

TRANSIT COMMISSION MINUTES

Date and Time: The Transit Commission met on Thursday, July 17, 2014, at 1:30 P.M. at the Wausau Downtown Airport, 725 Woods Place, Wausau, WI.

Members Present: Keith Draheim, Daniel Guild, Joan Joss, Robert Mielke, George Peterson and Keene Winters

Members Excused: Sherri Abitz and Txang Hue Yang

Also Present: Greg Seubert, Mary Foss

In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Wausau Daily Herald in the proper manner. The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Mielke after noting a quorum was present.

Public Comment on Matters Appearing on the Agenda

Kathy Zoern asked that all communities consider the K Route that is proposed and to come to a decision so the budget can be figured out.

Daniel Guild arrived at 1:40 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Winters moved to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2014 meeting. Joss seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Report and Budget Discussion

Seubert provided a year-to-date revenue and expense summary. Both revenues and expenses are down compared to budget. Seubert believes the reason may be fewer school days caused by weather related cancellations during the winter months.

Seubert will soon start preparing the 2015 budget which is due August 4th. He anticipates receiving slightly more state and federal funding and the City of Wausau has requested that its share of the Metro Ride budget be cut by 1%. He noted that cuts to the City's share of the budget would likely increase the cost for the other municipalities.

No action was taken.

Ridership Report

Seubert provided a year-to-date ridership report for all bus routes and two additional reports specific to Route K. Fixed route bus ridership is down 5.8% compared to the previous year. The average daily ridership for Route K is about 54. Seubert noted that Route K has a limited schedule, with just 7 trips provided each day. He also noted that we lack the technology to automatically track Route K ridership by municipality, so bus operators track boarding and alighting activity with manual counters.

No action was taken.

Proposed route for Rothschild, Schofield and Weston

Seubert stated that over the past several months, Guild has offered a number of route concepts and has requested cost estimates for varying numbers of trips for each one. Seubert prepared the estimates using 2014 budget numbers and cautioned that they should not be used for 2015 budget purposes.

Seubert introduced a route map, sample timetables and a cost estimate for the most recent scenario - Route Scenario 6. He also presented a list of transit service design considerations and explained how they may influence ridership. He stated that historical ridership information is not useful for projecting ridership, because services provided have changed so significantly.

Guild stated that the cost of 10 or 11 trips would exceed Weston's budget limitations. Joss said that the cost for Schofield must be similar to current cost or they will have to pull out altogether. Peterson said that Rothschild will be comfortable with what the other municipalities decide.

Seubert cautioned that the estimate shown was prepared using 2014 budget numbers. He said that he would have 2015 budget estimates ready for the August meeting and could recommend a specific number of trips at that time.

Guild moved to endorse the Scenario 6 route design, with 8 or 9 trips per day, subject to the approval of the governing boards. Peterson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-1, with Winters voting no.

Bus Fleet Status Report

Seubert stated that frame cracks were discovered on six buses, during recently completed annual safety inspections. The cracks were caused by corrosion and the buses must be retired for safety reasons. The buses have all exceeded their minimum useful lifespan as required by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), but we now have too few buses available to provide service when school starts in September.

Seubert stated that Ozaukee County has some used buses available, but a price has not yet been negotiated. They have a half million miles on them, but the frames are made of stainless steel and they are in good shape. Heckendorf stated he is investigating the possibility of leasing buses, but it would be a much more expensive option. Our old buses will be sold for scrap value, which is anticipated to be about \$1000 each.

Seubert stated that WisDOT and the FTA must provide advanced approval for Ozaukee County to sell the buses and both agencies have done so. He indicated that he would seek funds from the City of Wausau to facilitate the procurement.

The next regular meeting date is August 21, 2014, at 1:30 p.m.

Joss moved to adjourn the meeting. Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Mielke, Vice Chairperson

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