



WMHT Public Media
4 Global View, Troy, NY 12180-8375
(518) 880-3400 | wmht.org

**WMHT Educational Telecommunications
WMHT Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2022**

A Meeting of the WMHT Board of Trustees was held on September 15, 2022, in person and via a zoom visual and audio conference call. Kathleen Jimino, Chair of the Board of Trustees, presided.

Present

Kathy Jimino	Martin Mbugua
Robert Altman	Barb Nelson
Ian Berry	Mary Ellen Piche
Karen Carpenter-Palumbo	Del Salmon
Doris Fischer Malesardi	Tobi Saulnier
Susan Kress	Mary Simoni
Lee A. McElroy	Teresa Zielinski

Excused

Don Applyrs	Khadijah Peek
Brigit Ball Shaw	Viki Sand
Angela Dixon	Shelby Schneider
Mona Golub	Kelly Smith
Steady Moono	Danika Vittorio

Also Attending

WMHT Staff: Sandra Beer, Dan Clark, Virginia Claus, George Hauenstein, Keith Martin, Will Pedigo, Julie Raskin and Chris Wienk.

Call to Order

Ms. Jimino called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Consent Agenda Items

On a motion by Ms. Piche seconded by Ms. Carpenter-Palumbo the consent agenda, of minutes and notes listed below, was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees.

Minutes and Notes

- June 16, 2022, Board Meeting
- July 19, 2022, Investment Sub-Committee Meeting
- September 13, 2022, Finance Committee Meeting

Finance Committee Report

Mr. Altman noted that the packet has unaudited FY22 year-end numbers which are not significantly different than anticipated; almost \$750,000 better than budgeted. As of the end of August net income before depreciation is \$126,769 better than budget and \$179,014 than prior year actuals. This is all due to a reduction in expense, both belt tightening and from unfilled positions. We have a number of new staff members starting in the coming weeks.

Ms. Raskin asked trustees to send her the Conflict of Interest forms which she needs from each trustee for the audit which will start on Monday.

Mr. Altman introduced initial information on new budget adjustments related to the new restricted grants from NY State. WMHT's portion is about \$664,000 spent over two fiscal years: 60% this year and 40% in FY24. Some of the expenses for the project will be borne by already budget staff positions. Those savings will be invested in capital equipment.

On a motion by Mr. Berry, seconded by Ms. Saulier, the board unanimously approved this amendment to the Fiscal 2023 Operating and Capital budgets as presented.

***Programming and
Production Update***

Mr. Pedigo noted that Jade Warrick has started as the new host of AHA! and we have a new Production Director, Zeke Kubish.

Mr. Pedigo spoke to the various production content areas that are part of the additional state grant and will provide continuing updates over the coming months

CPB funding is allowing WMHT to take part in a Digital Transformation Project. an intensive professional development program hosted by the Poynter Institute It represents a to enhance our digital services at a moment when our audiences are getting more and more of their content through those services

Board Survey

Ms. Piche reported on a planned board self –evaluation. Next month trustees will receive an electronic survey that will allow us to compare our strengths and weaknesses with other non-profits and, over time, with ourselves.

Search Committee

Ms. Piche reported that WMHT has retained Livingston Firm to guide the search for the next President and CEO. The position has been posted and will close at the end of September. Thus far there are forty-six applicants. During October, the Livingston Firm will conduct screenings and reference checks so that the search committee then can begin an interview process. The entire board will be contacted about the process in the coming weeks.

President's Report

Mr. Altman commented upon the Strategic Planning information that had been circulated in advance and share highlight from the summer months, with special recognition for the anniversary events for WMHT-FM and WEXT. mid-October with the hosts of WMHT-FM. Dan Clark has a new reporter, Alexis Young, collaborating with him.

Chair's Report

Ms. Jimino noted there was a great deal going on this summer. She noted that last year Board giving had a goal which was exceeded. The trustee goal for FY23 is

\$50,000; about a 7% increase. Everyone is encouraged to give again this year, and to give a bit more if possible.

Executive Session

On a motion by Ms. Piche, seconded by Mr. Mbugua the meeting approved concluding the Executive Session.

Adjournment

On a motion Ms. Piche seconded by Ms. Fischer Malesardi the board unanimously approved adjourning the meeting at 5:35 pm.