

**CABLE TELEVISION ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**September 09, 2021**

**1**The regular scheduled meeting of the Cable Television Advisory Council (CTAC) was held on **Thursday, September 09, 2021, at the Litchfield Fire House.**

CTAC Members Present: Chairman, Stephen Simonin, Litchfield; Secretary, Lucille A. Paige, Torrington; John Angevine, Warren; Gary Bernier, Watertown; David Rosaler, Goshen; Jeff Dunn, Thomaston.

Excused: Garry Lafferty, Denise Russ, Watertown; Cornwall

Also present: Esme Lombard, Optimum/ALTICE representative of Government Affairs.

**1 Call to order:** Chairman Simonin called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

**2 Approval of the agenda:** In a **motion** made by Lucille A. Paige, seconded by John Angevine, it was **voted** to approve the agenda as submitted. Voted unanimous.

**3 Public Participation:** No public in attendance.

**4 Correspondence:** E-mail: James Schultz:

**5 Secretary's Report:** None: previous meeting had no quorum.

**6 Treasurer's Report:** No official treasury report was submitted. Previous balance: \$8,260.

**7 Town Representative's Report:** John Angevine, Warren, reported "blinking lights" on poles carrying "cable". Ms. Lombard responded that those lights were indications that the signals were being carried to the homes and that it did not signal problems or emergency. A brief discussion of the issue took place among Ms. Lombard, Mr. Angevine and Mr. Simonin.

Mr. Rosaler, Goshen, had complaints from some of Goshen residents that their programs showed severe "pixilation" followed by "blackout", followed by loss of program all together. Mr. Simonin suggested "overloaded" nodes

Mr. Dunn, Thomaston, spoke of at “tutorial” site that customers can get on to alleviate this problem, “maintenance” to regularly check signal from pole to customer.

### **8a Update from Chairman Simonin (continued from above):**

Info can be found by going online to “Optimum.com” and click on Pkg.

<https://www.optimum.net/cdn/static.tvlistings.optimum.net/ool/static/prod/documents/channel-listings/channel-lineup-Litchfield.pdf>

There is also an app showing discontinued program channel line-ups- moved all the package line-ups. Also shows those past “promotional line-ups” and when they will end and where it defaults to other program packages.

Mr. Simonin reported that in Watertown, Highgate Apartments experienced smoke from outside connections into the set-top boxes and TV inside the apartments. Lightning comes “from the ground” – onto the cable signal coax coming into the home.

This set up is clearly a “An error in the NEC code”. Senator Blumenthal’s office was contacted.

**8b Broadband:** Mr. Simonin reported receiving misleading information from Representative Joanna Hayes’ office on what Broadband is.

([cable television](#) is an example of a [broadband](#) transmission)

<http://www.differencebetween.net/technology/difference-between-broadband-and-cable/>

## What is Broadband?)

Her office reps stated that “Broadband” is only for internet. This is false. The Northwest Hills Council of Governments (NWCOG) attempted to form their own “broadband “cable” Council”. Mr. Simonin pointed out that the CTAC is formed under **CT General Statues**, and cannot merely be disbanded by a public organization wishing to start their own. Having two (2) cable councils is clearly a conflict of interest.

Topics covered with Hayes’ office:

(NEC code needs to be corrected)

1. Change the wiring code
2. make Cable classified as a public utility, allowing control for cost, service and quality
3. Use some of the infrastructure money to pay for upgrading and covering the cost to extend services (cables) to area that need it
4. Mandate clarification for service description to reflect actual service; 1G fiber is only a label for a link. The actual bandwidth available under max load ( typically will be 40M) must be clearly stated.)

## **9 Optimum Management Report:**

**9a Anticipated responses from service complaints:** Ms. Paige asked for an explanation of why the line-up of channels for those customers under “Basic”, can be changed to new channels and the previous channel availability is gone – without notice to said customer. Ms. Lombard explained that when the “programmer” for a channel decides to raise their price for said programming, Optimum reserves the right to delete/cut that particular channel and replace it with one that is lesser in price/least expensive. Therefore, the “Basic” customers will continue to lose channels that will be replaced with something else less in cost.

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## **9b. Update on Fiber to the home schedule and what can be expected this year.**

Ms. Lombard stated while programs relative to Fiber to the Home are in still moving forward, nothing major has been put in place until perhaps 2024. The focus is on the Fairfield Bridgeport areas.

Feedback from the last Statewide Video council meeting: Comcast if not considering “Fiber to the Home” at this time. None of the members of this council know about Fiber to the home and have no Broadband committees in their respective towns.

ALTICE’s footprint for Fiber to the home is 1 gig. Some challenges being faced are levels of service and obtaining the speeds the customer will be paying for, new routers, and the customer’s education to operate of this new type of program.

Mr. Dunn reported that “Zoom” meetings right now are not adequate for getting into a meeting. The customer wanting to attend a “Zoom” meeting and be seen/heard on screen is not simple. Easier “Zoom” connections will have to be created.

**10. New Business:** Mr. Dunn, Thomaston asked John Mosana - EDC– Fiber to the home

**11 Adjournment:** In a motion made by John Dunn, Thomaston, seconded by John Angevine, Warren, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Lucille A. Paige, Secretary