

MMCTV Board Meeting Minutes

(Remotely held, via Gotomeeting 4/27/20)

Present: Board (Ron Rodjenski, Peter Wolf, Ted Lyman), Staff (Angelike Contis, Jim Hering, Ruth Miller, Erin Wagg). Meeting called to order at 4:09pm

Minutes of 1/28/20– *Peter makes motion to accept minutes. It is seconded by Ted. Passes.*

Financials for 1st Quarter 2020 – Board reviews financials. Assets are up from last year, at \$182,504 vs. \$155,189 last year. Need to look into if Remote Origination Site (ROS) and new channel marketing funds from Comcast account for that.

Currently certain expenses down, we'll see what will happen in next quarter – with municipal funding, for instance.

MMCTV has maintained 3 staff and regular field producer through COVID. Ruth is currently only employee at studio.

Ron notes that the state issued COVID VOSHA training today, with details also on circulating items, and that April/May financials will reflect the studio/office changes due to COVID. Unclear how Comcast funding will be affected.

In 2020, minimal capital spending; ROS gear purchase on hold.

Operations during Pandemic – MMCTV has closed to public, and we are focusing on streaming local remote meetings. Angelike gives board a quick walk through workflow, which involves Youtube, Open Broadcast Source (OBS) software and our TelVue broadcast server. Ruth is editing/archiving meetings.

Jim gives update on programming changes, with new educational (e.g. Fairbanks museum) block Mon.-Sat. at 4pm, plus press conferences (Gov. Scott, Sen. Pres. Tim Ashe) and remote meetings. Programming done more in advance, due to new electronic programming guide service (see below).

We are doing a Virtually Yours series, spotlighting local businesses during pandemic. MMCTV staff is keeping stashes of gear at home.

Ron notes the situation is fluid and that there may be special future safety training.

Idea is discussed to show public how curbside service works at different locations.

MMCTV has both an essential service and historical role, documenting this time.

1. **Electronic Programming Guide** – We purchased Gracenote service in April for first time. There are some technical hurdles, including other AMO's programs (ex. LCATV) showing up and our descriptions not showing up on both channels.
2. **Channel Migration Update** – We have not been able to publicize recent move from Comcast Channels 15 and 17 to Channels 1076 and 1086, as much as we'd like, but there are several ideas in store.
3. **New Internet-based Channel**- Could this be the time to launch a 3rd Internet based channel (about \$10,000)? Pre-pandemic, the towns were supportive. Our broadcast server allows for a 3rd channel, which could be streamed.

This proposal raised several questions, and the board has asked the staff to work on the idea more, before they vote on it. Some questions include:

- What more would this channel offer, apart from our current 2 channels and on-demand service?
- Do people want to watch a streamed TV channel? Is there appeal to watch a curated schedule as opposed to on-demand?
- What resources can go into this in future? How does this fit into MMCTV's long-term plan?

4. **Town Center Update** – Due to pandemic, this potential move is on hold and we need to discuss our lease extending. The Bridge St. construction company will be using Town Center's third floor for 3 months.
5. **Marcia Rosberg Exhibit** – Unfortunately public not able to enjoy art. But we can circulate our video again and perhaps share a "virtual exhibit."
6. **Vermont Access Network** –Angelike and Jim are both up for reelection (for board and VMX Committee, respectively). VAN Annual Meeting to be held remotely on Fri. May 1st.

Peter makes a motion to adjourn. Ted seconds. Meeting ends at 5:02pm.