

**ILLINOIS VALLEY PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION**

**March 11, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting  
Minutes**

Present: By webex: Chairman Joe Strupek (webex), Elwin Basquin, Sal Garza, Jeff Huberman,  
In Person: Wayne Baum, Bryan Chumbley, Cynthia Fischer, Linda Huddle, Jerry Kolb,  
Allen Mayer, Andrew Rand, Karl Stach, Chet Tomczyk, Russ Trowbridge, Eric Turner,  
Chuck Walker; staff –Bill Baker, Stacey Tomczyk, Jennifer Davis, Margie Stieghorst, Mark  
Lasswell, Karen Button (webex)

Absent: Jon Burklund, Dr. John Day, Griffin Hammond, Henry Holling, Barb Leiter, Tom Spurgeon

A quorum being identified, Chairman Joe Strupek called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm. Before starting the formal agenda, he welcomed new Interim Program Director Stacey Tomczyk and congratulated her on her appointment.

The first order of business was to consider the minutes of the December 10, 2013 Board meeting and the January 30, 2014 were then considered. Dr. Fischer moved approval of both, seconded by Mr. Turner, and unanimously passed by the Directors.

Mr. Stach reported that the Pekin Friends bowlathon held on March 1, 2014 grossed \$4,100. Net profits of \$3,800 will be forwarded to WTVP at the Pekin Friends Annual Meeting in June.

Ms. Huddle reported that the Galesburg Friends will next be involved in the WTVP Auction.

In the Development Report, s. Davis reported that the March drive was already at 80% of goal with six more days to go. A fiscal year end additional gift mailing will be send in May; a live membership event will be produced at the Caterpillar Visitors Center on April 3; Executive Producer Fred Kaufman (Nature) will highlight a joint fundraising event with the Peoria Zoo on June 13; and, Corporate Support Manager Angie Spears has already sold 8 of 11 Auction Boards.

Reporting for the Program Department, Interim PD Stacey Tomczyk noted that Season 6 of the Doc Martin series will be in the schedule in April, and that Season 1-5 have been renewed. Wednesdays are being rebranded from “the smartest night in TV” to “Think Wednesday”. A new program produced by Caterpillar Inc. titled “When Basketball Was Diesel Powered” will air on April 3. A new Ken Burns project titled “The Address” will air on April 15 followed immediately by several local people reading Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address. The annual WTVP Auction will air from April 24-27.

Bill Baker then reported on Production activities, noting how busy the satellite truck has been during basketball season, and projecting that the revenue budget for that activity should be met. He then played excerpts from two programs recently recorded with the Peoria Symphony Orchestra, one featuring violinist Charles Yang, and a second featuring Baritone soloist Nathaniel Olson.

Mr. Strupek, excusing himself to handle a business matter, passed the gavel for the meeting to Mr. Rand

Treasurer Jerry Kolb then presented the February 2014 financials, and noted that the month was a positive one and that we are deviating from budget projections by less than 3%. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented was made by Chuck Walker, seconded by Allan Mayer and unanimously approved.

In Old Business, Mr. Tomczyk reported on progress made in the relationship with WILL and the University of Illinois. A grant application has been written and submitted to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The application requests funding for consultants to work on a strategic plan for the partnership and to hire an executive search firm to locate candidates for the joint CEO position. The MOU with the University of Illinois has been extended for three years to 2017. A joint search committee has been appointed by each side to expedite the executive search.

The effort continues to bring WQPT's master control to WTVP. A bid was submitted by WTVP on February 26 in response to an RFP from Western Illinois University. We have been notified that ours was the low bid, and we are working on pulling together the necessary technical and financial resources to make the project happen. The biggest hurdle is providing fiber service to Orion, Illinois where none now exists.

Mr. Rand, as head of the Governance Committee, thanked those whose terms are ending at this year's meeting in June. He reminded the Board of our need to seek diversity and representation of the community we serve.

In the President's Report, Mr. Tomczyk noted that he was in Washington DC in February visiting Congressional and Senatorial offices to educate our legislators on issues of importance to Public Broadcasting. A federal budget was passed earlier in the February. The main affect that it will have on us is that the sequestration has been removed, and we should receive the full amount of our federal appropriation in March...an amount well in excess of \$15,000 but yet to be determined. Spectrum repacking is very likely in the next two years. This means that WTVP will be moving from its current channel space to a different location in the broadcast spectrum somewhere below channel 31. \$1.7 billion has been allocated for reimbursement for this effort, but experts are not in agreement as to whether this will be sufficient.

WTVP is currently operating without a license as an obscenity charge filed against the station with the FCC is holding up the re-licensing process. Someone contacted the FCC with a charge that WTVP ran a commercial for Hardee's Restaurant featuring a scantily clad female with a hamburger. We have since notified the FCC through our Washington attorney that WTVP does not run commercials, has no relationship with Hardees, and did not run the commercial in question as part of any program. We also provided program logs for the time in question, and signed affidavits that we did not perform the actions charged. We are now awaiting a response.

The May WTVP Travels trip to Croatia is sold out. Jennifer Davis will host the trip for WTVP. Thirty two people have already signed up for the Normandy trip in September. Bill Baker will host that trip. The spring trip in 2015 will actually take place in January. It will feature 12 days in South America.

Reporting for Chairman Strupek, Mr. Rand spoke about the current and future relationship between WTVP and WILL. Using the analogy of “taking a trip”, he noted that we are on the first steps of a journey that can have significant implications for both stations. He thanked Mr. Tomczyk for taking the first steps by agreeing to jointly manage both stations in the interim until a permanent CEO is hired. Issues to be negotiated over the next few months include governance, budgeting, and even expansion to include other organizations that wish to be part of the effort. It promises an interesting journey with a goal of providing more content and services for our audience, in an efficient and cost effective manner.

He then commented favorably on a report handed out to the Board showing the local programming and outreach that WTVP provided over the past year. He felt it needed to be widely shared with our membership and the general audience.

Mr. Trowbridge noted his appreciation for the additional load that the staff has taken on, as well as his amazement of at the high quality programming and customer service being consistently high over the years and continuing through this collaboration process.

Following a motion to adjourn, the meeting ended at 5:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Chet Tomczyk  
President & CEO