

**Catamount Access Television Corporation**

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 25, 2024

1. **Tim Scoggins convened the meeting in person and via video conference at 4:06 pm with the following members present; Dan Cross, Greg Van Houten, Sarah Krinsky, Lisa Byer, Executive Director, and William Gardner – Operations Manager. Frank Barnes, Jack Rossiter-Munley, and Asa Morin were absent.**
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Tim Scoggins asked for approval of the Board Minutes of January 22, 2024 and Annual Meeting of February 26, 2024.

**MOTION: GREG VAN HOUTEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2024, BOARD MEETING AND THE ANNUAL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2024. DAN CROSS SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL MEMBERS VOTED IN FAVOR AND THE MOTION PASSED.**

3. **FINANCE REPORT:** Lisa reviewed the financial reports for the months of January and February 2024 and answered questions from the board with the help of William Gardner.
4. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:** The Director’s report was distributed to the board prior to the meeting for their review. Lisa provided an update on the legislative activity regarding the potential funding bill. VAN went into the Legislative Session expecting to work on a “pole attachment tax” however that has now evolved into a “streaming tax” based on a New York State Bill. The new bill is coming to a floor vote in the Senate, so outreach is being conducted. The bill proposes a gross receipts tax on streaming companies doing business in Vermont and would provide revenue for Vermont’s PEG stations. Senator Sears voted against the bill in Senate Appropriations therefore Lisa has been in contact with him to seek his support. He has since indicated that he will vote for it on the floor. If it passes it will then go to the House and then has the potential to be vetoed by the Governor. There will be continued requests for calls to legislators as the process unfolds. Lisa was pleased with the community’s response to her action alert. There was further discussion regarding the larger regulatory issues that are causing the funding decline.

Lisa reviewed the staff activity reports for February and March which were busy with annual reports and Town Meeting Day. She also presented updated information concerning the furnace replacement and addition of heat pumps. There was discussion regarding the updated quote and scope of work involved. It was agreed that the staff would make best efforts to seek other quotes from qualified companies and bring back that information for discussion.

Lisa asked for approval to replace the broken heat pump in the server room.

**MOTION: GREG VAN HOUTEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE REPLACEMENT OF THE SINGLE HEAT PUMP IN THE SERVER ROOM WITH THE COST OF APPROXIMATELY \$5000. DAN CROSS SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR AND THE MOTION PASSED.**

Lisa provided updates on Town Meeting Day and the annual reporting obligations. She also announced the new Community Calendar that has been launched on the website replacing the much-outdated bulletin board messages historically placed on the channels. She noted that the investment CD is maturing and wanted input on how to proceed with re-investing that money. It was recommended that the money in the CD be moved into an existing M&T Bank account. Lisa will get information on the new CD rates as well as high-yield savings accounts for discussion.

There was discussion regarding public comments on Facebook during CAT-TV's coverage of meetings. It was agreed to have a pinned message stating that comments containing personal attacks and/or profanity will be taken down. Lisa also alerted the Board to an issue with a community member who emailed her regarding an issue from 3 years ago. The email contained threatening language and demands. Lisa responded with an offer to meet with the individual with the understanding that she would not tolerate threats and demands. She has not heard back from the person and explained that the problem involved dynamics of an external organization and has nothing to do with any actions or issues with CAT-TV. Greg Van Houten added that he also heard from the individual and has met with him in the past to resolve the concerns.

5. **NEW BUSINESS:** Greg Van Houten alerted the staff to discussion from the Pownal Select Board regarding moving their meetings to different locations. He wanted to make us aware with the understanding that we cover those meetings. Lisa explained that they had been aware and would follow it closely.

**MOTION: GREG VAN HOUTEN MOVED TO ADJORN THE MEETING. DAN CROSS SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MEETING ADJORNED AT 5:23PM.**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Sarah Krinsky, Secretary