

Catamount Access Television Corporation

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 24, 2022

- 1. Tim Scoggins convened the meeting via video conference at 4:04 pm with the following members present; Alex Burke, Greg Van Houten, Dan Cross, Asa Morin and Dave LaChance, Lisa Byer – Executive Director and William Gardner – Operations Manager. Sarah Krinsky was absent.**

- 2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** Tim Scoggins asked for nominations for the President. Dave LaChance nominated Alex Burke for President. No other nominations were made. All voted in favor of Alex Burke for President.

Alex Burke asked for nominations for the Vice President. Dave LaChance nominated Tim Scoggins. No other nominations were made. All voted in favor of Tim Scoggins for Vice President.

Alex Burke asked for nominations for the Treasurer. Tim Scoggins nominated Greg Van Houten for Treasurer. No other nominations were made. All voted in favor of Greg Van Houten for Treasurer.

Alex Burke asked for nominations for the Secretary. Tim Scoggins nominated Sarah Krinsky as Secretary. No other nominations were made. All voted in favor of Sarah Krinsky for Secretary.

- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Alex Burke asked for approval of the Board Minutes of the Special Meeting on October 3, 2022.

MOTION: TIM SCOGGINS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2022, BOARD MEETING AS PRESENTED. DAVE LACHANCE SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR AND THE MOTION PASSED.

- 4. FINANCE REPORT:** Lisa reviewed the financial reports for the month. Discussion ensued regarding the network printer. The scanning option was discussed as well as a potential move to electronic records. The staff will look at the usage and reconsider when the lease comes due.

- 5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:** The Director's report was distributed to the board prior to the meeting for their review. Lisa reviewed the staff reports. Lisa plans to reach out to larger plumbing firms to address the plumbing issues. She and William had planned to get some plantings in front of the new fence, but the nursery closed for the season.

Lisa attended a VAN webinar and provided an update of the statewide work underway. The committee is working to introduce a bill that would provide long term funding solutions for PEG but are also asking for the 3rd and final year of gap funding from the Governor's budget. The first year was \$300k, second was \$600k and this year the ask is \$1m. Those funds are equally distributed to all the access centers. Lisa and William developed a budget for how CAT-TV will use our \$25k portion of the \$600k and included a parttime production person, getting closed captioning, upgrading internet service, getting a Roku channel, purchasing podcast equipment, and upgrading the production kitchen.

Several staff members are recovering from COVID and the staff has increased protocols internally. The new network server has been installed but they are still waiting for one final piece. A work around may be necessary. The installation of the new sign should be coming soon. The staff is working to promote the Veteran Honors. Entries have been slow coming, but they are continuing to push it.

Lisa reported that they are working to incorporate Closed Captioning into meeting coverage. She noted that she conferred with her national regulatory contact and that our obligation to provide CC is questionable based on our budget but that there is an expectation that we make reasonable efforts to offer it. The municipalities we serve may have a greater responsibility to make their meetings available to citizens. The Town of Bennington is inquiring about our capacity. Our new VOD upgrade affords us more accessibility and affordability in offering CC. The staff has a meeting with the vendor to get our technical questions answered and then will be able to address the Town's questions. The initial thought is that a portion of the \$25k statewide funding could cover CC for the first year and then the towns would need to contribute for the service going forward. At the most, the annual cost may be \$7800 but they have several questions that need to be addressed to determine what level of service we would need.

The staff will be working to complete the annual reporting. Lisa noted that the December 26th meeting will need to either canceled or rescheduled. It was suggested that we keep December 19th open in case there is a need for a meeting. Lisa will notify the board. It was agreed that Lisa will canvas the board and staff for an in-person holiday gathering in December.

MOTION: GREG VAN HOUTEN MOVED TO ADJORN THE MEETING. DAN CROSS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MEETING ADJORNED AT 5PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Sarah Krinsky, Secretary