

MMCTV Board Meeting 1/27/25 (At MMCTV and online)

Board Attendees: Gregg Stevens (remote), Tim Chamberlin (remote), Jay Furr, Kate Blofson, Theodore Lyman (remote)

Other Attendees: Jim, Angelike, Ruth, Erin,

Agenda:

- Approve minutes of Oct 28 2024 & Dec 17 2024
- Review 2024 financial reports
- Approve 2025 budget
- Production and Programming Updates
- LPFM Updates
- Membership Plan Discussion
- Other business (next board meeting date, Board organization)

Notes

- Called to order by Jay at 5.30pm
- Approved minutes of Oct 28 2024 & Dec 17 2024
- 2024 financial reports:
 - 1/1/2024 - 12/31/2024
 - More of a deficit from last year because last year we received \$70k (two FY payments from State of Vermont in same year)
 - Starting 2025 with \$160,000
 - Comcast \$ about 7% down
 - Donations up by \$1k
 - Missing Madeline (stopped approx 3 mo ago!)
 - Would like to expand income by \$10-20K for more staff
 - One full time staff is not enough to meet desired goals
 - Accounting costs seem high
 - For next year, list business and workman's comp insurance as one line
 - Capital Expenditures - Minimal, including 24/7 Underhill "Mountain Camera," Field mixer, lav mics.
- 2025 Budget
 - Secretary of State "loves us" - in their budget;
 - Now in Governor's budget
 - \$15k anticipated income in budget due to this;
 - will offset some of Comcast decline
 - Still needed to increase staff compensation 3.8% in FY25
 - Money from state will come at end of year for 2025 (judging from past year)

Motion: Approval of 2025 - 2026 Budget as proposed (\$198,000 Operating + \$26,500 Capital) From: Theodore Lyman - Seconded: Kate Blofson - Discussion: None Outcome: Approved!

- Production and Programming Updates:
 - Discussed town meeting recordings/management
 - Hybrid meetings
 - Erin suggested that budget meeting should be “pop up” videos
 - Ruth editing lots of meetings in February
 - Jim - new grid out soon
- LPFM Updates
 - Kate described budget and fundraising needs
 - \$8k for studio; \$14k for transmitting side
 - Outreach committee have been meeting once/month
 - Described automating of programming schedule
 - Engineering study to be presented to DRB re: antenna approval
 - Outreach & Tech Committee minutes are available
- Membership Plan Discussion
 - Still rolling the roll-out
 - Drafted letter for local nonprofit partners
 - Could also have individuals join as members
 - Considering making more personalized letters for each specific organization
 - Jay described using AI to merge several letters into a new one with a specific style
 - Could design spreadsheet and have AI draft the individual letters
 - Jay paid for ChatGPT “pro” subscription, has found it useful
- Board organization
 - Jay doesn’t need to be president year after year
 - Decided to discuss at next meeting (3 mo from now)
 - Next annual meeting
 - Angelike floated idea of more meetings (every 2 months)
 - Consider recruiting a wider demographic, new faces
 - Youth member? MMU might have recommendations

Other Business:

- Kate referenced a grant for community archives; Getting a box of VHS tapes digitized by Middlebury college project when Angelike goes through metadata (no volunteers yet).
 - Callout for volunteers yielded one person to help with editing

Motion to adjourn at 6.30pm: From: Kate Blofson - Seconded: Theodore Lyman - Discussion: N/A Outcome: Approved!