



## Director's Report

September 2007

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### New Stuff!

- We have spent much of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the new fiscal year doing just that...spending
  - we have put a good dent into our capital budget and pre-approved expenditures on gi ticket items
  - here's a summary on what we've bought so far:
    - \* Tightrope Media Systems bulletin board system (to replace our old system which went down 2 months ago - we had been simply using PowerPoint in the interim)- \$2960
    - \* Panasonic DVX 100 professional dv camcorder- \$2490
    - \* Mac Pro computer (for editing, to replace the Mac mini machine we have had in use for the past 2 1/2 years)- \$2500
    - \* Mac Book Pro (laptop, primarily for portable editing needs, but also for use in studio as computer for teleprompter)- \$2600
    - \* Broadcast Pix Slate 1000 (production switcher w/ character generator, & video clip server storage)- \$18,655
- In August we also received & installed our imac computer as part of the Vermont Media Exchange (VMX)...more on that later
  - all of this new stuff enables us to offer the best possible resources to our clientele, the community members, while embracing new media technologies in the most efficient and cost effective way possible

### Website

- We are continually adding video content to the website and we are positioning ourselves closer to being able to webcast both channels on the site
  - there are still a couple of issues that need to be worked out- the major 1 being our web host's not-so reliable support of 24/7 webcasting
  - our IT & web consultant, Emily Frazier, will be working with our webhost (Dreamhost) to (hopefully) resolve this issue
  - if the issue of the instability of Dreamhost's webcasting services proves to be too great, we may have to temporarily forgo our plan to webcast
  - We receive an extraordinary cost benefit for our hosting with Dreamhost (it's free!) - to get the same level of service, or anything near comparable, with another company would be a minimum of \$80 per month- I would not make any recommendations to spend this amount on webcasting

### VMX & Vermont Access Network Update

- As mentioned above, LPCTV did receive its imac computer and was "hooked on" to the Vermont Media Exchange's (VMX) file sharing network in August
  - LPCTV was among the first round of PEG Access TV stations from across Vermont to have its system installed
  - we have been supplying programming to the other stations via the VMX file sharing network (currently RETN and VCAM in Burlington, as well as CAT-TV in Bennington, RRCTV in Rutland, and LCATV in Colchester), and we have also received some programs through VMX
  - no noticeable loss in video or audio quality in the downloaded or uploaded files
  - as a reminder, this network is for all PEG Access TV stations in Vermont, and has been initially funded / supported by Comcast, as part of the revised version of Public Service Board Rule 8 (which states that the cable operator will support efforts to establish & sustain such a "statewide network")
  - the \$ from Comcast (\$60K) is being used for the equipment and to pay Emily Frazier, who VAN has hired, to work on the installations and tech support
- I am still on the governance committee for the Vermont Media Exchange - 1 of the items that has been discussed is asking individual stations to contribute to help sustain the network over time
  - it is my position that we should not ask for this level of support until all of the systems have been installed and we have a better idea of what the ongoing costs will be
- Another feature of the VMX - in addition to file sharing - is the synchronous live feed of video programming , which enables member stations to "go live" at the same time with a live video feed

- over the network (using IP - internet protocol - rather than a standard cable TV feed
  - we experimented with this in August with a live public hearing in Burlington held by the Public Service Department - it was a successful experiment, despite the fact that the hearing itself was cut very short due to no input from the public
- I have completed the Annual Report for FY 06-07, using the electronic template offered through the VAN website; it is now posted on the website and will be emailed to the board
  - anyone wishing for a print copy should contact me
  - a print version has been mailed to Comcast, the Public Service Dept., and the Public Service Board, as per our obligations under Rule 8

### **Comcast Update**

- Christina Degraff-Murphy, Comcast's Regularoty Affairs Mgr. for Vermont, plans to attend LPCTV's Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting to go over contract amendments (adding language to include Mount Holly and to discuss the idea of amending the agreement to change our capital funding to an ongoing annual basis)
  - reminder- the Board has discussed the capital funding issue in the past and the consensus seemed to be it would be far more beneficial to be able to budget for capital funding, particularly as we move forward with forecasting multiple years out

### **Space**

- The Buildings Cmte. decided to pass on the former Black River Brew Pub building due to cost- the final offer, as presented by the owners, included a maximum of 2000 square feet (short of ideal) for \$1300 per month for the first year, and then \$1800 per month after that
- No new news to report with Kermit Upton's building
- John Filipowicz now is the sole owner of the former mill building on the Proctorsville Green and is putting it up for sale in the coming weeks
  - no word on the asking price, but it is dependent upon the appraisal
  - we would not be able to afford the entire bldg., but we could ask around for other partners
  - the Buidlings Cmte., in its September meeting, placed this building at the top of its "ideal space" list
- I have also looked at a space in Hammond building in Ludlow that is for sale - currently Sothebe Realty
  - asking price is \$219,000 - has the square footage and high ceilings we are looking for, is in good shape, recently renovated, but would need some construction work to move walls and open it up for a studio
- The Buidlings Cmte. came up with a to-do list, which includes contacting the new owner of the old Winery building in Cavendish (re: potential lease), discussing building possibilities with the Fletcher Farm, and inquiring with Black River Produce about any vacant warehouse space

### **Community Radio Licensing Update**

Last LPCTV BOD meeting, we discussed the possibility of offering to file an application for the upcoming full power FM community radio FCC licensing filing window under LPCTV (applications must be filed in October by certified non profit community organizations only)

- I contacted WOOL-FM in Bellows Falls, which has been operating as a licensed low power FM community radio station since 2004
- WOOL-FM is moving forward with an application of its own; as such, I do not recommend moving forward with a plan of our own, since WOOL is better suited to operate
- anyone interested in having a full power community radio station here in southern Vermont should contact the BOD of WOOL to offer support in its application process (and WOOL would reach the Ludlow area, should it be granted enough power from the FCC)