



# TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

WCAT WORKING GROUP

**Notice of Meeting Minutes: WCAT WORKING GROUP**  
**December 13, 2023 – 7:00PM**  
**24 Hemlock Road and Zoom**

**Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM**

**Members Present:** Steve Maio, Kevin Gill, Brian McCoubrey, Aimee Forsythe, Michael McLane, Bill Reading, David Watts, and Paul Norman

**WCAT Attendees Present:** Ian McDermott

- 1) Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair
  - i) Motion by Michael McLane to elect David Watts as Chair seconded by Brian McCoubrey and so voted.
  - ii) Motion by Steve Maio to elect Michael McLane as Vice Chair seconded by Brian McCoubrey and so voted.
- 2) Status of Income Stream Legislation
  - i) Brian McCoubrey related the status of State and Federal income stream legislation. The State bill is currently in committee and won't be released from the committee until February 7, 2024 at the earliest. This legislation could if enacted result in \$100,000 revenue stream to the Town and a \$100,000 revenue stream to WCAT on an annual basis but it was noted that like the cable arena, the streaming revenue pool is shrinking.

The federal legislation seems to be more pro cable providers and may result in cable providers abandoning local access revenues.

The current status quo seems to indicate a 3-4% drop in revenues yearly for the foreseeable future.
- 3) Current WCAT Budget and Reserves
  - i) The Committee reviewed the current WCAT budget (FY2024) which is projecting a loss of \$86,369. A general discussion ensued regarding costs including health insurance expenses for employees.
  - ii) Paul Norman also presented that WCAT currently maintains a \$316,000 capital reserve balance and approximately \$500,000 in Operating reserves.
  - iii) A general discussion ensued regarding staffing and the potential for additional revenue sources as WCAT is a 501C3 corporation and could fundraise and/or advertise in the manner that WGBH does.
- 4) High School Relocation

Ian McDermott related that the new High School space was comparable to the existing studio space. He related that engineering team and architects have been very accommodating. It is yet unclear as to the cost and scope of the move to the new space and what items could be handled inhouse (cable wiring etc.), although the figure



of \$250,000 has been indicated. Steve Maio to coordinate a meeting between WCAT and the Architects to hone the scope and cost.

5) Committee Comments

It was noted that both the Verizon and Comcast Cable contracts with the Town expire in the first half of 2027.

A budget breakdown of salaries and expenses for FY2024 was requested prior to the next meeting.

6) Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was scheduled for January 24, 2024 @ 7PM at WCAT Studios ad Zoom.

7) Motion to adjourn at 8:45PM by Steve Maio seconded by Paul Norman and so voted unanimously.