

# TOWN OF BEDFORD

## BCTV-WBNH Board of Overseers

### January 16, 2020

## MEETING MINUTES

Present: Dick Rawlings, Chairman, Bill Duschatko, Town Council Alternate, Melissa Stevens, Town Council Representative, Bill Foote, School Board Representative, Pete Macdonald, Julio Nunez, Dave Danielson, Andrew Hanson, Bill Jennings, BCTV-WBNH Station Manager, Coleen Richardson, BCTV-WBNH Assistant Station Manager, Harold Kozlowski, WBNH Program Director

Absent: Joel Schwelling, Bob Thomas, Vice Chairman

#### **I. Call to Order:**

Chairman Rawlings called the January 16, 2020 meeting of the BCTV–WBNH Board of Overseers to order at 7:00 pm. Roll call and introduction of members occurred. Chairman Rawlings recognized Andrew Hanson and Pete Macdonald who both will be having their last meeting this evening, unless they decide they would like to serve on the board again. We appreciate their service and commitment to the board and welcome them to reapply if they would like to. This can be done by going to the Town website under “Volunteer Opportunities” where there is a town application they can use to re-apply for their positions. Reappointment occurs after the town election in March.

#### **II. Public Input:**

There was none.

#### **III. Old Business:**

- Approval of minutes from previous meeting, October 3, 2019.  
**MOTION by Mr. Danielson to approve the BCTV-WBNH Board of Overseers minutes of October 3, 2019. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stevens. Two abstentions: Chairman Rawlings and Bill Foote. Vote taken – all others in favor.**

#### IV. New Business:

- BCTV-WBNH Manager's Report

##### A. BCTV Manager's Report

Mr. Jennings reviewed his Monthly Station Manager Report (dated January 2, 2020 which was provided to the board prior to the meeting) and discussed:

- BCTV's new HD channel 1072 which launched on December 11<sup>th</sup> and will broadcast live simulcasts. The quality is significantly improved.
- Many people are watching the channel from outside of Bedford and online.
- Senator Jeanne Shaheen's visit to BCTV to do a Washington Update segment.
- Our first Presidential candidate, US Senator Michael Bennet was a guest on the "New Hampshire Primary 2020" show.
- Superintendent of the Bedford School District, Mike Fournier is using BCTV to communicate messages and post videos, and PSA's. He was on a show about anxiety and teenagers along with a child psychologist and family therapist. Last week we began working on some big projects with the Bedford School District. Bedford High School principal Bob Jazokos has had BCTV cover their presentations and he has come up with an idea to create a video having each dean talk about their responsibilities, as well as creating video to assist people in finding out more about math, science, and humanities. As the teachers see what we can do, they are coming up with other creative ideas and ways to use BCTV.
- The rules change has been implemented and the FCC has voted that in-kind services can be applied to franchise fees. Comcast is still trying to define what this will mean, and we have not heard anything solid from them yet, but we are prepared for changes. The Protect Community Television Act has been created in Congress, and the Congress and Senate are getting behind this bill which says franchise fees are monetary and not an in-kind service. 14 Senators are co-sponsoring the bill and New Hampshire Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan are among them. Congressman Chris Pappas was in support of it last year, so Mr. Jennings expects him to co-sponsor the bill, as well as Congresswoman Kuster. The bill is gaining a momentum and they are trying to fast track it to come before the legislature.

Chairman Rawlings asked what the estimated fee impact on BCTV might be. Mr. Jennings explained that we are impacted by how many iNets (video distribution from remote sites) we have. It is premature to put a value on it. The financial impact may not be realized until June.

Chairman Rawlings asked how many Comcast customers are in Bedford. Mr. Jennings said there are currently about 6,500 households.

**B. WBNH Program Director's Report**

Mr. Kozlowski reported that we are broadcasting girls' and boys' hockey and boys' and girls' basketball on the radio and television. We are unable to know how many over the air listeners we have, but our streaming numbers have been steadily climbing since the middle of the year and are now in the high hundreds. We just had our best month in December with 1,224 unique listeners and the number is trending upward.

