

**Lake Champlain Access Television
Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 23, 2010
Colchester Studio**

Present: Dick Pecor (DP), Peter Russom (PR), Sam Conant (SC), Neil Hilt (NH) Sharon Osier (SO)
Bob Sekerak (BS) Kary Towne (KT) , Kevin Christopher (KC)
Guest: Rob Chapman 5:50- 6:35 pm

Call to order

DP called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

Approval of Agenda

SC made the motion, PR second, to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

Board Reorganization

SC nominated Dick Pecor, NH second, for Board President. Motion passed.

DP nominated Pete Russom for vice president, SC second. Motion passed.

SC nominated Kary Towne for secretary, PR second. Motion passed.

The Board then discussed the possibility of VP/Treasurer as a single position. PR agreed with this. DP made the motion, SC second, to approve the VP/treasurer position. Motion approved.

Public / Board Member / Staff Comments

SC recorded an hour- long program with St. Albans PEG last week. Dave McWilliams (chair of board) would like to visit our station. SC also talked with the interim director of the station, Marilyn Grunewald, about some networking opportunities and building up the station. SC also mentioned that Dave Fiske in Enosburg is developing the station up there and expressed interest in Georgia, although this is LCATV territory.

Rob Chapman, VAN President, arrived to field some questions from our last meeting regarding the funding requests. There was discussion about how it feels adversarial between Comcast and the AMO's. DP talked about how the budget process is reversed. We get a portion of the accounts rather than determining what we actually need to fund the operation. His vision is to determine the 'fee' in a new way. If we change our approach to negotiations, would Comcast change theirs? This could make for a less adversarial negotiating process. Rob discussed this idea with the Board. He reported the funding is based on community needs done at the state level but then negotiated at the local level. Comcast then looks for more specific information from the PEG's to justify funding. This gets into local issues and spending priorities. Our board feels that Comcast should not micromanage PEG stations. The question was raised about including the PSB in the negotiations loop, although they are currently busy with other issues (Fairpoint, VT Yankee). SC would like VAN to work on a long-term strategy regarding Comcast and the negotiations process. Rob continued the discussion regarding the funding request. He wants to get some things clarified by the PSB. Some of the negotiations are dealing with issues that are already clearly described in the public statues (CPG/Rule 8). Access channels should negotiate for their community, not spend time on issues that are already determined. This could end the 'divide and conquer' tactics of Comcast and the PEG stations. DP wondered if anyone has gone to the Organization of Cities and Towns? Would Sandy Miller (Milton town manager) be a resource for this?

At this point the Board felt they had a clearer understanding of the request for support and funding that Rob Chapman presented. At this time SC made the motion, NH second, to support the VAN resolution and request for funding the statewide contract template and opening a petition to the PSB with \$1940 being LCATV's share based upon our operating revenue. Motion passed.

Approve Minutes of 2/25/10

PR made the motion, SC second, to approve the minutes of 2/25/10. Motion passed.

Old Business

- a. Service Territory: Westford: LCATV is on the agenda for the Westford Select Board meeting 4/22/10. They will make a decision about LCATV service. It appears that their School Board will adopt language supporting us. KC plans a meeting in May with BFA/Fairfax School Board to discuss support. KC reported that Lauren Glenn, Rob Chapman and Scott Cappiteilli would like to work on collaborative projects with PEG staff with more interactions between stations.. KC would like to be part of this. This will probably happen after the St. Albans station hires a new director.
- b. Web platform: Staff continues to work out the bugs.
- c. 2011 Contract: Community interviews are on-going. There are 6-7 scheduled and another dozen pending.
- d. Digital Medial Program: Georgia's equipment should be here soon.
- e. New Facility Exploration: LCATV still has feelers out and will update the Board as new information becomes available.

New Business

- a. New business resources: SC had thoughts on funding resources. More than 300 trainees in VT used VIT in the past. There is a need for interactive system for training. We are a resourced that could be available for interactive, long distance training through VMX. KC also talked about the possibility of an independent production arm similar to Burlington CCTV productions to generate additional income. The question was raised wondering about the possibility for Franklin County productions combining efforts with another PEG station and sharing profits. Would it make sense to sketch out what this might look like and discuss next time? SC thought it would be a good idea to get these ideas out there and use it as a first step in forging a positive relationship with other stations. SC's other suggestions was to create a foundation and use this for special projects, scholarships and such.
- b. Outreach coordinator: KC has revised the job description from PT to FT. SC thinks FT is appropriate. DP wonders about a one-year trial, evaluate and justify what is needed. PR agreed about the one-year contract then renew depending upon evaluation of need. KC would like to see the position FT with benefits.
- c. KC gave out information regarding reserve budget ideas. If we pick up more towns, Buddy will need an assistant. If LCATV is staying at current location, KC has some ideas about renovations and will present them at next month's meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Due to the timing of this meeting, monthly statements are not out yet. No treasurer's report available.

Future Agenda Items:

- a. Fundraising
- b. New Facility Information
- c. Review of Benefit Package for staff / updates needed?

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

Adjournment:

At 7:10 SC made the motion, BK second, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned. KC will follow up with email to schedule our next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kary Towne
Secretary