

Catamount Access Television Corporation

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 28, 2018

1. **The meeting convened at 4:05pm with the following members present; Drew Totten, Spencer Sweet, Robert Ebert, Marcia Noyes and Lisa Byer – Executive Director. Willy Jones, Ethel Hutton, Sarah Perrin, and Alex Burke were absent.**
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approval of minutes was tabled due to lack of quorum.
3. **FINANCE REPORT:** Lisa presented the finance reports for months ending November and December for the board's review. There was discussion of plans to decrease expenses given the funding shortfall.
4. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Lisa Byer provided highlights of her report, which is attached and formally submitted with these minutes.

 - a. *Overview:* Lisa provided an overview of the reports of the staff and discussed upcoming employee reviews and how job focuses may change given some of the current challenges. There were questions regarding the ongoing issue of the handicap lift and Lisa explained that they are under no obligation to make the facility accessible but had worked to do so for the benefit of the community. Unfortunately they were given unreliable advice and support which resulted in the installation of an unsuitable unit for the intended use. It is not approved for use under the current circumstances and solutions to fix it have not been readily available. They have worked to make other accommodations in the facility as they have been reasonable and achievable. It was recommended that Lisa research selling the current lift if it is not useable in this setting.

Lisa provided an update on the current threats to CAT-TV and PEG Access in general. (1) The GAAP changes have caused about a 5% drop in funding per quarter and VAN is working to have the practice investigated by the Dept. of Public Service and Public Utilities Commission. Lisa is focusing on working to replace our shortfall. (2) The ongoing Comcast case regarding their Certificate of Public Good (CPG) renewal which is being fought in Federal District Court. Lisa continues to lead the efforts in this case and is working to identify best strategies going forward. (3) The FCC proposed rulemaking which would allow cable companies to charge in-kind expenses against the franchise fee that is used to fund us. Lisa worked locally to have comments filed in opposition of the new rulemaking including filings from all the local legislators. (4) The Supreme Court case involving MNN v. Halleck which began as a dispute between a community producer and the access center in Manhattan. The Cable industry has used this as an opportunity to introduce an argument that PEG Access is unconstitutional. (5) The next FCC rulemaking that would involve an erosion of local control of public rights of way in favor of 5G network deployment. (6) Ongoing cord cutting and decline of cable subscribers and therefore cable revenues. Lisa has been working both locally and statewide to identify strategies for sustainability. She is part of a working group statewide which is planning a legislative day for Feb 20th and a meeting with the Alliance for Community Media President from DC.

There was discussion of Board seats and the fact that Ethel Hutton has been unable to attend meetings and has been unresponsive to email inquiries. It was agreed that according to the bylaws, they would vote to remove her from the board next month. Robert brought the name of Tim Scoggins, Chair of the Shaftsbury Select Board, forward as interested in being appointed to fulfill Frank Barnes seat. It was agreed he should attend next month's meeting to be appointed. It was also agreed that Lisa would poll board members to see if there is a better meeting date and time.

The updated Operating Rules and Procedures have been implemented and there has been a slow rollout of membership fees and structure. The Policy Committee needs to complete its work on the appendices and the bylaw updates.

Lisa has worked to reach out to the town and school boards to establish a fee for service to provide coverage of meetings. They have been very receptive and supportive to the change and it is expected that we will receive approximately \$11k for this service with the understanding that the fees will increase in the coming year.

MOTION: MARCIA NOYES MOVED TO ADJORN THE MEETING. SPENCER SWEET SECONDED. THE MEETING ADJORNED AT 5:22PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Willy Jones, Secretary