

**Spokane Public Radio  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 16, 2025 @ 5:30 pm  
SPR Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

**Board Members Present:** Elise Azara, Heather Beebe-Stevens, Steve Faust, Tony Flinn, Dan Fratini, David Funk, Sam Jennings, Catherine Kashork, and Rick Schaffer

**Others Present:** John Decker, Beth Severn-Johnson, Mike Grabicki, Debbie Crocker, Brandon Hollingsworth.

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

Steve began the meeting by thanking Mike Grabicki for his service as interim general manager. All board members joined in congratulating Mike, and in welcoming SPR's new President and General Manager, John Decker, who assumed managerial responsibility on January 15.

- 1) **Minutes.** On motion duly made and seconded, minutes of the November 14, 2024 regular meeting of the Board were unanimously approved as submitted, with Tony Flinn abstaining.
- 2) **Presentation of FY 24 Audit Report.** Scott LaPlante, of Eide Bailey, presented the firm's audit report for FY 2024 and responded to questions from directors. On motion duly made and seconded, the board accepted the audit report.
- 3) **Financial Report.** A financial report was provided in the board packet, consisting of balance sheet as of December 31, 2024, a profit & loss statement from July 2024 through December 2024, and a cash flow analysis.

John noted a couple of larger bills did not get paid in the month of December, and will be paid in 2025. These are two bills from NPR, for \$70,000 each. When these are paid, the station's cash position will change accordingly.

On motion duly made and seconded, and after discussion, the directors voted to accept the financials report.

- 4) **Operations Report.** Staff reports from most department heads were included in the board packet. The balance of accounts payable was discussed. Mike G indicated he has worked with Brendon on how to handle uncollected accounts, and SPR is now regularly producing an accounts aging report. John added that he, Brendan, and Anne will meet weekly to discuss underwriting and collections.
- 5) **Conflict of Interest Policy.** A copy of SPR's conflict of interest policy was included in the board packet. Steve asked that each director review the policy and disclose any existing relationships that might present a conflict. Discussion followed, and it was noted that SPR should put together a form for directors to both affirm the existence of the policy and make disclosures annually.

Steve then requested a motion to move to executive session. John asked whether it was SPR's practice to provide an opportunity for public comment at board meetings. Steve indicated it had not been the practice – at least during his tenure on the board. Tony Flinn stated there should be a public comment period.

There being no objection from other board members, Steve asked whether anyone in attendance wished to make any comments. Brandon Hollingsworth commented that he was leaving his position at SPR for an opportunity in his home state of Alabama, and expressed a desire to attend SPR's celebration of its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary a few years from now. There were no other comments from the public.

Directors then returned to discussion of the operations report.

Rick asked if SPR was seeking any new hires. John responded that replacing Brandon was a top priority, and that apart from that he had not formed any opinion as yet regarding new hires.

David Funk asked Jerry Olson to comment on his priorities regarding the issues he had identified in his staff report. A high priority is to repair the E. Oregon transmitter. Jerry and John spoke with SPR's FCC attorney earlier in the day to see about an extension of time to repair the E. Oregon translator. April will mark a full year since the translator went out, and SPR is thus at risk of losing its license for the translator. Rick Schaffer might know someone who can help us get up to the site, which is inaccessible at this time just as it was last year at this time. John added that it is his philosophy to hang on to all real estate assets of SPR when possible. In response to a question on how many listeners in Eastern Oregon support SPR, Beth indicated we do have listeners there who donate and Catherine related her experience of receiving a pledge call from one such listener during the fall fund drive.

On motion duly made and seconded, the Board then moved to executive session at 6:25 pm.

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.**