
**RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY
WSBE/Rhode Island PBS**

DATE: May 29, 2005
TIME: 5:30 P.M.
PLACE: WSBE/Rhode Island PBS
50 Park Lane
Providence, RI 02907

PRESENT

Mr. Michael Isaacs (Chairperson)
Mr. Roger Boudreau
Hon. Judge Frank Caprio
Mr. Charles Roberts
Ms. Karen Shuster
Mr. Peter Wells

EXCUSED

Mr. James Leach

ABSENT

Mr. Gary Grove

OTHERS PRESENT

Mr. Robert Fish (President & CEO, WSBE)
Mr. David Piccerelli (Vice President & CFO, WSBE)

Pursuant to notice, a meeting of the Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority convened on Tuesday, May 29, 2007.

With a quorum of members present, Chairman Isaacs called the meeting to order at 5:35 P.M.

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Isaacs welcomed the new members of the Board and reviewed the revised State statute, RIGL § 16-61-4 Appointment of Public Members-Renewal, as it pertains to the makeup of the Public Telecommunications Authority Board.

President's Report

Mr. Fish updated the Board on the newly assumed responsibilities of operating Public, Educational & Government Access (PEG) for Cox Communications (Cox) and soon to be Verizon cable. Signed the agreement with Cox back in late January and began PEG operation in early February. Currently in negotiations with Verizon to operate their PEG needs.

Engineering Operations

- Continue to debug the digital operation that was built over the past few years.
- Exploring the possibility of having Rhode Island PBS be the only PBS station broadcast over cable in the State of Rhode Island.
- Three digital channels slated for broadcast (WSBE-1, WSBE-2, WSBE-HD)
- Editing booths have been expanded and upgraded.

Personnel

- New Chief Engineer hire August 2006, has since left.
- Focus today on personnel with IT experience and ability.
- Exploring potential partnership with ITT.
- Dexter Merry, Director of Broadcast Operations (DBO) planning on retiring.
- Plan to hire Director of Technical Operations to replace DBO's position.
- Union contracts need to be reviewed and revamped to reflect the changes in technology and the way RIPBS operations have changed.
- Plan to take DBO position and downsize to a Television Technician position to provide more resources to produce local programs.
- Plan to reclassify Producer/Director positions to be Production Manager.

Development

- March pledge surpassed goals.
- Family Fun Week, during April school vacation, was a big success with seven events held over five days.
- Membership appreciation event, part of the 40th Anniversary Celebration, will be held July 25th at the Roger Williams Park Zoo. 2,500 people are expected.
- Major donor event to be held Saturday, October 27th at Rosecliff in Newport. The event is expected to raise \$75,000 - \$80,000.
- #1 rated shoe is Lawrence Welk.
- Concert planned for Sunday, November 11th at the Providence Performing Arts Center. Performing will be Guy and Ralna from the Lawrence Welk Show.
- Development numbers overall are flat; Auctions down slightly off-set by slight upside Membership numbers (accomplished with fewer pledge days).
- Planning to add an additional Underwriting Sales Executive, Annie McIntyre.

Programming

- Mary Lou Palumbo hire from Cox Communications to generate new local programming. Her responsibilities will be to come up with the program ideas, write the script, obtain the funding for the program and produce the program.
- New programs being considered:
 - *4th of July Parade*
 - *U.S. Air Force Academy Band*
 - *New England Portraits*
 - *An Evening at Chan's*
 - *Joe Joe's Dream Cart*

Financial Report

A brief financial report was given by Mr. Piccerelli. Overall, the operations remain pretty steady with only minor concern financially. We expect to finish the fiscal year with an operating shortfall of \$173,318 which will be covered by the remaining bequest funds we received.

Old Business

None

New Business

- Chairperson Isaacs suggested that with the revisions to the legislation covering the Authority, the By-Laws of the Authority should be updated as well. He will review the current By-Laws and propose changes where necessary.
- RIGL § 16-61-6(a)(22) Powers and duties of authority: requires the Authority to conduct a training course for all newly appointed and qualified members within six months of their appointment or designation. Chairperson Isaacs volunteered to assemble training material, with WSBE management, for review by the Authority at a future meeting.¹

Adjournment

With a motion by Chairperson Isaacs, a second by Mr. Boudreau, and unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcription of my notes taken at the time of said meeting.



David W. Piccerelli, Vice President & CFO

October 24, 2007

Date