

ONEIDA-VILAS TRANSIT COMMISSION (OVTC) MINUTES

January 10, 2020

ATTENDANCE: Erv Teichmiller, Bob Mott, Steven Schreier, Charles Hayes, Fred Radtke and Milt Klingsporn. Absent Ed Hammer. Others Present: Roger Youngren, Transit Manager; Joel Gottsaker, Interim Director ADRC Oneida County; Kayla Houp, Lakeland Times: and Scott Holewinski.

CALL TO ORDER: Teichmiller called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. the Health and ADRC Building at 100 W. Keenan St. Rhinelander, noting this meeting was properly posted in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law and meets the Americans with Disabilities Act.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Motion by Schreier to approve Agenda in any order as per the chair with a second by Mott. All ayes. Motion Carried.

CONDUCT PUBLIC HEARING: Youngren proposed a rate increase for local fares. Senior and disabled fares from \$1.00 to \$1.25. General public fares from \$2.00 to \$2.50, Roughly 90% of rides are local fares. The increase in fares would generate \$8,400 in additional revenue. The fare increase would be for all location with and effective date of February 1, 2020. Board chair asked three times for public comment. Public hearing closed at 9:05 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion by Schreier to approve Minutes of December 2, 2019. Second by Radtke. All ayes. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one present.

FARE DISCUSSION/DECISION: Fares would change through-out the two-county region. Revenue in 2019 was below budget. Increase is forecast to bring in additional revenue of \$8,400. Fare revenue is considered local share under OVTC's budget. Punch card prices to remain the same. Route fares were adjusted based on mileage in 2019. Local fares have never increased. Schreier had read where other transit companies don't charge a fare because less than 2% of the revenue is fare money. Bay Area Rural Transit has lower fares, but they receive county and tribe money. Motion by Hayes to starting February 1, 2020. raise local fare rates for seniors/disabled from \$1.00 to \$1.25 and general public from \$2.00 to \$2.50. Second by Klingsporn. All ayes. Motion carried. Mott would like to revisit fares each year in November or December. Youngren will post the fare increase on the website and in the buses. He will also send out a news release.

LEASE/PURCHASE OF 121 MILL ST., EAGLE RIVER WI: OVTC's attorney John Houlihan had a few issues with the proposed lease. The purchase agreement is for \$455,000 and there is no wiggle room if the appraisal were to come in lower. OVTC hasn't been approved for the grant and OVTC wouldn't be able to exercise the purchase if the grant isn't approved. If OVTC defaults on the rental payment, it's an automatic eviction. Youngren had an appraisal of the property. The appraisal came in at \$385,000 including \$10,000 for furnishings. Discussed whether to walk away, offer the lower price, offer full price or lease without purchasing. The board is responsible for Public funds and can't justify paying over appraisal price for the property. Motion by Schreier to table lease/purchase of 121 Mill St. Eagle River Wi until February meeting. Second by Hayes. All ayes. Motion approved.

TRANSIT MUTUAL INSURANCE DATA: Youngren reported that OVTC had zero accidents and zero incidents. Youngren and the board commended all drivers. This is a mutual insurance company and OVTC will see a dividend after three years of membership.

DONATION: Various donations are received. OVTC is a charitable donation. Discussion regarding state statute of donation of \$5,000 or more to be approved and accepted by the board. OVTC received a \$1,000 donation in December.

NEW BUS ARRIVAL UPDATE: Buses anticipated arrival of January month end or the beginning of February. Buses will be inspected before acceptance of delivery. Then buses will add signage and a communication system before use.

2019 AUDIT SCHEDULE: Current auditor will extend their services to complete an annual audit for OVTC at a cost of \$7,000 per year. No news from WisDOT regarding their audit. WisDOT won't release 10% hold back until their audit is complete.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY: Teichmiller excused himself from the room at 9:59 a.m. Mott to chair this topic. OVTC's attorney recommended that the board member and staff to read and sign conflict of interest questionnaire. Discussion on when to complete and how often to update. Staff has a conflict of interest policy in the employee handbook. County board members sign a conflict of interest policy. The attorney didn't supply a questionnaire. Discussed who decides what a conflict actually is and if there is an appeal process. Mott suggested for the next meeting for county board members to bring their respective conflict of interest policies. Mott will speak with Oneida County Attorney Desmond regarding the county policy. Board to ask Attorney Houlihan for a questionnaire. Teichmiller returned at 10:32 a.m.

2019 RIDERSHIP NUMBERS: Total rides for 2019 were 39,300. Down 3% from 2018 at 40,688. New route Boulder Junction to Manitowish Waters to the Lakeland area every Monday. New route Phelps to Rhinelander every other Friday. Routes are being fine-tuned by different times and different locations. Youngren hopes to increase ridership year to year. Projected demographic for seniors to be close to 50% for Vilas and Oneida County.

CLOSED SESSION: Motion by Radtke, second by Schreier to enter in to closed session pursuant to section 19.85 (1)(c) Wis Stats., to: consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of a public employee over which this body has jurisdiction or responsibility (Topics – 1. Driver 2. Personnel Wages & Benefits). All ayes Motion carried at 10:45 a.m.

Motion by Hayes. Second by Schreier to return to open session at 11:45 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Hayes to terminate an employee as prescribed by the personnel handbook. Second by Schreier. Roll call vote: 4 Aye; Schreier, Hayes, Klingsporn, Teichmiller; 2 Nay, Mott, Radtke. Motion Carried.

Motion by Mott to authorize reimbursement for two employees not on health insurance policy through current year up to \$132.00 per person per month. Second by Hayes. All ayes. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Friday, February 7, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Minutes reflect the recorder's notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate committee.

Respectfully submitted by:

Barbara Newman
Office Manager