CATV Board Meeting

November 18, 2014

Tip Top Studio, White River Jct, VT

Present:

Board Members: Rob Gere, Paul Boucher, Mike Murray, Margaret Jacobs, Linda Carbino, Frank Jones, Clay Odell

Staff: Bob Franzoni

Official Start: 5:30 pm

1. Secretary’s Report. Paul moves, Mike seconds. Passed
2. Treasurer’s Report. VT franchise fee is high due to pay period—adjusted for next year. Clay moves, Mike seconds. Passed.
3. Halloween-a-thon. Great! 29 teams participated—the LOEW theater was filled. CATV partnered with the Hopkins Center this year.
   1. Participants were from as far away as Middlebury and Keane—expanded beyond region. Bob will meet with Hopkins Center to see if CATV can try to do it again next year, maybe not as grand scale.
   2. Next year may have to be 3 nights. High School, Jr. High and Adults. Show everything next year? Need to show all videos so participants can experience the big screen.
4. VTel—HD is set up. CATV received 1st payment of $1500. 1 of 2 that signed. Contract with VTel says that CATV can’t show outside of region—if other 5 stations in VTel’s range agree to show outside of region, then would like CATV to show.
   1. Initial concern for sharing content outside of coverage area. VTel appears to have permission/in process from other areas. Springfield and Ludlow are concerned. CATV would agree only if all station sign. No limitations on channels through VTel, they also own local. Limited with Comcast, no IP.
   2. Sharing content to promote content. Worry about misuse of transmission source. Rob wait until everyone is lined up then talk directly with other stations, not VTel. Don’t change agreement until speak with other stations.
   3. Video on demand—content is already being broadcasted. Public access. Suggest to not giving okay until everyone has signed. Comcast/internet presence—let slide until becomes an issue.
5. Employee benefits.
   1. Consider giving IRA program to employees—matching funds up to 3% or create IRA and give 2%. Tax-deductible. Encouragement for employees. Will know Lebanon numbers first weekend in December. Year by year basis.
   2. Payroll accounting, CATV has to set up, and fill out form.
   3. Can we afford it? 6-9 months of operating expenses if income fails.
   4. Suggest finding hard figures and vote at next meeting. Dec. 9—cost for each employee.
   5. Find out Hanover budget in May.
   6. Clay moves that if the dollar figure for the IRA is less than $10,000 including expenses then the board authorizes CATV’s Executive Director to proceed for the fiscal year. Linda seconds, passed.
6. 2015 budget
   1. Only station in VT that shows in NH and NH towns pay for service.
   2. Budget proposal. Charts to show. Dec. 9th Bob would come back with adjusted budget if changes. Clay moves, Linda seconds to approve FY15 budget. Passed.
7. Other:
   1. Homeschool-CSPAN project, Newport, Claremont and Keane, NH. Hartland has a reading program and wanted to start video program. Will be during the next 2 weeks at CATV.
   2. Film Slam-WRIF couldn’t go to films, week before HS vacation. Teams will come in April 3 to get genre, then when ready, send video.
   3. Open house at CATV Dec. 4, 5-7pm.
   4. HBO internet subscriptions, view as threat to income. Currently CATV gets income through TV broadcast only. Internet is not part of that. More realistic threat. Keep an eye on cable companies.
   5. Discussion about release forms and guidelines for producers. Recent issue with a show. CATV will set a precedent for release forms and give guidelines to all producers. Release forms for guests are a standard operating procedure.

Paul moves to adjourn meeting, Mike seconds. Meeting adjourned. 6:50pm.