives.

Watertown: Thomas Lambert spoke about a connection to a dead end street in Oakville. Lines to the home.....

Watertown: Gary Bernier reported that subscribers in Oakville were experiencing “pixilation” on their TV’s.

Thomaston: Jeff Dunn reported on the new remote control now being issued by Optimum. Much smaller and has a few less “selections”. He also stated that it costs more for new customers to subscribe to Optimum TV. He added that while the “letters” to the editor did state the problems with Optimum, he felt a softer, less negative view may have been better stated.

Cornwall: Andy MacDavid lamented the fact that the new remote control is substandard to the old previous larger model, with the silver cover and more options for the customer.

Litchfield: Stephen Simonin, informed the group of the higher power requirement for the new, tiny, remote control box. He also informed the membership of a “bill” going through the legislature to have the “State of CT” bring “regulations” over..... Also, he stated it is literally impossible to get to a human being with Optimum Service. It’s recorded message, with a long wait as one pushes each “number” after “number” on the phone to attempt to get help or service for Optimum. Poor service to subscribers. He stated the negative view from subscribers for the overall increase in prices for rental fees and sports broadcasting channels.

CTAC Meeting
Page 3
March 14, 2019

Warren: John Angevine stated the power required for the new “smaller” remote box is 35% electricity usage. He added that his neighbors in town are experiencing “pixilation” on their screens.

In a **motion** made by John Angevine, seconded by Jeff Dunn, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucille A. Paige, Secretary