

Special Meeting of WEFT Board of Directors for 7-30-18

Call to Order at 7:19 pm.

Roll Call: Robe, RG, TH, SW, VN, BP, EZ, AC

Guests: Barb Trumpinski-Roberts, Mark Niswander, Lucian Bontumasi

Public Comment: Barb makes a personal appeal on Jon Wason's behalf. Defends his character. Says that this might drive people away.

Board Comment: RG addresses reasons behind the ban, staying away from items discussed in closed session. The exception to that being a Facebook chat log that was brought up during the original process. He also brings up Baub Alred's encounter of when JW arrived at his residence.

BP believes that JW does not pose a threat to anyone. Says the ban should go, and that JW's comments were in jest.

AC: Met Baub Alred, who collaborated the story of RG. Mark Niswander notes that AC's comment is technically hearsay. AC later notes that Baub published the story online for public viewing.

Meeting begins to focus on two factors. 1) RG not choosing to participate in the mediation process, and 2) SW's choice of a mediator and whether she is impartial in doing so.

HRC Report:

Robe and others went over the evidence. They recommend that the ban be lifted, but with conflict resolution beforehand. NP brings up the library meeting and the following Board meeting. RG responds that the apology that happened was hollow, and not worded with contrition. SW stressed the need for conflict resolution in these issues.

TH brings up the existential crisis of the tower repairs, and what the meeting's subject might mean for that. SW responds that the WEFT body is losing faith in the Board in these matters. RG comments on the legality of the Board's actions and the evidence kept from the WEFT body. AC responds that closed sessions must be done to protect WEFT personnel in the event of Board error.

Barb takes umbrage with RG's actions in regards to the process. TH notes that his and many others' votes were originally in favor of lifting the ban. His own view was changed by JW's reaction. Robe answers that such is a concern shared by the HRC, and is taking into account in the proposed resolution. SW verbalizes her support of this.

Mark notes that the FB conversation that was copied down is a violation of privacy.

EZ wants to clarify the issue: Is JW valuable to the station? Can he be rehabilitated? RG and SW argue the salient points, with SW explaining the timeline to EZ. Discussion of JW's past behavior and the nature of personal change ensues.

Lucian asks to clarify the specifics on conflict-resolution mediators for this incident. RH and SW address this. EZ brings up the idea of Joy George as being mediator. RG notes conflict-of-interest he sees with SW's choice. BP notes that Brian Dunn picked the same mediator as SW, noting BD's own interest in the issue. Discussion becomes heated. TH wants to see this come to a vote, and notes that the "lifetime ban" is not be an accurate statement. He notes that a successful mediation would change his vote. SW does not want a longer (de facto) probationary period. A re-start of the process is kicked around the table, with the main issue being whether JW can enter the station.

VN reiterates legality of FB privacy violation. Consequences are examined for potential motion. The roles of both the HRC and Governance Committee are brought up.

VN makes a motion to allow the conflict resolution process to go forward, leaving the decision in the hands of Joy George. Resolution first, THEN reinstatement. TH likes the idea, but he and RH think that perhaps the vote should occur after the mediation. SW says that we should listen to the Associates on this and follow By-Laws to maintain station confidence. Additional conflicts-of-interest are discussed.

TH makes a motion to lift the ban. Robe wants it made with conditions. EZ seconds this.

Roll Call Vote

AC: No

RG: No

VN: Yes

BP: Yes

EZ: No

SW: Yes

Robe: Yes

TH: No

Vote is 4 to 4. Ban upheld.

No further actions can be taken. RG notes that he could be willing to see a new conflict resolution process.

TH moves to adjourn. SW seconds. Acclamation. 8:45 pm ending of meeting.