

LPC-TV Corp Board of Directors Meeting September 29, 2008 @ LPC-TV Studios

Directors Present: George Thomson, Pres. Jean Morrill, V.Pres, Norm Vanasse, Treasurer, Randy Bixby, Sue Pollender, Brigid Sullivan, Nancy Timmerman, Sharon Bixby, Sec. Patrick Cody, Exec Director and Michelle Stinson; guest Rob Chapman, Pres of VAN.

Call to order by President George at 5:05 PM.

Comments or Communications: Patrick had no written correspondence. Michelle relayed that a number of compliments came in enjoying the medical programs, specifically the UVM and Dartmouth Medical Series. Others really enjoyed the soccer games, Dollars and Sense by Mark Huntley and a local teacher who enjoys the web site.

Patrick reminded us to check out the new and improved web site. Some had already – he noted it now shows featured videos and the latest community announcements. He is still working with our IT consultant. It was suggested we again start the practice of posting minutes on the web site once they are approved.

July Minutes: Norm handed them out- corrections needed – add Nancy Timmerman as present at last meeting, to correct the officers positions- Sharon was elected Secretary and Norm is Treasurer. **Motion made by Brigid to accept the minutes as corrected, second by Nancy. Approved.**

As an update to notes in the July minutes about a show on air about LPC-TV—George, Patrick and Joanna are working this out.. it should appear in the near future.

It was decided to table the job descriptions until next meeting as we have Rob Chapman, President of VAN here with us tonight.

Rob spoke briefly about his position as President and how he is trying to meet with every public access station in the state. Asking what we think of VAN? How can they help us? Mainly VAN is our advocate and ears with ongoing COMCAST contract negotiations. We are fortunate in a way that our contract does not come up again until 9-30-2012 so before then most of the issues with Comcast will have been worked out. But presently Comcast is pushing the envelope and asking the stations to produce all sorts of paperwork. Rob noted presently 10 access center (stations) are in the contract renewal process. Comcast is becoming more aggressive with planning and financial requests and in fact VAN feels they are overstepping their bounds. VAN feels oversight on this is the job of the Public Service Board—but they are waiting for the best case to present to the PSB. They are presently asking access centers for a 3 yr access plan—Comcast feels it is like a business plan- asking them to explain where they want to spend their funds.

Patrick said there presently is a line in the annual report every station files which deals with Planning—it is a simple paragraph now. Rob said they are now asking for a full access plan for

3 years tied to the needs of the communities they serve. VAN feels they should not require that. They are coming down on small access centers and once presented – they are told the report is not good enough for Comcast. Comcast has even threatened to pull the funding of three stations if they do not sign the contract as presented. RULE 8 said if a conflict they cannot pull funds and seek a new PEG access group... and the conflict should be arbitrated thru the Public Service Board.

All money we have goes first into programming. Cable is *our* primary delivery system... The Web is added value – we will provide only a sampling of shows on the web.

Sharon asked Rob, What does the PSB think of Comcast's threats? VAN is hesitant to bring it up without the best case—as it will surely end up in court. Rob feels only the larger stations like RETN (the educational channel in Burlington) would be in a position to hire an attorney and fight it.

Of concern too is the many different prices received from Comcast when stations re-locate. Our estimate came in at between \$18,000 and \$25,000. – Burlington was quoted at \$10,000. The numbers are all over the spectrum; VAN is presently talking to the department about these problems. RULE 8 says Comcast *has to* wire remote origination sites—so if a library moves- they would have to re-wire it according to the rules.

Brigid asked how many members are on the PSB—three—they cover phone, power and TV. Norm feels Comcast is looking to do away with all access centers.

Rob suggests we prepare our access plan early – it took Brattleboro 18 mos to do theirs. It was a 75 page report / Patrick said on a local level, Comcast in VT is a little better with access stations than in other states.

VAN is offering conference calls every 2 weeks to help access centers.

VAN is the advocate for us in front of the Public Service Board.

They always have reps at the PSB meetings.

Rob is also urging his board to move to an electronic process to allow members, who cannot attend the meeting when by-laws or other important items are discussed so they all can participate.

VMX initiative was briefly mentioned- our station already uses this and it works well.

VAN also can help with equipment knowledge.

Our board members are always welcome at VAN meetings—or if anyone locally is interested in being on the VAN board....please contact them.

And Rob invited all of us to register on the VAN web site- www.vermontaccess.net

Brigid noted we should be in good shape when we have to start this process as all our minutes etc are up to date and reports kept current.

George asked how far back do they ask for info... Rob noted they are presently asking for 2006 & 2007 data. Patrick said our process will start in 2011. Hopefully some of the challenges will have been worked out before we work on our renewal.

All stations are placing capital requests in their contracts
With no other questions for Rob—George thanked him for coming down and we moved on to other agenda items.

Director's Report: Patrick had previously sent this to all of us. There in nothing to vote on. Financial reports were handed out. He thanked Brigid for reconciling all our accounts!

George noted Patrick's comments for flexible scheduling for himself. Since this was common before and the flexibility was okay as long as the station was covered, the board decided to let Patrick work as he felt appropriate to complete the tasks. If he took a weekday off – he would work a weekend day etc. This will also provide him quite time when the station is not open to get large administrative projects completed. Occasional weekend hours will help some producers who cannot get here during the regular work week. No motion is needed- Patrick just wanted this board informed.

Other Business: Board retreat? When, Where? It is something to think about...
Space: Michelle and Patrick have reviewed a private home with attached barn. Not sure the sale price. Building committee should look at it- Patrick feels it is worth consideration.

Brigid left @ 6 PM

Financials- Norm had figures to date in our accounts...

Checking	\$ 8,170.21
Money market	\$ 8,736.38
9 mos CD	\$17,277
3 mos CD	\$26,065

NOTE: a total of \$35,000 combined from two accounts has been named the Building Fund.

Committee Reports:

Building & Grounds; to reconvene, George will coordinate

Fundraising: annual underwriting campaign in Oct/ Nov

Outreach: Patrick noted the appeal for donations to help volunteer Bruce Perry who tapes and edits all BRHS varsity soccer games- did not pan out very well—only \$50 came in. Estimate of \$1300 to cover all he does. Booster Club did pay \$150 for all his tapes.

No need for other committees to meet at this time.

George left at 6:10 PM

V.President Jean Morrill took over the meeting

Job Description discussion moved to next meeting but Patrick asked that any comments be emailed to him. Next meeting set for Weds November 19th at 5 PM.

Sharon made motion to adjourn, Norm seconded. Approved.

Meeting adjourned 6:12 PM

Respectfully submitted: Sharon E.P. Bixby, Secretary