

Cheshire TV Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 3rd, 2017

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Attending: Thomas Cook (Chair), Joe Bendzinski (Treasurer), Tom Maguire, Mark Nelson (Director), Steven Johnson (Secretary), Darryl Perry, Ed Bryans, Ken Arnold.

Absent: Chad Nye, Jeremy VanDerKern, Ken Colby, Jim Duffy (3 consecutive), Ian Freeman.

5:33pm: Chair calls Board to order.

1.) Approval of December Minutes:

Mr. Bendzinski moves to approve the December minutes, Mr. Perry seconds. Discussion, Mr. Perry amends that it be updated pending information from the Treasurer. Unanimous approval. So moved.

2.) Report from Finance Sub-committee -- Director's Salary?:

Note: An accounting error that reflected roughly \$16K in losses per month during the months of July, August, and September was due to an incorrect entry of Franchise Fees, which were reflected at \$-0.30, which, more accurately, total around \$18K.

Some members voice concern that the Director is underpaid. For instance, it seems a certain staff member makes more than the Director when hourly and salary positions are averaged.
Question: "What is CTV's base pay?"

3.) Meeting with Nancy re. CTV Move -- Mark:

Mr. Nelson, Mr. Bryans, Mr. Maguire, and Mr. Kirkpatrick attended this meeting with Nancy Vincent, Library Director. Mr. Nelson describes the new space as "workable", though not "ideal". The Library and CTV are moving ahead with the plans.

Questions remain: Do staff have 24/7 access? Are the acoustics an issue? Is re-wiring necessary? Does the drop site work? Is there a timetable (12-18-24 months)? How long will be the downtime during the move? How to get rid of unnecessary clutter (i.e. throw away, give away, April Book Sale)? Where to store (Public Works Facility, 350 Marlboro St.)? Will Keene pay for utilities?

David Houston of Jaffrey is mentioned by Mr. Bryans as a contact for low-cost partitions at \$10/ft.

The Chair moves to transfer \$10K from Checking to Contingency Fund with the intent that it be used for moving expenses. Mr. Perry seconds. Unanimous approval. So moved.

Action items for Moving Sub-committee: obtain quotes for moving and studio costs.

4.) EOC Update:

Mr. VanDerKern being absent; a brief discussion on the state of the website. The Chair invites feedback from each Board member to be emailed directly to him, so as not to inundate the EOC, to be collated and forwarded to Dave Kirkpatrick.

5.) Is Dropping Cable Subscribers an Issue? What to do?:

Though cable subscriptions seem steady in Keene, if they drop, as they are nationally, what will be the technology/medium that replaces it? What are the numbers? Must Mr. Perry file a "91A"?

Without Franchise Fees, there is no Plan B. Assets would be sold with proceeds divided among participating cities. What will it take to survive?

"I have a dream," says Mr. Maguire, who elaborates how existing cable networks could, and should, be governed by the city, who could supply its own broadband, and whose public content somehow governed according to the extent of its distribution. With the example of Leverett, MA, who supplies its own fiber service, the service itself has greatly increased, while the prices were cut.

There may also be hope in emerging blockchain networks, decentralized technologies as pioneered by Bitcoin, the "smart contracts" of Ethereum, fungible currencies, &c.

6.) New Business:

- Discussion of being absent to Board meetings, how it's an issue especially when a member can not act as representative to their city. According to CTV Bylaws 7.05(b), Jim Duffy is currently subject to review of his status as resigned from the Board. The Chair, Mr. Cook will personally contact him and invite his continued participation on the Board. Otherwise, Steve Hooper was suggested as a replacement to represent City of Keene.
- Mr. Maguire to bring language for an amendment to the Bylaws concerning absences.
- "Underwriting and Sponsorship" in Policies also a possible subject of review.
- Minutes, Bylaws, Procedures to include "Amended" or "Revised" language with corresponding dates.
- Though GoDaddy offers free aliases, the Board would be willing to pay a nominal service fee to add full service email for all Board members and staff: firstinitial.lastname@cheshiretv.org.
- The Chair moves to authorize \$2,500 for the Director to purchase four lapel mics. Mr. Bendzinski seconds. Unanimous approval. So moved!

7:07pm: Mr. Perry moves to adjourn. The Chair seconds. Unanimous approval. So moved. Sealed!