CATV Board Meeting

June 19, 2014

Tip Top Studio, White River Jct, VT

Present:

Board Members: Rob Gere, Paul Boucher, Margaret Jacobs, Linda Carbino, Michael Murray, Frank Jones, Paul Keane

Staff: Bob Franzoni

Guests: Rick Eary, Laura Power, Board Members from Woodstock Community Television

Official Start: 5:29pm

1. Secretary’s Report. Linda motions, Mike seconds, approved.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Linda motions. Mike seconds, approved.
3. Introductions to Rick and Laura of WCTV.
   1. WCTV is a smaller AMO with 1500 subscribers. VTel contract with CATV in Hartland could potentially threaten their revenue stream. WCTV is proposing, in Hartland, to split PEG access fees currently through Comcast with CATV. Hartland specific production and access fees between would be split between CATV/WCTV. CATV currently tapes select and school, book readers, afterschool and book readers. CATV/WCTV would share general programming. Discussion about division of responsibilities with programming. Paul asks why would CATV object to this? Mike clarifies that CATV just signed a contract with VTel—CATV would be changing the contract. 112 current VTEL customers in Hartland. CATV was selected out of 6 to be the AMO. Questions about revenue from Hartland. Current contract with VTEL is 5 years—Bob recommends in the future to do Comcast contract first then VTEL. Add a clause in the contract for Hartland since we don’t yet know the cost to provide this service.
      1. What would the impact be? Vtel is amenable to amending the contract—CATV should ask about 1 year review. Can we email VTEL rep with questions? Would CATV give half of potential income and are we too rapidly moving on a decision? What about getting CATV up and running first, then add in WCTV when in begins? How would VTEL interpret this change in contractual agreement? VTEL is paying all expenses, we don’t want to lose that. Possibly subcontract VTEL to WCTV?
      2. Need answers to questions before deciding. Income sharing is not objectionable but how does CATV proceed without losing money and not screwing up initial position with VTEL. Will make decision at September board meeting. Possibly include an escape clause. CATV needs to do some research before making a final decision.
4. Updated 2014 budget. Previously CATV was paid twice a year by Comcast, new contract switched to quarterly so CATV received double the first franchise fees. Money going to studio renovation, new server savings, upgrade government meetings to HD and robotic cameras for Hartford selectman. Note: Quechee is largest Comcast payer in VT but money fluctuates due to vacationland. Comcast went up 17%.
5. Fees for service. KUA would like CATV to do an after school program, similar to Hartford. CATV will go to Plainfield but charge because it is outside of the territory. Discussion about CATV’s mission and what issues might arise from this. CATV is not a commercial production studio, video camp is a fee for service is there enough staffing, permissions available to rebroadcast? Do we have a large enough base of videographers to do the taping?
6. Video Camp: 6 Counselors this summer.
7. Halloween-a-thon. Hopkins Center wants to partner with CATV—this year’s Halloween-a-thon will occur in the Loew Theater with spotlights and a red carpet. Wednesday will be Middle School and Thursday will be High School and Adults. Hopkins Center will help with promotion, awards, and judges. Also, offer filmography/gothic, free workshops.
8. Friday, July 18, awards for first video camp week, every Friday through August 22.
9. Gov’t Mtgs: Bob F. explains the responsibilities of CATV and the Governing Board. Video on demand is representative of the quality of the original filming—CATV receives two exact copies of the same quality. Audio could be a broadcast issue? Lots of equipment in between—CATV’s responsibility to find issue. Not a fault in the original file but an issue in the chain of events. CATV has no control over entire chain so it leaves CATV’s responsibility in the clear.

7:14pm Meeting Adjourned