



**WMHT Public Media**  
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**WMHT Educational Telecommunications  
WMHT Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
September 23, 2021**

A Meeting of the WMHT Board of Trustees was held on September 23, 2021 via a zoom visual and audio conference call. Kathleen Jimino, Chair of the Board of Trustees, presided.

***Present***

Kathy Jimino	Martin Mbugua
Robert Altman	Lee A. McElroy Jr
Don Applrys	Steady Moono
Bridget Ball Shaw	Mary Ellen Piche
Ian Berry	Del Salmon
Karen Carpenter-Palumbo	Viki Sand
Gloria DeSole	Tobi Saulnier
Susan Kress	Shelby Schneider
Annemarie Lanese	Kelly Smith

***Excused***

Mona Golub	Mary Simoni
Susan Novotny	Teresa Zielinski
Karen Opalka	

***Also Attending***

WMHT Staff: Sandra Beer, Val Belden, Dan Clark, Virginia Claus, George Hauenstein, Will Pedigo, Julie Raskin, and Chris Wienk.

***Call to Order***

Ms. Jimino called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

***Consent Agenda  
Items***

On a motion by Ms. Sand, with a second by Mr. Berry, the consent agenda of minutes and notes listed below was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees.

**Minutes and Notes**

- June 17, 2021 Board Meeting
- July 13, 2021 Investment Sub-Committee Meeting
- August 11, 2021 Governance Committee Meeting
- September 9, 2021 Audit Committee Meeting
- September 13, 2021 Community Advisory Board
- September 14, 2021 Finance Committee Meeting
- September 14, 2021 Governance Committee Meeting

**Finance Committee** Ms. Ball-Shaw reported that the finance committee met last week and she turned it over to Mr. Altman and Ms. Raskin to present.

Mr. Altman reported that FY21 ended as expected when we last reported at the June Meeting. Net Income before Depreciation is \$1,383,831 better than budget and \$1,066,134 better than prior year actuals. He noted that we received more than \$1.5 million from monthly sustainer giving. This has increased each year and it has evened out our cash flow so that we no longer need to borrow cash on a temporary basis as we used to do.

Mr. Altman shared a brief summary of the August financials which shows a good start to the new fiscal year. As of the end of August net income before depreciation is \$99,901 better than budget and \$66,277 better than prior year actuals. Operational Income is \$28,954 better than budget and \$137,555 better than prior year actuals. Membership is continuing its strong performance, as is corporate support with the only short fall from production income, which at this point is a matter of timing. We are saving money thus far due to transitions in the production and engagement department though we expect to staff up in the weeks ahead.

Ms. Raskin noted that sustainers are still growing in the first months of this year, again a strong signal.

Ms. Ball-Shaw noted that Hugh Johnson is retiring though he has informed Ms. Raskin that he still intends to attend the investment meetings at WMHT. Ms. Ball-Shaw noted that he has done a great job of training his colleagues to be able to step in for a smooth transition.

Mr. Altman shared that CPB has finished its audit of WMHT and they gave the station a clean bill of health. The final report notes that they have no recommendations and that WMHT fully adheres to all their requirements. This audit letter will be posted on the CPB website. This level of audit from CPB is extremely rare as they are auditing not just financials, but all other federal requirements of public information, broadcast requirements and more.

A question arose regarding succession planning and Mr. Altman shared that there is a succession plan. The toughest areas are engineering and finance where specific technical knowledge is required, but for the size of our organization, we have a good mix and depth of staff with knowledge to be able to weather some difficulties.

**Content and  
Engagement Report**

Mr. Altman introduced the new VP of Production and Community Engagement, Will Pedigo. He will start fulltime next week, after being part-time throughout September. After a national search with strong candidates from across the country, WMHT is delighted to have Will Pedigo join us.

Will Pedigo expressed his excitement in coming to WMHT after having worked 18 years for Nashville Public Television. He was drawn by WMHT's forward looking programming with the deep community involvement, the digital engagement and focus on journalism. He noted that he has met one on one with his staff this month and they are deeply talented and dedicated.

***President's Report***

Mr. Altman then introduced New York NOW's producer Dan Clark who gave a thorough report on his work during the pandemic and the gubernatorial transition. Mr. Altman briefly noted that we are engaged in documenting the Troy based public art project called *The Uniting Line*. There are social media and web posts about this project and this winter there will be a documentary delving into the project and explore the impact of major infrastructure projects on urban neighborhoods.

WMHT Passport streaming service is now the primary driver of membership growth. There continues to be an effort to increase the content available to our members as we compete with other content services such as Netflix, Hulu, Amazon and more.

On the development front, Mr. Altman noted that we launched a new free tool called "FreeWill" which is aimed at those with simple situations who don't have a will. Fifty-four people created wills where they let us know that WMHT is included in their will in the first month of the tool being available. Public Media organizations have not been as successful in encouraging its supporters to include them in their estate plans as universities or health care organizations, so we are excited about this new tool.

***Chair's Report***

Ms. Jimino reiterated the welcome to Will Pedigo, and gave congratulations for the CPB audit results and great financial year. She hopes that the next Board Meeting will be in person in November. She thanked trustees for their continuing important work of the board and its committee.

On a motion by Ms. DeSole seconded by Ms. Kress the board unanimously approved moving into executive session at 5:10pm.

***Executive Session***

On a motion by Ms. Schneider and seconded by Ms. Carpenter-Palumbo, the board unanimously approved ending the Executive Session. No action was taken.

***Adjournment***

On a motion Ms. Kress and seconded by Mr. Mbugua the board unanimously approved adjourning the meeting at 5:25 pm.