



WMHT Public Media

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**WMHT Educational Telecommunications
WMHT Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2017**

A Meeting of the WMHT Board of Trustees was held on March 23, 2017 at WMHT, Troy, New York. Karen Hitchcock, Chair of the Board of Trustees, presided.

Karen Hitchcock	Susan Novotny
Robert Altman	Karen Opalka
Jane Altes (phone)	Joseph Raggio
Prentiss Carnell	Joseph Richardson
Gloria DeSole	Estela Rivero
Doris Fischer Malesardi (phone)	Viki Sand
Mona Golub	Carl Shuster
John Kolb	Maggie Vinciguerra
Lee A. McElroy Jr.	Eugene Zeltmann

Excused

Kathy Jimino	Harry Rutledge
Annemarie Lanese	William Picotte
Steady Moono	

Also Attending

WMHT Staff: Sandra Beer, Val Belden, Bob Cummings, Mary Gribulis, Julie Raskin and Chris Wienk.

Call to Order

Dr. Hitchcock called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

***Consent Agenda
Items***

On a motion by Ms. DeSole seconded by Ms. Malesardi the consent agenda of minutes and notes listed below was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees.

Minutes and Notes

- January 26, 2017 Board Meeting with minor corrections
- February 16, 2017 Strategic Planning Meeting
- February 21, 2017 Executive Committee Meeting
- March 7, 2017 Governance Committee Meeting
- March 8, 2017 Finance Committee Meeting
- March 8, 2017 Audit Committee Meeting
- March 20, 2017 Strategic Planning Meeting

Presentation of 990's

Dr. Hitchcock introduced Kevin Testo, Principle of The Bonadio Group. Mr. Testo presented the 990 for FY16. The Finance Committee reviewed it last week. This is not a tax form, rather it is a required information form required by the IRS and New York State.

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Altman said that the February numbers continue the pattern that we have seen throughout the year. Our net income before depreciation is \$195,000 better than budget and \$70,000 better than previous year, not including our \$500,000+ special gift. This is due largely to expense control. Some of that current \$200,000 surplus may be reduced by weaker March fundraising pledge drives on both radio and TV. Our cash position is good and there is no outstanding line of credit.

Strategic Planning Committee Report

Mr. Kolb noted that there is a four page short version of the Strategic Planning document in the packet of materials received for this meeting. The committee and staff are looking at the five primary strategies to test their fit with WMHT's vision and mission and will start defining tactics and measurable goals for this 3-year plan. A final draft will be presented at the May Board meeting. The committee welcomes input from Trustees.

Washington DC Update

Dr. Hitchcock reported on the annual meeting for Board Chairs and CEOs of public broadcasting in Washington DC and meetings with our Senators and Representatives. Dr. Hitchcock and Mr. Altman shared the possible consequences should federal government funding be decreased or eliminated. As this is about 12 % of WMHT's budget, it would have a distinct impact. Funding changes would be particularly difficult for smaller stations. It was noted that a major role of the public broadcasting system is to play a vital role in emergency communications, especially in the most far-flung rural areas served by small stations. She shared a website that has great deal of additional information: www.protectmypublicmedia.org

President's Report

Mr. Altman reported on upcoming events. Mary Gribulis has been chosen as one of 25 digital media leaders in public broadcasting to take part in a special training program. Mr. Altman is finishing skype interviews and plans to bring in final candidates for both VP positions in early April. He noted the upcoming documentaries about Henry Johnson and Breathing Lights that will be premiering in early April. We will be hosting a town hall with John Faso on April 13, which will be broadcast and available for streaming.

Chair's Report

Dr. Hitchcock reiterated the request for Trustees to provide input into the strategic plan. She also urged that all Trustees become involved in advocating for public broadcasting, and reported that when a more detailed budget is released by the Trump administration she will be drafting an "Op-Ed" piece regarding the proposed elimination of federal funding for public broadcasting.

Executive Session

None required.

Adjournment

On a motion by Dr. McElroy and seconded by Ms. Vinciguerra, the board unanimously approved adjourning the meeting at 5:45 pm.

