

HACTAC Agenda
February 15, 2012
West Hartford TV Station

Guest:

Minutes:

Treasurer Report

Town Reports:

Bloomfield
East Hartford
Hartford
Simsbury
West Hartford
Windsor

Company Reports:

Comcast
AT&T

Committee Reports:

Statewide Advisory
Legislative
Public Relations

Chairman's Report

Complaints-

Old Business

New Business

Adjournment:

Next Meeting: March 21, 2012; Windsor

HACTAC-Chairman Report
February 15, 2012

Discuss-

Web site down-
Scholarship Award
Hire Attorney for HACTAC Status= On Hold
PURA- Docket 11-08-06

Complaints to Comcast- Windsor complaints pending?
New Complaint from West Hartford; Re: Storm credit

Date:	From:	To:	Subject:
11/17/11	PURA	Video/Cable Franchise Holders	Storm-Service interruption
12/16/11	Robinson-Cole, Atty	PURA	Re: Price Changes
1/26/2012	Robinson-Cole, Atty	PURA	Programming Updates
2/2/2012	PURA	Robinson/Cole	Comcast request for a waiver Regarding "Universal Sports"

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES FROM HACTAC FOR DISCUSSION

1. Uniform process for Local Access Channel Organization Governance

- There are a number of local access channels that operate thru an independent non-profit governance/business admin structure. Some operate as direct functions of government or the cable franchisee.
- In cases where an independent operation exists there should be uniformity in governance
 - Same by-laws structure and operating process
 - Same definition of membership
 - Same election of board and committees
 - Same set of guiding principles for selecting and airing programs
(actual rules may differ provided principles are met)

There are only a few different groups that fit this category but without the standards that are clearly defined and available to use and enforce – we’ve seen too many folks make up their own rules

It would not take much to get uniformity in law or policy and that makes the role of HACTAC more effective in helping to get everyone appropriately in the game according to the rules - as we have seen folks begin to insist they can make up rules and without good rules politics and personalities can come into play and create an environment not conducive to the “people’s” TV

2. Definition of HACTAC role

- Who are we and what do we do?
- HACTAC was created in a monopoly era and tech environment that no longer exists
- The future holds bigger wild-west like shootouts among competitors but very little redress to significant consumer protection or advocacy
- “The market” is supposed to be the driver for service and price – is that working?
- When it take longer to get a cable box replaced than a visit to DMV – we need to look at running business like efficient customer centered government – maybe let government take over cable and provide free TV to seniors (just kidding)
- HACTAC could become the real advocate and driver for responsive BIG TECH issues. Since the gov almost even chopped out the HotLine from DEPPURA (DPUC?) looks like the writing is on the wall when it comes to customer redress by the Watchdogs – who are being neutered to become lapdogs to the utilities - does NU ring a bell?
- Who can stand up for consumers? Add up your cable + phone + internet + electricity + gas + water -Mine came out to \$4825 = utility taxation without any representation A middle income family in CT, affirmed by most measures kicks in pretty close to 10% of income on all state taxes (BTW Utility company execs in the top 1% and we have more than most states pay about 5.5% of income as their “fair” share of the cost of running our state). Taxpayers

have plenty of access to representation and a way bigger more meaningful service structure – and it takes less time to do a DMV visit than the Bloomfield service center.

3 Uniformity of definition and requirements of Tel Com services

- It's absolute bull crap that ATT can call itself something else while providing essentially the same service as Comcast – both are ducks call em ducks and make them both walk and talk duck and provide the same consumer commitment to things like local access – real time delivery – contributions and commitment to “people's TV” etc
- The law was more designed around old tech and needs to be modernized not just for today but moving forward – will we be getting most of our internets etc from wires or over air transmission? When we move entirely to the cloud empire in the air will we have rules that regulate wires and leave consumers in the ether dust?
- I may have a huge dislike and distaste for big biz – but that doesn't mean I'm wrong when it comes to them gaming every rule and old outdated laws (or putting in rat-like legislation to game new laws) to find ways to steal our money – provide less service, allow less control and transparency- all this for more cost – ie who is out there fighting to stop the probable elimination of box-free basic basic basic cable? At that point who is out there educating the public on how to spend \$11 and install your own off-air antennas – (I canceled all cable at my Florida home and have 35 off air channels to watch – wish I knew Spanish – there's 6 foreign language channels with some interesting looking programs. Wireless and Hulu and Netflix get me more than enough other programs to fill my TV watching time- who needs Comcast – and oh yea I read the old fashioned paper)
- That's the new world – who is looking out for the consumers while all this is happening -- HACTAC? DEEPPURA? The “Market”?? (as in wall street?)
- We need to uniformly label the enterprise and define the structure to watch it and give the watchdogs some power to stop bad things and push for good things.

Hartford Area Cable Television Advisory Council

1/1/12 – 1/31/12 Treasurer's Report

Webster Bank Checking Account:

Beginning Balance	\$ 2,272.50
Deposits/Credits	0.00
Interest Paid	0.00
<u>Withdrawals/Debits</u>	<u>973.84 *</u>

Ending Balance: \$ 1,298.66

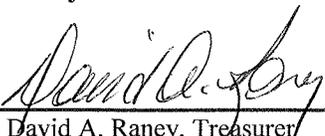
Analysis:

* Peter Stempien:	Simsbury Inn deposit for Christmas Party:	\$ 100.00
* Mike Paine:	Simsbury Inn/Christmas Holiday Dinner:	\$ 873.84

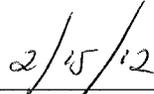
Webster Bank Certificates of Deposit:

Account	Maturity Date	Interest Paid this period	Ending Balance
6 Month Certificate	6/4/12	\$0.85	\$5,010.83
9 Month Business CD	3/5/12	\$1.70	\$5,011.74
<u>9 Month Business CD</u>	<u>3/5/12</u>	<u>\$2.01</u>	<u>\$5,932.02</u>
Total:		\$4.56	\$15,954.59

Prepared By:



David A. Raney, Treasurer



Date