

Board Present:

Ursula Barrera-Richards*
Tasha Hussain Black
Gary Boehm
Ty Boyd
Ben Brown
Elizabeth Brown-Ellis
Contrada, Carol
Matt Heyrman
Jennifer Hildebrand
John Hobbs*
Sandy Isenberg*
Lisa Kahle-Piasecki*

Shawanna LaVoy

Theresa Morris
Monika Ortiz
Charlene Patten
Barb Petee
Ann Sanford*
Olivia Summons
Patricia Wast
Leighton Woolf
Bob Vasquez

Staff Present:

Marlon Kiser
Katie Budas
Sue Kaake
Lindsay Miller
Ray Miller
Dan Niedzwiecki
Michelle Turner
Raye Ann Langlois
Matt Reny

NETA Members Present:

George E. Walter, CMA, CPA*
Amy Larkin, CPA

COA Present:

S. Amjad Hussain
Neema Bell

*Did Not Attend

A meeting of the Public Broadcasting Foundation of Northwest Ohio was held on Thursday, May 18, 2023, at noon at WGTE Public Media, 1270 S. Detroit Avenue, Toledo, Ohio.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Carol Contrada.

Add a 4th WGTE-TV Channel

Marlon P. Kiser briefly reminded the board of the Council of Advisors' endorsement of a fourth TV channel that would be anchored by content from The Ohio Channel (Ohio Governmental Communications). He noted the channel would be supplemented with content locally available. He also pointed out that we currently have the technology in place that would allow us to launch relatively quickly, likely within the next three to four months Gary Boehm asked if the new channel is expected to reach a new audience and raise funds. Marlon noted it would likely take a year to generate an audience and that we would be looking for underwriting from the business and nonprofit sectors.

Chairperson Carol Contrada called for the approval of adding a fourth TV channel. Bob Vasquez moved to approve; it was seconded by Sandy Isenberg. The motion was approved unanimously.

FY 2023 – Year-to-Date

George Walters stated that for the period ending April 30, 2023, the Foundation had actual revenues of \$4,254,436 with actual expenses of \$4,155,533 for a favorable unadjusted operating margin of \$98,903. Mr. Walters pointed out that the report is informational only, so there is no need for a vote to accept the report.

FY 2023 – Trend

George Walters stated that we are projecting to end FY 2023 with a modestly favorable operating margin of approximately \$22,000. He noted this is an improvement over the balanced budget that was approved by the board a year ago. He said that while revenues have generally underperformed, we have benefited well from lower-than-expected expenses, which have offset the losses. Mr. Walters stated that if the projection holds, this will mark the 17th consecutive year that WGTE has ended the fiscal year with a favorable operating margin. In the past 23 years, WGTE has ended only three fiscal years with an unfavorable operating margin that was in 2001, 2002, and 2006.

Preliminary FY 2024 Operating Budget

George Walters stated that the projected budget for FY 2024 is based on management's current estimates for revenues and expenses.

He noted that there would be a finance committee meeting in early June after the May financial report has been completed. At that time, the committee will review not only the updated fiscal-year-to-date financial activities for May but also what should be the final draft of the FY 2024 budget.

He stated the preliminary budget projects expenses of \$5.495.5M against revenues of \$5.595M. He said we will likely present the fiscal year 2024 budget in June with a small favorable operating margin.

Marlon P. Kiser asked if the board would be open to providing staff with a nominal, across-the-board pay increase of 3% effective July 1. He said we still need to determine the final cost of the increase. We are estimating it would be approximately \$70,000 for the year. If the board is willing to support the increase, this will reduce the currently projected favorable operating margin to \$30,000 from \$100,000. Directors, without dissent, supported the concept of the pay increase.

Mr. Kiser also mentioned everyone had received a copy of the 990 in their board packet.

Board Fundraising Participation

Gary Boehm asked how we can increase board participation during WGTE's fundraising opportunities. Tasha Hussain Black suggested getting text messages. Dr. Amjad Hussain said a handwritten letter would grab his attention. It was decided a calendar listing of all the fundraising opportunities for the year be provided at the start of the board year in September.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Jennifer Hildebrand, Secretary

6/29/2023

Date