

Okemo Valley TV
Annual Meeting
Wednesday, June 23, 2021, 6 PM
Held Outside Ludlow Community Center

Minutes

Present: John Cama, Will Harris, Sharon Huntley, Pat Moore, Noah Schmidt, George O. Thomson, Patrick Cody, Executive Director, Okemo Valley TV, Eric Chatterjee, Okemo Valley TV.

Public: Kevin Barnes. Susan Haefner, Nancy Harris, Kim Lambert, Wendell Perkins, Linda Thomson, Penny Trick, Kata Welch and Michael Welch,

I. Welcome /Introductions/Announcements (10 minutes) – The meeting was opened by Noah at 6:17. Members of the current Board of Directors introduced themselves. Patrick acknowledged the recent passing of a member of the board, Don Richardson, who was serving as Vice President of the board. He was only a board member for a short time, but certainly made contributions and will be missed. There were two things that he was passionate about ...making the station energy efficient and his desire to do a program on square dancing. Patrick suggested we honor his memory by doing a program on square dancing and by considering energy efficiency measures as we continue to build out the station. He encouraged us to work with Neighborworks).

II. Producer Awards (15 Minutes) - Patrick announced we would be giving out four special awards at the annual meeting. He introduced the recipients of the evening one at a time showing short clips of programs that they did to earn the awards. Girls semi I final was shown.

Producer of the Year: Norm Merrill from Green Mountain Union High School won Producer of the Year for volunteering to be the cameraman for all home boys and girls basketball games. Because of COVID no one could attend the games so they were live streamed allowing fans to see the games simultaneously while they were being played. He was the cameraman for all the games up until the state championship which we were not allowed to do due to VPA rules. He was not able to attend in person to receive the award..

Outstanding Achievement: Wendy Regier received the Outstanding Achievement Award. She recruited over fifty people who came into the studio at different times to read portions of the entire US Constitution. Although the premier showing was this past October, it was recorded and edited together last fiscal year. It was televised as one long reading of the entire constitution. This was a wonderful community effort and many people contributed to its production. Patrick said he would love to do a similar program highlighting the VT Constitution now that the studio is open again. She was not able to attend in person to receive the award.

Youth Programming: Kata Welch, Librarian in Fletcher Community Library received the Youth Programming Award for regular “Story Time Readings.” At least two stories were highlighted and aired weekly. They were all done remotely recorded by Erik. They were also available on YouTube and on the station website. Story Time will be an ongoing program.

Community Service Award: This award usually goes to an organization that does a lot in the community and this year was no exception and it was awarded to the Ludlow Rotary Club for all they have done. This past year all of their guest speakers were recorded on zoom and subsequently all televised in the Guest Speaker Series. Kim Lambert

and Kevin Barnes representing the Rotary Club were present to receive the award.

III. “State of the Station” – Annual Summary (20 minutes) – Although a written report was not available, Patrick reviewed the year focusing on the highlights. He indicated the written report will be available and posted on the web in the coming days. It has been a very busy this year during COVID times and he was not able to get the report written. Big news... this is the first time we have met in person! Due to the pandemic, it was hard to keep the board involved. Despite this the station made great strides this year. We have added on a marketing person. E-news is now done on weekly basis and sent out electronically to the list serve. We could do these things as a result of unanticipated COVID funds. We were also able to purchase a zoom account. We also invested in live streaming equipment which allowed for 24/7 programming on the Community Access Channel. It is hoped that the Education and Government Channel will be streamed soon. Currently, we are participating in the “Go Wild Summer Camp.” The kids are involved using stabilizers, drones, iphones, cameras, etc. A big priority will be to put money in the proposed budget for the building which would make more conducive to do projects. Our internet speed has increased significantly as a result of a special arrangement with VTel. We will soon be recording a concert in the home of the Specter family which should be exciting. We would hope to be able to do more similar shows.

IV. Board of Director’s Election/Last Call for Voting (5 minutes) – Patrick announced that was the last chance to vote and voting would be closed in five minutes. We started using survey monkey for elections last year and have been pleased with the process. He asked those present if they had any problems voting. John and Noah are the Elections Committee so they will check and validate voting.

V. FY22 Budget Presentation & Vote (30 minutes) – A copy of the proposed budget was sent to the board electronically prior to the meeting.

Patrick reviewed the proposed FY'22 budget which was displayed on a TV screen. There were four columns... the Amount Approved for FY'21; the FY Actuals through 6/22/21; the FY'21 Projected Actuals and the FY'22 Proposed Budget. He explained two sections...Income and Expense. Our main funding is from the cable companies broken into capital and operating. We anticipate at some time that there will be a decline in this stream, however, for next year we are projecting a 3% increase. We need to figure out new ways to generate revenue and also work to change the way we are funded. We did receive some COVID relief funds and the legislature appropriated some money for a study to figure out possible different funding sources. We need to be more entrepreneurial. He suggested we can work more on underwriting and membership. We also need to look to do more video for hire. The depreciation account was explained.

We overspent by \$4,000 in salaries due to the special needs necessitated by COVID, but still ended the year with a positive balance. The staffing was with 2 full time employees and one .5 employee. We do need more part time help than currently budgeted so there is an increased in staffing in the proposed budget of 15 hours per week. There is a cost-of-living increase in salaries for others. There is some money in the budget to complete the floors and add doors to all the rooms. There will still be some work to do to complete the building but this would be a great start. Patrick said he is keeping his eye on grants to finish the entire project. We have a long-term lease with the town for the building and as interest goes down so does our rent. It will be \$6,100 next year which is a great deal for a space of this size. We also pre buy fuel at a very good rate along with the town and Good Neighbors. Last year, we spent only \$1,119 on fuel. The income/deficit

needs to be verified but is a little higher than we anticipated. (NOTE: Patrick did review the numbers and they were correct as printed.)

Will made a motion to move the budgeted depreciation expense into the checking account. There was a second by Pat. The motion was voted unanimously.

GOT made a motion to adopt the proposed budget for FY'22 as presented. John provided a second to the motion. It was passed unanimously.

VI. Election Results (5 minutes) – Noah and John left the meeting to tally the ballots and validate votes. Upon return they announced that there were 83 valid ballots and then offered their congratulations to the following who were elected to the board with terms expiring in 2025. Susan Haefner, George Thomson, Zachary McNaughton and Newt Rose

VII. Other Business – There was a brief discussion with Susan about some possible programs in the future.

VIII Set Date for July Re-Organizational Meeting – It was agreed that we would have a re-organizational meeting sometime during the week of July 19. Thursday. Since not all board members were present, it was decided that Patrick would send out a Doodle poll to confirm the specific day. George volunteered his lake house for the meeting.

IX. Adjourn - Will made a motion to adjourn 7:16. The motion was given a second by Pat and passed unanimously.

Respectively submitted

George O. Thomson, Secretary