



Board of Directors Regular Meeting

March 22nd, 2021, at 6:09 pm

via Zoom

Board of Directors in Attendance: Greg Drew (GD), Ken Rocheleau (KR), Curt Taylor (CT - half hour late), Dick Pecor (DP), Dirk Reith (DR)

Staff in Attendance: Kevin Christopher (KC)

1. Call to Order by DP at 6:06 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by KR, second by GD, passed unanimously.

3. Public / Board Member / Staff Comments

DP pointed out the fine weather.

4. Approval of Minutes of 2/8/21

GD pointed out a small error regarding the seconding of one of the motions.

Motion to approve the minutes of 2/8/21 with correction by DR, second by GD.

5. Executive Director's Report

LCATV has been streaming Colchester High School (CHS) and Milton High School sports. A streaming kit has been given to Colchester Middle School, enabling them to do it themselves on LCATV's website. Analytics show a CHS girls playoff hockey game with almost 1,400 live views. Hockey has been getting over 300 views per game. There has been some issues getting staff out but they have managed. Spring sports will be starting soon and that will present some challenges.

Last Saturday the Colchester Cub Scouts had their Pinewood Derby with model cars. The scouts watched from home as leaders ran the cars. The LCATV race car won the demo round, though there are suspicions regarding unapproved lubricants and weighting.

LCATV is considering bringing staff back into the offices, depending on vaccinations. KC's goal is to have staff back after the 3-day 4th of July weekend.

There was some discussion of how LCATV will adjust to coming out of the COVID restrictions. This topic will become a meeting agenda item.

6. Treasurer's Report

DR reported that income is up significantly over projected amounts. KC remarked that this is because LCATV is paid quarterly so does not synchronize with the monthly reports. DP mentioned that our total assists

amount now has two commas (over \$1 million). KC replied that though most businesses would see this as good, LCATV as a non-profit needs to increase expenditures should this level of income remain.

DR noticed that LCATV has three health care providers (MVP, Blue Shield and VACE). VACE is the Vermont Association of Chamber Executives. VACE provides dental and vision coverage. When LCATV started using NVP as a human resource consultant LCATV was able to offer several health care options to employees.

DR also noted several telecommunications providers: telephone by cell, ComCast for business (phone and internet), ComCast email, and Dish Network. KC explained that the Dish subscription provides some programming for re-broadcasting. There is one expenditure item labelled Telephone. KC explained that because payments did not successfully get through the postal system he has had to pay with the LCATV credit card. That resulted in the "Telephone" item.

7. Old Business

a. Federal Communication Commission and Legislative Initiatives

KC reported that the Commission has changed to a more "Access friendly" Board. A Motion of Abeyance has been filed by the commission on the in-kind FCC order at the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. That motion has been denied so the appeals continue. Some work on this should come in late April.

KC reported that with PEG Access study has come out. There will be some discussion among VAN members over the summer and fall on how to approach the next legislative session. Links to the report can be found near the end of a lengthy 3-16-21 email from KC. DP has looked it over and felt that most of the information in the report was already known. The problem, as he sees it, is that ComCast sees the PEG fees as a competitive disadvantage. KC suggested that board members look at the presentations available in the drop box as they are informative.

There was some discussion of Communication Union Districts. DP explained that the legislature is trying to replicate what EC Fiber has done on the east side of the state.

b. Cable line Extension Fund Update

DP reported no news on the cable line extension fund, but he has been getting more information on the rule 8 action at the PUC. DB is skeptical regarding any changes in the rule, but hopeful.

CT will get more information on a broadband bill that is moving through the legislature.

c. Policy #7 (Formerly #8): Use of Facilities– Revisions Second reading/ Action

KC reviewed the suggested changes.

Motion to approve the policy as revised by DR, second by KR. Passed unanimously

d. Policy #8 (Old #9): Use of Minors in LCATV Programs – Revisions 2nd Reading / Action

KC reviewed the suggested changes.

Motion to approve the policy as revised by DR, second by GD. Passed unanimously

e. Policy #9 (Old #10): Program Content – Revisions 4th Reading / Action

KC stated that, though the policy was approved at the last meeting, he found an additional change that he wanted discussed. The change clarifies when others can use LCATV produced content.

Motion to approve policy #9 by DR, second by GD, passed unanimously.

8. New Business

a. Investment Strategy Discussion

KC explained that DR, as treasurer, wanted the Board have LCATV's accountant in for an overview of LCATV finances. In addition, LCATV's very favorable financial position opens up possibilities for expansion of LCTAV's mission.

DP asked about the future of live streaming more public-school sporting events. This would require more hardware, more staff and more expensive data plans. KR warned about one-time money being spent on projects that will need continued support.

GD asked about seeking sponsors for our streaming sports. The use of team parents as videographers as also discussed. KC thought that might work but it does depend on the complexity of the setup. Spring sport (mostly outside) are more complex.

The Board was reminded that at one time LCATV was going to add a new position to assist in bringing in revenue and developing content. That position may include finding sponsors for sports events.

KC remarked that if LCATV is going to continue to increase this kind of coverage there needs to be some staffing discussion.

GD asked about whether LCATV could lend money to a CUD in order for that entity to expand broadband. DP acknowledged that CUDs are looking for investors but at this point they may not be stable enough to warrant investment.

This led to an extended discussion about how to expand broadband in LCATV's service area and ways to make LCATV's money work better at bringing service to our area.

LCATV's accountant will be coming to a future meeting to discuss the following:

1. Refresher on how to read the balance sheet.
2. How might fee-for-service work impact LCATV's non-profit status?
3. Any investment opportunities

9. Executive Session (*if needed*)

Motion to enter executive session to discuss personnel by , GD 2nd by KR , passed unanimously

Motion to exit executive session to discuss personnel by , RD 2nd by GD, passed unanimously

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 8:10 PM by GD, 2nd by DR, passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted on May 6th, 2021 by Curt Taylor - Secretary