



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

WCAT WORKING GROUP

Notice of Meeting Minutes: WCAT WORKING GROUP

January 24, 2024 – 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. Status of Income Stream Legislation

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.

2. Current WCAT Budget and Reserves

A. The Committee reviewed the current WCAT budget (FY2024) focusing in on the first six months actual revenues and expenses. The six-month expenses are trending lower and what was forecast as a budget loss of \$86,343 may actually break even. The major factors are the influx of \$12,500 from a State earmark (which was originally \$25,000 but reduced by Governor Healey as part of 9C budget cuts), Savings of \$36,000 in salary costs as a chief engineer was not hired (\$75,000) as it was replaced by 2 Video specialists (\$40,000), \$25,000 savings on health insurance. Revenue going forward is still a concern due to declining cable enrollment as well as lack of a viable studio due to the effects of construction of the new High School.

B. The Committee reviewed the WCAT Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2023. The balance sheet indicates \$537,874 in operating funds and \$315,026 in Capital reserves. It was noted that the Cable companies are no longer interested in making any investments in capital for local cable companies (this is part of a national trend).

3. High School Relocation

Ian McDermott related that the cost and scope to move into the new space was projected at approximately \$260,000. That figure may be reduced based on what equipment and fixtures are salvageable from the old location.

4. Mike McLane moved that the minutes for the December 13, 2024 meeting be approved as amended, seconded by Kevin Gill and so voted.

5. Committee Comments:

Kevin Gill requested the WCAT membership make-up and dues for the next meeting.

The committee discussed the possibility of exploring grant writing and marketing positions as other public media companies.

The next meeting was scheduled for February 21, 2024 @ 7PM at WCAT Studios and Zoom.

6. Motion to adjourn at 8:28PM by Mike McLane seconded by Kevin Gill and so voted unanimously.

