



Board of Directors Regular Meeting

July 22nd, 2021, at 10:00 AM

Middle Road, Colchester, Vermont 05446

Board of Directors in Attendance: Greg Drew (GD), Curt Taylor (CT), Dirk Reith (DR), Ken Rocheleau (KR), Jeff Hathaway (JH), Dick Pecor (DP)

Staff in Attendance: Kevin Christopher (KC)

1. Call to Order by Chair DP at 10:23 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda by DR, second by JH, passed unanimously.

3. Public Comments

No public. No comments

4. Approve minutes of June 10th, 2021

Motion to approve the minutes of 6/10/21 by DR, second by CT, passed unanimously with one modification.

KC pointed out that the page numbering was incorrect. CT will fix it.

5. Executive director's report

KC reported that the office and studio at Creek Farm Plaza were opened to the public on July 6th, 2021. There has been limited amount of studio and equipment usage. Fulltime staff is back. Camps will begin next week. There are three weeklong camps which is down a little from 2019, but that is expected.

FCC

The 6th Circuit Court has ruled in favor of the FCC by upholding the finding that in-kind contributions can be charged back against the franchise fee. The FCC had specified that those chargebacks would be at *fair market value*, but the court ruled that they would be *at cost* instead. The organizations involved will be petitioning the court to reconsider the case with the hope that the new FCC makeup will change the outcome.

KR asked KC if this brings us back to point where we should be deeply concerned about the future funding of LCATV. KC assured the board that we are not at that point, the big difference being that we will not be charged back for our channel capacity. The primary charge backs will be for complimentary services offered to libraries and schools.

Van lease

KC relayed that the lease for the new van is greater than that for the previous van, so KC would like to see a revision to the Capital Budget to cover the additional cost. KC explained the changes and the board approved.

Motion by KR to approve the transfer of \$1,500 from the System Upgrades line item of the Capital Budget to Vehicle Expenses. Second by DR. Approved unanimously.

6. Board Discussion

a. Cable line extension project

DP gave an update on his efforts to have cable extended to a number of residents along Middle Rd. and beyond in Colchester. He is hoping to have some changes made to Rule 8.313 to make such projects more likely to be completed. After a lengthy discussion the board concluded that DP should be encouraged to continue to work toward using state resources and possible LCATV resources to get the project completed. The Board would like to see the development of the details of LCATV's assistance program, particularly the criteria that will be used to determine which residents might receive funds from LCATV. The board would also like to see the previously approved \$150,000 for such projects to be reflected in financial statements. There was also some discussion about whether such contributions would be taxable to the receiver. KC will check with LCATV's accountant, and the issue will be on the next agenda.

Motion by KR to add a \$150,000 line item to the budget so LCATV can allocate funding for a particular kind of public need and limit any involvement with an individual homeowner to \$1,000. Seconded by DR. Passed unanimously.

The board determined that the agenda item regarding Field Production Restructuring should be discussed during the retreat as it involves individuals and their compensation.

7. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn to Board retreat by GD at 12:08 PM, second by JH, passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted on August 9th, 2021 (DRAFT) by Curt Taylor – Secretary
Approved at August 11th, 2021 meeting