**SUMMARY**

**ALABAMA EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION COMMISSION MEETING**

August 18, 2020

*Via Zoom Conference*

Interim Executive Director Philip H. Hutcheson confirmed that the board meeting of the Alabama Educational Television Commission (AETC) had been publicly noticed according to the Alabama Open Meetings Act, the Federal Communications Commission, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and per the policies of the AETC.

The AETC consists of the seven members listed below, whom were all participating in the Zoom Conference meeting and official business could be conducted. Chairman Ferris Stephens called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM.

Mr. Ferris Stephens, Chairman Mr. Les Barnett

Mrs. Bebe Williams, Vice-Chairwoman Mrs. Tijuanna Adetunji

Mr. J. Holland, Secretary Mr. Pete Conroy

Mr. William A. Green, Jr.

The minutes of the last AETC meeting (January 16, 2020) had been provided in writing for review prior to today’s meeting. There being no changes or discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. A vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Chairman Stephens introduced the newest member of the Commission, Mr. William A. Green, Jr., who had been appointed by Governor Ivey in January and was confirmed by the Alabama Senate on May 5, 2020. Chairman Stephens also added that current Commissioners Tijuanna Adetunji and Pete Conroy had been reappointed by the governor in January and were also confirmed by the senate on May 5, 2020.

Chairman Stephens reported that Barry B. Copeland’s term on the Alabama Educational Television Foundation Authority (AETFA) will expire in September and asked for motions to reappoint Mr. Copeland. Motions were made and a vote was taken to reappoint Mr. Copeland as a member of the AETFA. It passed unanimously.

Philip F. Hutcheson, also the Chief Legal Counsel/CFO of Alabama Public Television (APT) introduced Bill Bach of Kassouf & Co., who reported on the company’s most recent independent audit of the financial statements of APT. Mr. Bach reported a favorable opinion on APT’s audit and attested to the “fair presentation of . . . combined financial statements in accordance with accounting principles” and obtained “reasonable assurance . . . the combined financial statements are free from material misstatement.” Mr. Hutcheson also reported on the audit by the State Department of Examiners for the years of 2013 through 2019. The exit interview revealed no findings.

Philip F. Hutcheson had provided a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the current fiscal year to the Commissioners prior to the meeting. (The MOU is an agreement among all three entities of Alabama Public Television [AETC, AETFA and The APT Foundation] that provides guidelines for the accounting of revenues and expenses for Alabama Public Television.) A motion was made and seconded to approve the MOU as presented. A vote was taken, and the AETC approved the MOU unanimously.

The Interim Executive Director presented a report of the activities of Alabama Public Television since the last Commission meeting on January 16, 2020. Highlights were given by the department heads of different divisions as requested by the Interim Executive Director. Paramount in these reports was the synergy among the different departments – Education Services, Production, News & Public Affairs, among others, as they came together with the Alabama Department of Education and Superintendent Eric Mackey to provide the educational content, digital resources and programming for students and teachers of Alabama after COVID-19 caused all schools to close. APT also worked with Congressman Palmer and the Alabama Business Council to help get the word out regarding PPA funds and how to go about utilizing these SBA loans.

Upcoming projects were announced to the Commission, which included the learning adventure *The Vote*, which celebrates the ratification of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote; *Alabama in the Making*, a documentary about the sculptures in Bicentennial Park; *Alabama Black Belt Blues*, a documentary about the musical culture born in the black belt of Alabama; *Jim Martin – Forever Wild*, a documentary about former Alabama conservation director James D. Martin; and *Becoming Helen Keller*, a film about the Alabama native, which will air in early 2021.

Chairman Stephens discussed the importance of completing the 2020 Census and the effects it could have on future funding for Alabama. He encouraged all board members and the staff of APT to get out and urge others to complete the census.

After a brief discussion, it was suggested that the next meeting of the AETC be held on November 10, 2020 in the Birmingham office of APT, if possible. A motion was made and seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Having no further business, a motion was made to adjourn and was seconded. A vote to adjourn passed unanimously, and the AETC meeting was adjourned at 12:15 PM.