We recently improved the bandwidth of our online stream on WBNH. We were 128 kilobit stereo and bumped it up to 192 kilobit stereo. The quality is quite noticeable as well as the depth of sound and if you listen to WBNH online you will notice a tremendous difference.

Mr. Kozlowski saluted volunteer show producer, Bill Ingalls host of "Back and Forth" on WBNH who retired from his show this week. Bill was the station's very first volunteer programmer and he started producing his show in March 2016, one month after the radio station came on air. Since then he has produced 156 shows over 3+ years and we thank him for all his work. A blues show will be jumping into the timeslot that the "Back and Forth" show leaves behind. The particulars are still being worked out, but new blues show will not only highlight the music, but go out and speak with local performers in and around the Bedford area. Andrew Hanson and Loren Foxx did their first live broadcast of Foxx on Sports in November from the Bedford PTG Ski and Skate sale and we are looking for venues so we can do more live broadcasts in the future. BCTV Producer George Cox is working on live cam that will go into the radio studio so we will not only be producing Foxx on Sports shows for radio but we will also create a televised version for BCTV.

Chairman Rawlings understands that the upgraded bandwidth improved steaming online and asked about the signal strength throughout the greater community. Mr. Kozlowski said the output of the signal has not changed. There are some up and down periods, for example, our signal penetration improves in winter compared to Spring when there are more leaves on the trees which impedes the signal because our tower is somewhat low below the tree line. We are always looking at ways to improve the signal and we are discussing ideas. Chairman Rawlings asked if the tower can be increased or if trees can be eliminated. Mr. Jennings said that we are looking at tower options and perhaps positioning antennae differently. We would like it to go beyond the 10-mile radius.

### **C. Review of Revisions to BCTV Policies – First Draft**

There was a discussion about revisions to the BCTV policies which were sent to members of the board prior to the meeting. Ms. Richardson reviewed the revisions which mostly regard housekeeping issues such as updating station personnel, adding our new HD 1072 channel, changing information where it was talking about old forms of media such as DVDs which are no longer being used and bringing things up to date with current media that is being used, and changing how businesses can participate in helping organizations when they are doing fundraisers. Mr. Hanson was kind enough to assist us with the wording which has now been incorporated into the policy and compliance forms. Originally it was for public service announcements, but it also applies to programs (if a business is a guest on a program there are certain guidelines on how they can participate and not violate the non-commercial status of the station). If the board votes to accept the new policies they will go to Town Council for adoption.

Mr. Hanson noted that Appendix A did not contain his previously suggested edit yet. Ms. Richardson said it would be inserted.

**MOTION by Mr. Macdonald to accept the new BCTV policies with the further revisions mentioned by Mr. Hanson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Duschatko. Vote taken – all in favor. Motion carries.**

Chairman Rawlings asked for any additional comments. As election time approaches, Mr. Jennings wanted to review the filing period for offices with the Town and School Government which is January 22 through January 31, 2020 at 5:00 pm. The open positions include: Town Council (2 seats – 3 year term ), Library Trustee (1 Seat– 3 year term), Trustee of the Trust funds (1 seat– 3 year term), Town Clerk (1 seat– 3 year term), Town Moderator (1 Seat – 2 year term), and Supervisor of the Checklist (3 Seats), School Board (2 Seats– 3 year term).

Ms. Richardson reviewed the section of the policies regarding production of political interview programs and explained it was established in order to be fair and equitable to all candidates by using a procedure of having a sign-up period with specific defined timeslots. Candidates can sign up for one of those time slots and have an interview done on the “Candidates Corner” program. As residents file to fill positions, the Town Clerk will give them a letter from BCTV along with the time slots so that everyone may have an opportunity to sign up. The filing period closes at 5:00 pm on January 31<sup>st</sup> and production of the interviews begin one week later. Hopefully people running for positions will take advantage of this. Mr. Jennings said that candidates also have the ability to select their own host to interview them.

Ms. Richardson noted that the Bedford Men’s Club coordinates and facilitates debates between incumbent and new candidates for Town Council and School Board and BCTV broadcasts them.

The next meeting of the BCTV Board will be April 2, 2020.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Danielson and seconded by Mr. Macdonald. Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Rawlings at 7:46 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Tiffany Lewis