

Minutes for the regular National Finance Committee meeting January 24, 2023.

Meeting convened at 8:52 PM (ET) a quorum being present, the Chair and Secretary being present.

Attending: Sharon Adams, Elizabeth von Gunten, Julie Hewitt, R. Paul Martin (Secretary), James McFadden, Sean Kelly McPherson, James Sagurton (Chair), Susan Young also attending were Pacifica Executive Director Stephanie D. Wells and WBAI General Manager Berthold Reimers.

Agenda:

1. Convene meeting
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adopt Agenda
 4. Minutes (5 minutes)
 5. Report from the Executive Director with Q & A if needed or available (20 minutes)
 6. Review of the WBAI FY23 Budget with General Manager Berthold Reimers (60 minutes)
 7. Review of the FY22 Consolidated Financials with Executive Director, Stephanie Wells (25 minutes)
 8. Set next meeting date
 9. Adjourn no later than 10:15 PM (ET)
-

Motion: (James Sagurton) “To adopt agenda.” (Passed without objection as amended)

Amendment: (R. Paul Martin) “To make the ‘Minutes’ item five minutes, and to set the time for adjournment to be ‘no later than 10:15 PM (ET).’” (Passed without objection) 8:55 PM (ET)

Minutes 8:56 PM (ET)

Motion: (R. Paul Martin) “To approve the minutes of the November 29, 2022, and December 6, 2022, public session NFC meetings.” (Passed without objection)

Report from the Executive Director with Q & A if needed or available 8:57 PM (ET)

The Executive Director told the committee that she’d met before this meeting with the KPFK interim General Manager. She said that the National Business Manager was able to pull a financial statement for the first three months of FY23 for the station. She said that hadn’t been possible before due to the National Office not having access to the *Great Plains* software. She said that she’d reviewed that with the interim General Manager and they were breaking down the revenue, which had been in one generic line. She said that they were in the process of working on the KPFK draft FY23 budget and they were meeting once a week on that. She said that she hoped to be able to present the KPFK draft FY23 budget to the NFC shortly. She said that an additional

way to raise money for the Pacifica Radio Archives was needed. She said that some people from WPFW had asked to work on their budget with her. She said that she hoped to get the budgets pumped out very quickly and then they would turn around within the next month and get started working on the financials for FY24. She said that the goal was to present those draft FY24 budgets to the NFC by late August or early September so we could start the next fiscal year with approved budgets.

The committee discussed the Executive Director's report. The Executive Director said that she started with KPFK because they have no Business Manager and they need to get a better grasp on their bills. She said that she would work with all General Managers on budgeting. In answer to a question the Executive Director said that she had done a little bit with KPFT but not that much and not much with the WBAI General Manager but she's reviewed and looked through those budgets that have any sort of questions. She said that she personally had reviewed all of the budgets based on the consolidated financials and had done a kind of rough draft on what she anticipated what the budgeting would be moving forward. She said that for the stations whose FY23 budgets have been approved she's keeping it in her brain what the trouble spots are and what we need to do. She said that she was looking at everybody's budget and making projections every couple of weeks. In Answer to a question she said that the WBAI General Manager was mostly working with the National Business Manager.

In answer to a question the Executive Director said that there was no estimate for when we'd get the actuals for all of the other stations, but that once things get worked out in *Great Plains* the National Office will work it out for others.

There was a discussion of the KPFA property tax issue that's been ongoing for years; the Executive Director said that she'd just gotten the E-mail two hours before the meeting. She said that attorneys were working on it and that she had to look at the prior E-mails.

The committee discussed budget timelines of the past. The Secretary volunteered to E-mail what past budget timelines he had to the committee, and this was done.

There was a discussion of the Aged Payables. The Executive Director said that it would probably take another two to three weeks before one could be put out, but that it may show just actual dollar amounts without showing to whom the money was owed. She said the most recent one had been about 15 pages long and she detailed the various problems involved with generating one.

In answer to a question the Executive Director said that all of the General Managers had gotten the consolidated FY22 financials.

There was a discussion of the National Business Manager getting abusive calls from people in Pacifica. The Executive Director said that the National Business Manager had been in Pacifica for many years, so she can deal with it, but if it gets to be too much the Executive Director will deal with it.

Review of the WBAI FY23 Budget with General Manager Berthold Reimers 9:22 PM (ET)

The committee once again considered the WBAI draft FY24 budget proposal. The WBAI General Manager gave a general overview of the draft FY23 budget. He said he hoped that his 52-week schedule for on-air fund raising would work. He said that he'd lowered the revenue projection from last year's \$3,250 per day to \$2,100 per day which he said brought the Listener Support revenue to about \$915,000. He explained the BAI Buddy project to the committee. He again went over his projection of getting additional revenue from Broadway ticket premiums, PSAs and Community Events. He said that he was not including New York City Council member discretionary funds, which he hoped to get, in the revenue projection. He said that he was working with several people on this effort and projected getting about \$75,000 from it. This draft FY23 budget projected about \$1.5 Million in Total Revenue for WBAI and an initial deficit of about \$8,000. After Central Services fees were added in the budget the deficit came to about \$144,000. The General Manager had included Capital Expenditures in the expenses and they brought the deficit to about \$170,000. In the course of the discussions on the budget it was suggested that the General Manager take the Capital Expenditures out of the budget to revert the deficit to the \$144,000 figure and thereby create the possibility of paying some Central Services fees in FY23.

The committee discussed WBAI's paid consultants which added up to an expense of about \$178,000. After the WBAI General Manager described what the consultants did for WBAI it was noted that under California law some of them would be considered employees. There was a discussion of which consultants would properly get an IRS 1099 form as opposed to a W2 form.

Whether or not this budget would allow WBAI to pay Central Services fees was discussed.

Motion: (James Sagurton) "To extend the time for this item by 15 minutes." (Passed without objection) 10:18 PM (ET)

The committee continued discussing the WBAI draft FY23 budget proposal. Some members said that they would not vote to approve the draft budget that had been presented to the committee because it was a deficit budget.

Motion: (Susan Young) "To extend the time for this item by five minutes." (Passed without objection) 10:31 PM (ET)

The committee continued discussing the WBAI draft FY23 budget proposal. The WBAI General Manager asked anyone who wanted to vote against approving the draft WBAI FY23 budget to call him and discuss it with him. The Chair asked the Executive Director if she'd work with the WBAI General Manager on the draft budget and she said she would.

Adjourned 10:44 PM (ET)

Submitted by R. Paul Martin, Secretary.