

ILLINOIS VALLEY PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, January 16th 2024 – 3:30 PM

**AGENDA**

- |      |                             |       |
|------|-----------------------------|-------|
| I.   | Call to Order               | Chair |
| II.  | Resolution - Pivot Strategy | Chair |
| III. | Adjournment                 | Chair |

**MEETING MINUTES**

**January 16, 2024**

Chairman Rand called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Chairman Rand found a quorum was present with board members Alex Crowley, Andrew Rand, Dawn Dinh, Helen Barrick, Jerry Herbstrieth, Dr. John Day, Kim Armstrong, Monica Hendrickson, Sally Snyder, Stephen Morris, Steve Shipley, Andrew Chambers and in attendance in virtual conference was Wayne Cannon and Stephen Morris. In addition, guests joining were John Wieland, Dr. Chiou, Pastor Martin Johnson, and in virtual conference was Win Stoller, Heather Acerra, Daysha Warr. Station Manager Julie Sanders was present and members of the public and media were in attendance in observation.

Upon calling the Meeting to Order, Chairman Rand made remarks to the Board of Directors.

Following his remarks, Chairman Rand asked for a motion to consider the resolution related to the Pivot Strategy to be considered. The Chairman asked for counsel to provide an overview of the resolution.

Discussion occurred and the Chairman opened the floor for questions or comments. Upon motion of Armstrong and second by Hendrickson, the resolution was considered and unanimously approved by all directors. In so doing, the Board of Directors approved its first steps in its pivot strategy, including the recruitment of additional local leadership and strengthening WTVP's finances with local philanthropic commitments. To further these strategic goals, the Board of Directors elected the following individuals to vacancies on its Board of Directors:

John Wieland  
Dr. Andy Chiou  
Pastor Martin Johnson  
Daysha Warr  
Dan Pearson  
Heather Acerra  
Win Stoller  
Rick Lavender

In addition, effective, February 13, 2024 WTVP accepts the voluntary withdraw of Board Members Cannon, Day, Hendrickson, Rand, Ruckriegel, Campbell, Morris, Shipley, Herbstreith, Spain, and Synder. These withdraws from the Board are accepted, in part, to further the strategic goal of increasing opportunities for volunteer board members.

At Mr. Rand's request, the Board of Directors received his voluntary withdrawal from office and the Board and has elected John Wieland as Chairman, effective January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The board had been previously advised that Mr. Wieland is the CEO of MH Equipment. Founding in 1952, MH Equipment has grown from a small company of 50 employees into an organization composed of multiple dealerships with over 1,000 employees and 36 locations throughout Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

The Board also appointed Helen Barrick as Interim Secretary, in addition to Treasurer.

The Governance Committee was named as John Wieland, Dr. Chiou, and Pastor Johnson. The Governance committee shall seek to recommend and recruit 5 additional board members.

Following conclusion of the Board action, Mr. Rand addressed the Board and introduced newly-elected Chairman John Wieland. Mr. Wieland addressed the Board.

Mr. Wieland addressed the board and shared, "A lot has happened tonight in just a few minutes. Yesterday, the short-term viability of WTVP was in serious doubt. Today, that doubt is removed thanks to Chairman Rand and the board. Unfortunately, misuse of funds can happen to any organization and WTVP was no exception. Once the misuse was identified Chairman Rand and board took the appropriate steps, but much of the damage had been done. In the best interest of our communities and WTVP Chairman Rand and the board decided there needed to be a pivot. They found and negotiated a path forward that not only puts WTVP back on solid financial footing but also provides our communities with a refreshed board. This would not have happened without the effort of this board. I want to thank Chairman Rand and the board for their professionalism and effort to restore any trust lost from our communities over the last few months.

Everyone has been working closely with the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to restore grant funding which was put on pause. Based on personal conversations with PBS, Andrew and I feel very confident that with the actions taken, we will be back in good standing and receiving grant funding very soon. Going forward, the board will complete the search for a new CEO, make some minor changes to the bylaws, that our attorneys feel will be beneficial, and continue to provide outstanding local and national content.

The bio's of the new board members will be on the WTVP website tomorrow. Great efforts were taken to get a cross section from Peoria, Bloomington/Normal, Galesburg, and entire WTVP area. We want the board to reflect all of our communities.

Now, as mentioned previously, our station will receive an influx of money from several donors to restore any shortfall experienced over the last few years. The only thing we need from our community is to continue to support the station in the manner you have done historically. We are not asking people to give more than you have previously done, just, please, return to the faithful support the station has enjoyed over the years. Understandably, the initial response to our annual renewal request in early December has not been robust. We are going to send another request in the near future, and we ask that you would be part of this new season in the life of WTVP. We look forward to our future, serving our communities with a fresh spirit, and creating and broadcasting great content that educates, informs, entertains, and inspires families across central Illinois."

With no further action before the Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.