

**Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission**  
**BUDGET & COMPENSATION COMMITTEE**  
**January 19, 2021**  
**Via Zoom**

Present: *Mr. Richard Bodorff, chair; Ms. Shelly Gardeniers.*

*Also present were MPT CEO Larry Unger, COO Steven Schupak, CFO Suzanne Schwertman, Human Resources VP Colette Colclough and Executive Assistant Dionne Neblett.*

Mr. Bodorff called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and turned to Ms. Schwertman for the budget report.

Budget Summary Report

Ms. Schwertman shared the budget summary of MPT's financial position through December 31, 2020, the halfway point of fiscal year 2021. This summary will be presented at the upcoming Maryland Public Broadcasting Commission. In May, a budget was established with the expectation that the pandemic would end in the fall. MPT was expecting \$9.3 million in state appropriations; however, the FY21 appropriation fell to \$9 million after a cut of \$315,000.

Although many productions were delayed due to the pandemic, most productions were completed. The pandemic has impacted the ability to mount new productions resulting in a loss of income. Development continues to bring in donations and exceed forecasts. The Audience Engagement team has received grants to offset the loss of revenue from events. There have been many bequests this year; approximately \$600,000 has been recognized to date, with \$100,000 of the donations applied to the New Initiatives Fund and \$500,000 to operating expenses. The Education Division received a large multi-year grant from the Maryland State Department of Education that will recognize approximately \$1.4 million this fiscal year and a total of \$4.6 million overall. The Maryland State Ad Agency continues to bring in contracts; this fiscal year the agency has earned \$2.6 in revenue to date. A 2% COLA adjustment went into effect on January 1, 2021; most vacant positions will remain unfilled in order to reduce expenditures. If funds are needed to offset expenditures, the reserve fund will be utilized as needed. Mr. Unger stated MPT should receive the largest increase in its FY22 state appropriation since the mandated SB 1034 formula was established with an additional \$460,000 expected.

Ms. Gardeniers asked what determines where the revenue from bequests is directed. Ms. Schwertman explained that no policy is in place for bequests that come to the MPT Foundation, Inc., so funds are directed to the endowment fund or the New Initiatives Fund. If the funder

requests that the donation go to Maryland Public Television, the resources go to the general operating fund.

#### Review of Contracts

Ms. Schwertman stated no contracts needed commission approval. The five-year, \$500,000 task-order contract for FableVision that helps with web design for education programs was reviewed. MPT has been using FableVision for 15 years.

#### Human Resources Report

Ms. Colclough reported that there have not been many changes since the last report. The number of authorized positions is 145, and there are 132 filled positions. The number of separations is one with the retirement of Alex Vitalo, managing director, Creative Services. There were no new hires; however, MPT is looking to fill key positions including that of director of Information Technology. MPT is currently working on a succession plan with the upcoming key retirements.

The meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.