

Okemo Valley TV Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
By Zoom
Thursday, May 14, 2020, 5:30 pm
Monthly Minutes

Present: George O. Thomson, Fra DeVine, Patrick Cody, Executive Director, Okemo Valley TV, John Cama, Eric Chatterjee, (OVTV), Wendy Regier (phone), Don Richardson (phone), Noah Schmidt (phone).

Absent: Sharon Bixby,

I. Call to order – The meeting was called to order by President Fra at 5:36 pm.

II. Review Meeting Minutes (4/14/20) Wendy made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Don seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

III. Communications – Patrick had nothing formal to bring to the board. However, Eric talked to us about the apparent low perception by viewers in the community. Last night the LMHUUSD mtg. it was mentioned that the BR students have done many history videos of BR. They talked about where can they save these videos and OVTV's name never came up once. Eric suggested Patrick contact the school/TRSU and offer to host these. It sounded like there were a number of videos that BR wants to preserve. Patrick indicated there has been little involvement from the schools despite the fact that he has contacted them several times. Karen has expressed some interest in OVTV helping with a virtual graduation. He also mentioned that we have one of the BR sports history video and also one that Natasha did for history Day. Patrick said we are partnering with Black River Academy on a special project.

IV. Update of Working Remotely - "Stay Home" Order - Patrick said everything is going as well as can be expected. He is trying to

figure out how to introduce normal operations with all the requirements. Patrick is going to the studio once per week but is planning to start two days per week next week. We had a visitor to the studio yesterday. He is trying to be very cautious to keep people safe and healthy. He said we are adhering to the 6 ft distance, and sanitizing frequently. Patrick said he wears a mask when in the studio. Wendy thinks wearing a mask on TV is good as it sets a good example for everyone. The front door is only being used by OVTV. Patrick said audio is challenging when recording when people are wearing a mask. It was suggested during the broadcast a mask can be dropped around the neck when a person is speaking. The board feels the health of the staff is very important. The board feels it is time for a new update on our regulations. Wendy made a motion that everyone coming into the building must wear a mask until further notice. The motion was given a second by Fra and approved unanimously.

Fra asked about the possibility of enhanced internet connection for Fred and Eric which was discussed at the last meeting. Patrick said that neither took up the offer. Fred never indicated an interest and Eric said he has the fastest internet connection available from Comcast.

V. Director Report – Patrick sent a lengthy report in writing to everyone prior to the meeting. He indicated we are forming some community partnerships that engage the community. We will be doing a YouTube prerecorded concert with FOLA on May 30 with Susan Haefner. We have some other partnerships – Chamber, Rotary, Back River Academy but shows are not viewed. Our viewership is low. Linda Thomson’s programs seem to be very well received. She does a great job marketing. Fra said to make sure there is recognition of OVTV participation in any project we do.

There was some discussion about the grant the Chester Telegraph recently received from Facebook. Sean, from the Telegraph, encouraged us to apply. He could help write a grant if we are interested and if Facebook offers the grants again. We have heard that they will do several rounds of grants. Fra suggested VAN go out to Facebook and introduce public access TV and the needs of the industry.

Patrick talked to Sean about possibly collaborating somehow. They might hire us as a consultant. They could provide us with some content. They could may come in and do a news brief show as a promotional for the Chester Telegraph.

We briefly discussed our role that we can play in bridging the digital dividedistance learning and telecommuting.

VI. Financial Report: Budget Report, End of Year Projections & FY21 work to date – Budgeting for coming year is tricky because we do not know what the trickling down impact will be for us. If cable subscribers go down, then so will the franchise fees. As options for subscribers increase, so does the revenues trend and out portion increases. Patrick also indicated the FCC rule change has not gone into implementation yet. We do not know what in kind services will they claim.

Fra suggested there will be implications as VTel and Comcast are experiencing downward trends. We need to be careful when projecting revenue. Patrick said we might follow the states lead and only do three months at a time. Fra suggests we stick with the current budget for now and in 3 – 6 month time perhaps we can readjust the budget. There are too many unknowns to try and draft a realistic budget right now. We need to be conservative. We may experiment with some sharing of resources with neighboring stations. Fra suggests we might change the amount in underwriting as businesses will probably be cutting back. He suggested we reduce the underwriting line item to \$500. He further suggested we do a budget with 90 day reviews.

VII. Nominating & Elections –

George provided an overview of what was discussed. He reviewed the Nominations and Elections sections of By-Laws. It was felt that we needed to adjust the election process this year due to the pandemic. The terms for three people expire this year, John Cama, Sharon Bixby and Fra DeVine. Fra has announced that he will not be running again and Sharon has mentioned that she feels it is time for her to retire after 20

years. The Nominating Committee has identified a number of possible candidates for the membership on the board. Members of the Nominating Committee will each contact the potential nominees and report back at their next meeting on Wednesday, May 20.

There was a discussion on how we might vote. It was the general consensus that we do this electronically this year. Patrick will look into this to see how it might be done. George suggested he check with other stations to see if any of them are already using electronic means to elect board members. We could put a ballot on the web that people could download, fill out and return. Patrick will look into this and try to develop this option for elections. We discussed how are we going to verify ballots. There was a suggestion to get names, phone number and addresses which we could check if needed. Fra suggested that we might extend the board to more members if we have good candidates and not limit ourselves to 7.

Wendy made a motion, “Due to the recommendation by medical professionals to maintain physical distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic, the Board will suspend the following articles of the By Laws pertaining to the election of members for June 2020: Section 2.4, 3.3, 3.5 and 3.6 The Board is authorized to develop appropriate procedures to insure the election isn’t compromised.” The motion was seconded by George and approved unanimously.

VII. End-of-Year : Annual Meeting and Awards – June 25 through Zoom. Virtual awards will be at 5:30 with the Annual meeting to follow at 6 pm. Fra suggested it might be nice to have a brief clip of program done Susan Haefner as some entertainment and example of what we do.

VIII. Other Business – Patrick announced that he never heard back from BR Good Neighbors regarding the MOU.

IX. Review To-Do List –

- Draft 2 of budget for FY 21 prepared and sent to Fra and John.
- Follow up with Good Neighbors regarding the MOU.
- Research electronic voting.

- Reach out to BRHS about hosting the history videos.
- Confirm virtual graduation support with BRHS.

X. Confirm Next Meeting Date(s) – June 25, 5:30 through Zoom....
unless we need to meet prior to that time.

XI. Adjourn - Wendy made a motion to adjourn. Second by Fra
Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

George O. Thomson, Secretary