

Okemo Valley TV Board of Directors
Annual Organizational Meeting
Thursday, June 27, 2019
Meeting Minutes

AGENDA

Present: George O. Thomson, Fra DeVine, Sharon Bixby, Noah Schmidt. John Cama, Patrick Cody, Executive Director, Okemo Valley TV, Eric Shattery

Absent: Julie Bowyer, Lou Krefski,

Public: Kelly Stettner, Sherri Geimer, Eric Fortin, Natasha Fortin, Brian Hennel, Peter Kolenda, Fran Kissell, Angella Kissell, Wendy Regier, Mason Wade

At 6:30 there were introductions of everyone in the room. Noah explained what “History Day” was which first drew him to the TV station. Other students at BRHS did well with their projects and we continue to maintain a good relationship with the school. Frequently kids do documentaries and which often take them to the Nationals.

Patrick gave a quick overview of the State of the Station that was provided in written form and electronically. He indicated that we just completed a new renovation project. We have been in the building for 6 years. There have been various upgrades in 2015 and since that time we have been continuing to do projects as we had the money. During the latest construction we had limited hours with employees often working well into the night when the crew was not here working. We recently added new cables and completed a lot of painting...although there is still some to be done. The studio is back in use.

Patrick mentioned the hiring of Eric and the other employees...Fred Marin and Ed McEnaney. He briefly explained their roles at the station. We won an award in collaboration with the Weston Playhouse. There was also a well-received interview with Susanna Gillert the new Executive Director of Weston Playhouse. Last year we aired 1,258 shows.

Patrick talked briefly about the funding threat. There are 25 access stations in VT banning together to try and figure out how to be sustainable. Our main source of funding is through franchise fees. There are fewer people watching cable now as they are using other providers. There are also regulations changes threatening our revenue streams. We need to figure out other revenue streams so that we can remain sustainable. We lobbied the legislature this year and they were open and sympathetic to our needs. There is committee evaluating the problems now...summer study session.

Annual awards. Patrick introduced the awards categories and the history behind them. After introducing the award and the recipients, a short clip of the shows was shown.

Outstanding Achievement Award went to the Ludlow Fire Department. It was the biggest project we did this year with several members of the fire department providing clips that were used. It was intended as a membership and recruitment video. It was a great effort and produced a great video. This promo was the largest viewed show this year.

Community Service Award was given to Kelly Stettner (Black River Action Team). She used the services of OVTV to raise awareness about river environmental issues in the community. She did several shows called Black River Connections. She is hoping her schedule will allow her to do more shows in the future.

Producer of the Year Award was given to Zachary McNaughton. Zach was not able to attend the meeting tonight due to family commitments. He works for River Valley Technical Center and is on the Black River Action Team. There were two productions that were notable. "Trailer Trash" was produced by the kids and was a review of movie trailers. He also did a fishing series of shows once a week called Master Anglers.

Youth Producer Award was given to Natasha Fortin. She covered all of the sports for the high school and middle school recording all of the girls and boys games including soccer, basketball, baseball and softball.

Video clips prepared by Eric were shared of other people who had produced a program or show during the year.

I. Call Annual Organizational Meeting to Order – The official annual meeting was called to order by President Fra at 7:21 pm.

II. "State of the Station"- Annual Summary – Patrick provided a written report on the State of the Station – He provided highlights of his report at the general meeting so did not elaborate at the “annual meeting.”

III. FY19 Budget Presentation & Vote As discussed earlier there are pressures of with anticipated revenue stream for the future with changes in accounting practices of cable companies. The FCC may also approve changes, which would have a negative impact on public access stations...value for services provided by cable companies. There is also an increase in people streaming and thus less cable subscriptions. Consequently, we have had

to trim the proposed budget. Patrick has restructured the hours for employee work to reduce the budget with some hours being reduced. This may result in some slight reduction in the services that we are able to provide in the past. Hopefully, we can find other way to fund some of these services. After much review and paring we have prepared a break-even budget. Amount of the budget MMM was already approved by the board at an earlier meeting.

IV. Review May 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes – Sharon made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 20, 2019 meeting as presented. John seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

V. Set Date for July Meeting – Patrick will send out a calendar/date doodle in the future to find the best date to meet.

VI. Election Results – John and Sharon counted the ballots and announced the winners of the election were Wendy Regier with 23 votes, Don Richardson with 21 votes and Noah Schmidt with 24 votes. Congratulations to the new board members.

VII. Other Business – Sharon shared that she has received \$750 as an underwriter from Fire Department.

A visiting guest, Mason Wade, had some thoughts to share. To help with more revenue, he suggested looking at communities that are not currently served by a station and possibly adding them to our service area. He stressed transparency with local governments. He felt that local access TV stations were a way for people have their voices heard who are not affiliated with either of the two main parties. He mentioned the use of TV for individuals campaigning for Windsor County Senate positions. He felt that we could possibly charge for things that used to be free. For more visibility (and transparency), he suggested we might want to film OVTV meetings and then broadcast meetings. He suggested we might do a video on the State of the Station and then air for people to see. Patrick said it would take a great amount of time. This is something an outreach committee might consider but it would probably also cost money to do it.

The Board thanked Eric, Patrick and Fred for a good year and all they have done. It was also suggested that a thank you note be sent to outgoing board members for their support over the years.

VIII. Adjourn - Noah made a motion to adjourn at 7:55. It was seconded by Sharon and approved unanimously.