
RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY
WSBE/Rhode Island PBS

DATE: August 5, 2008
TIME: 4:00 P.M.
PLACE: WSBE Rhode Island PBS
50 Park Lane
Providence, RI 02907

PRESENT

Mr. Michael Isaacs (Chairperson)
Mr. James Leach
Ms. Lisa Pelosi
Mr. Charles Roberts

EXCUSED

Hon. Judge Frank Caprio
Hon. Judge Robert Flanders
Ms. Karen Shuster
Mr. Peter Wells

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 Tuesday, August 5, 2008.

With a quorum of members present, Chairperson Isaacs called the meeting to order at 4:15 P.M.

With a motion by Mr. Leach, a second by Mr. Roberts and a unanimous vote, the minutes of the Board from a meeting on February 28, 2008 were approved.

Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Isaacs reported receiving a phone call from a former RIPBS Foundations employee. A brief discussion ensued regarding an appropriate response to the former employee. Chairperson Isaacs will reply accordingly.

President's Report

Mr. Fish reported to the Board the following:

Engineering Operations

- Begun contract negotiations with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for the renewal of the collective bargaining agreement that covers the technician and engineer class employees.
- HD is 98% complete with minor tweaking of automation system.
- Newsticker cancellation system working well and working with State Police to develop a missing persons alert system.
- All other computers and systems running smoothly.

Production

- Mary Lou Palumbo resigned her position to seek other opportunities.
- Programs we have aired or are working on:
 - “Traces of the Trade”
 - “Operation Clean Government” w/URI
 - A show on ticks & lime disease
 - Completed Ciao Italia production in June
 - A show w/the Narragansett Indians
- Soliciting Rhode Island Film Festival participants for quality programs to be scheduled for air.

Development

- Hired Janet Zwolinski as Development Director. Janet brings much non-profit experience to us and will be a welcome addition.
- Hired Carol Carson as an Underwriting Executive. Carol has many years of sales experience most recently with the East Bay Newspapers. Carol should be able to parlay this experience into increased underwriting revenue.
- Annual Wine Auction will be Friday, October 3, 2008 at the Roger Williams Park Casino.
- Our annual fall pledge drive will be from September 1st through September 14th.
- Barnes & Noble will sponsor a book fair where RIPBS will be present and 50% of all the proceeds will come to RIPBS.

Public, Educational & Government Access

- Program continues to run very well with only a few minor complaints.
- Moving Providence studio to 300 Niantic Ave.

Video Streaming

- Price increases getting high
- We will be having discussions with Judge Caprio & Judge Flanders.
- Most states that have video streaming offer the service through their departments of education.

- We will be looking at having the Rhode Island Department of Education take over the video streaming. They would manage the program and will potentially fund it as well.

A demonstration of the video streaming service was held next.

Financial Report

- Mr. Piccerelli entertained questions on the written report that had previously been distributed.
- A budget for the station's operation was presented and discussed.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Communications

None

Future Agendas

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

Adjournment

With a motion by Mr. Roberts, a second by Ms. Pelosi, and unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 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

September 16, 2008
Date