



Board Meeting Minutes
Remotely, via Gotomeeting Wed. 1/27/21 at 6pm

Present: Ron Rodjenski, Ted Lyman, Peter Wolf, Tim Chamberlin
Staff Present: Erin Wagg, Angelike Contis, Jim Hering, Ruth Miller

Meeting called to order at 6.05

Minutes *Ted makes motion to approve minutes [Oct. 13, 2020](#) . Peter seconds.*

Review Financials for 2020 (Angelike). We were within budget, as due to pandemic, there wasn't spending on many items. TD Bank to close in Richmond (MMCTV will send letter). We are spending down some of Comcast settlement money. Comcast revenue is at levels of previous years. VAN-initiated COVID-related funding was a big help in a year with few donations, no camp income.

Goals for 2021 (See Attached).

During COVID, uptick in # of programs. Used to be 10-15, now is 25-30 events a month. We will start streaming Channel 1086 (Gov.) on website; Localeyez app may be helpful. Ron inquires about approach to design of new studio space, including electrical. Perhaps MMCTV can research what other studios have done and hire someone.

New Comcast Contract

Ron concerned about Comcast being able to terminate at any time, as we only have about 12 months in reserve. Trends are unfavorable for cable subscription. Ron concerned Comcast could change our service territory changes (consolidate us with other territories) as it sees fit.

Motion by Peter to approve the 8 year contract through 2028 as presented by Comcast and reviewed by the board. Ted seconds. Passes unanimously.

Reviewing 2021 Budget

Budget assumes Comcast revenue same as 2020. Ron wonders if we can outsource the donations/underwriting work to leverage new streamed channel.

For new studio, MMCTV can apply for grants like Cultural Facilities Grant (VT Arts Council), VT Community Foundation, State of VT General Services (VGS, min of \$50,000)

The challenge ahead: how to finance new studio work. In the meantime, we will do some basic work on doors/windows and use existing items, then draw up a plan for future studio. Hopefully there will be more itemized details/plans/quotes for next meeting. Input from all appreciated.

Motion to approve \$45,700 capital and \$157,800 operating budget by Ted. Peter seconds. Passes unanimously.

OTHER

Jim notes Telvue system working well, especially in integrating many live events.

Meeting adjourns at 7.05

MMCTV in 2021

Responsiveness, Flexibility & Growth

#1 Supporting public meetings/info during COVID

- Focus on **streaming town/school/non-profit virtual meetings** (3-5 events, 7-15 hrs/week, Erin, Angelike, Jim)
- Focus on **editing/archiving virtual meetings** (20 hours week, Ruth)
- Planning for future, by **finishing testing & starting to set up remote audiovisual systems in 3 towns** (*Have drawn \$5,000 of \$20,000 Comcast ROS fund*)
- **Stream Channel 1086 live on website/online** by spring. (*Jericho funds from last year.*)

#2 Creating New MMCTV Space (\$200,000 investment?)

MMCTV has work to do to imagine/design new space, with an eye to what our future role will look like in the community. Can we find funding/support for a multi-purpose space that fulfills the needs of our “customers” and community? How can we maximize space to make an ideal place for small recordings & streamed gatherings/meetings, as well as optimal public & staff filming/editing/teaching space?

- **Approve lease (mid-late Feb?) & Notify Comcast** – (Matt Daly, Dalyanddaly.com). Fiber optic ready (!)
- **Move (mid/late April, or early May)** – Staff pack/clear out space. Jim to do some removal work. Volunteers from Waitsfield Telecom staff to help with move.
- **Restore 35 W. Main St.** –Probably need to hire someone for counter removal/electrician.
- **Short term: Basic Studio Set Up** – Doors, windows, studio desks, shelving, networking & storage.
- **Long term: Studio design.** Design multi-year plan, researching grants, as well as pricing for floor, stage, walls, lighting/lighting grid, painting, furnishings & control room items.

#3 Outreach/Education

- **Continue to offer curbside gear** for community producers
- **Plan for studio re-opening** when safe & ready (late 2021?)
- **Middle School education** – Virtual RFL camp Feb. 2021. Possible in-person (outdoors?) TV camp in July 2021.