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**RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY**  
**WSBE/Rhode Island PBS**  
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DATE: February 28, 2008  
TIME: 3:00 P.M.  
PLACE: WSBE Rhode Island PBS  
50 Park Lane  
Providence, RI 02907

**PRESENT**

Mr. Michael Isaacs (Chairperson)  
Hon. Judge Robert Flanders  
Mr. James Leach  
Ms. Lisa Pelosi  
Ms. Karen Shuster  
Mr. Peter Wells

**EXCUSED**

Hon. Judge Frank Caprio  
Mr. Charles Roberts

**ABSENT**

None

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Mr. Robert Fish (President & CEO, WSBE)  
Mr. David Piccerelli (Vice President & CFO, WSBE)  
Ms. Meredith Holderbaum (RI Senate Fiscal Agent)

Pursuant to notice, a meeting of the Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority convened on Thursday, February 28, 2008.

With a quorum of members present, Chairperson Isaacs called the meeting to order at 3:08 P.M.

**With a motion by Mr. Leach, a second by Mr. Wells and a unanimous vote, the minutes of the Board from a meeting on October 24, 2007 were approved.**

**Chairperson's Report**

At this point a tour of the facility was conducted.

Upon completion of the facility tour, Chairperson Isaacs conducted the training course as required by RIGL § 16-61-6(a)(22) Powers and duties of authority: for all newly appointed and qualified members

## **President's Report**

Mr. Fish reported to the Board the following:

### Engineering Operations

- Installed *News Ticker*. Device used to scroll school closings and other information across the bottom of the viewers screen.
- Rhode Island Broadcaster's Association member stations unified to create one source school closing database that all broadcasters may draw off to announce school closing and other critical information.
- All other computers and systems running smoothly.
- Working with Cox Communications to have WSBE-2 & WSBE-HD picked up on their cable system.

### Production

- Developing new on air image package.
- Preparing for pledge drive that will run from March 1<sup>st</sup> through March 21<sup>st</sup>..

### Development

- Spring Auction will be held the week of April 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The 2008 Wine Auction has been moved to the Roger Williams Park Casino and will be held October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Underwriting revenue is flat for the fiscal year.
- We have begun applying for small grants for unrestrictive purposes.

### Public, Educational & Government Access

- Program continues to run very well with only a few minor complaints.
- Providence studio lease at 50 Houghton Street expired February 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Looking to move Providence studio to 300 Niantic Ave.
- One of our PEG employees was charged with cyber stalking.
- Cyber stalking trial begins March 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The same employees has been charged by RI State Police w/having child pornography on his personal computer.

## Programming

- We have added *Frontline*, PBS's flagship public affairs program, to our program lineup, airs Thursdays at 9:00 PM. Several other new programs and specials added, including *Jane Austin* on Fridays and *Carrier*, a 10 hour special devoted to life on an aircraft carrier.
- *New England Portraits* will have episodes on Rumford Baking Powder and New England diners.

## Financial Report

Mr. Piccerelli reported to the Board the following:

- Revised expense budget for fiscal year 2008 is \$3.66 million. This out paces revised revenue of \$3.56 million by \$100,000.
- Significantly attributed to a 26% increase in healthcare costs (approx. \$25K) for the Foundation employees; underwriting revenues off FY 2007 pace; lower than budgeted net revenue from the Gala (actual \$20K vs. budget \$50K); cap ex expenditure of \$27K for New Ticker computer.
- We have developed a few initiatives to stabilize the downward trend;
  - We have begun an employee contribution to their health insurance costs of 10% for the Foundation employees. This is in line with what the State employees have been paying for a couple of years now.
  - Looked to Development staff for additional revenue of \$60K from Underwriting.
  - Reduced programming rights purchases by \$150K.
- With the discussion of potential furlough days being enforced on State employees by June 30, 2008, employing the same treatment to Foundation employees would net an additional \$27K in savings.

## Old Business

None

## New Business

### Bylaws

- Chairperson Isaacs presented his proposed Bylaws amendments at the October 24, 2007 meeting calling for changes to the original version that was drafted in 1981. The proposed amendments would bring the Authority into conformance with the general laws that govern the Authority and reflect how the Authority operates today, specifically allowing for electronic notification.

**With a motion by Mr. Leach, a second by Ms. Shuster and a unanimous vote, the revised Bylaws were adopted.**

## **Communications**

None

## **Future Agendas**

- Quarterly Board meetings.
- 4:00 PM meetings.

## **Adjournment**

With a motion by Mr. Leach, a second by Mr. Wells, and unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 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.



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David W. Piccerelli, Vice President & CFO

July 31, 2008  
Date