

**KALAMAZOO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Minutes of December 16, 2011**

Members Present: Chair Carol Fricke, Andy Havice, and Joseph Szuszwalak; Garrylee McCormick

Members Absent: Reuben Richardson (excused); and Jason Meddaugh (unexcused)

City Commission Liaison: Robert Cinabro

Technical Support Members Present: William J. Schomisch, Executive Director

City Administration Member Present: Beth Sowles, Administrative Office Specialist

Others Present: Michele McGowan, Disability Network

Chair Fricke called the regular meeting of the Transit Authority Board of Directors to order at 8:16 am.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken.

INTRODUCTIONS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. McGowan stated that the Route #12 Talking Bus was not being used. She also stated that with the new ITS technology people with a cognitive disability and disabled individuals would be able to give input as to where call outs would be helpful. Ms. McGowan also asked about the policy re: two people using a blue disabled card being punched three times.

ISSUES/ITEMS FOR CITY MANAGER/CITY COMMISSION

Budget

ACTION ITEMS

Meeting Minutes of October 28, 2011

The minutes were approved as presented. The minutes of September 23, 2011, will be accepted at the January 2012 meeting.

Mr. Havice made a motion to approve the minutes from October 28, 2011, and was supported by Mr. McCormick. Motion carried unanimously.

Income and Expense Statement – September and October

Mr. Schomisch presented the October Income and Expense Statement.

Mr. Szuszwalak made a motion to approve the September and October Income and Expense Statements, and was supported by Mr. McCormick. Motion carried unanimously.

Ridership Report – September and October

Mr. Schomisch presented the September and October ridership reports and stated that increases in ridership have been seen in both months. The Community Service Van program is the only mode showing a decrease.

Mr. McCormick made a motion to approve the September and October Ridership Reports, and was supported by Mr. Szuszwalak. Motion carried unanimously.

2012 Proposed Operating and Capital Budget

Mr. Schomisch stated that the TAB Budget Committee met on Wednesday and approved the budget as presented. The proposed 2012 operating expenses are \$17,213,386 and capital expenses are \$12,262,267. It was explained that the capital is not for the 2012 capital program, but a sum of all grants Metro Transit currently has.

Metro Transit is adding one position – the Travel Trainer position. This position is funded through New Freedom. This person will be working with seniors, people with disabilities and the general public in teaching them how to use the Metro Transit System. This position is expected to be posted in January 2012.

Mr. Schomisch stated that service levels are not changing and that there is no proposed fare increase.

Mr. McCormick asked whether Apple Bus is doing okay in providing Metro County Connect service. Ms. McGowan stated that she feels they are doing very well. Mr. Schomisch stated that this is Apple Bus' third year of their three-year contract.

There will be some minor route improvements going into effect in January. After the April 2011 route changes, several petitions were received asking for their front door service to be reinstated.

Portage – Route #27 moved the route from Centre to Romence, heard from drivers that people are being left behind on Centre. Service will be restored some to Centre to again service those individuals. Both Romence and Centre will be covered. None of the changes meet the threshold for a public hearing.

Mr. Schomisch stated that the WMU pilot project was planned with WSA. WMU is paying the fully allocated costs for the campus routes.

Mr. Havice asked if the Route #14 – West Main bus was affected and Mr. Schomisch stated no, it was the Route #3 – West Michigan.

Mr. Schomisch stated that the difference in the budget was the amount budgeted for diesel fuel. The Finance Director decided that the amount budgeted should be lowered from the recommended amount.

Mr. McCormick made a motion to approve the 2012 Proposed Operating and Capital Budget, and was supported by Mr. Havice. Motion carried unanimously.

Resolution Levying 0.6 Mills for 2012

Mr. Schomisch stated that this is the third year of the three year millage that was approved. This is a yearly action needed by the TAB in order to collect the taxes.

Chair Fricke shared a concern with the urbanized area mileage being in November with the presidential election. Mr. Schomisch stated that if it fails the TAB does not go "away". The TAB is "Plan B". Mr. Szuszwalak asked if the KCTA is doing education countywide to help pass the millage.

Mr. Szuszwalak made a motion to approve the Resolution Levying 0.6 Mills for 2012, and was supported by Mr. McCormick. Motion carried unanimously.

Reappointments to TAB

Mr. Meddaugh and Mr. Szuszwalak are being reappointed to serve on the TAB and recommending a special reappointment for Chair Fricke

Mr. Havice made a motion to approve the Reappointments to TAB, and was supported by Mr. McCormick. Motion carried unanimously.

Election of Officers

The officers will be: Chair: Carol Fricke, Vice Chair: Garrylee McCormick and Secretary/Treasurer: Joseph Szuszwalak.

Mr. McCormick made a motion to approve the Election of Officers, and was supported by Mr. Szuszwalak. Motion carried unanimously.

Setting of Meetings

The meeting schedule was presented.

Mr. McCormick made a motion to approve the Election of Officers, and was supported by Mr. Szuszwalak. Motion carried unanimously.

Recommendation from LAC for Appointment

Ms. McGowan stated that the applicant has been riding for a couple of years and lives in Vicksburg.

Mr. Havice made a motion to approve the Recommendation for LAC Appointment, and was supported by Mr. McCormick. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Federal/State Funding Update

At federal level, senate is working on a two year reauthorization bill. Government is supposed to shut down midnight tonight due to a lack of funding. Funding package has been agreed to as efforts continue on a payroll tax issue. Government should continue for several more months.

On the State side, the governor has proposed a budget for 2012 that maintains operating assistance at the same level. Capital was increased slightly, allowing us to draw down federal dollars.

Stuff-A-Bus

Dueling radio stations for collecting Toys for Tots this year. WKFR only wanted to do stuff a bus for one days and second station is three days.

INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Schomisch stated that WMU has shown an increase in ridership on campus.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. McCormick stated that he was very happy that Chair Fricke can continue serving on the TAB.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. McGowan asked for the number of trips being made to the VA. Mr. Schomisch stated that the Community Service Van is also taking people to the VA. Metro Transit has an intergovernmental agreement with Battle Creek Transit to provide this service.

Mr. Cinabro will continue to act as liaison with TAB. TAB conflicts with another subgroup meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business presented before the Transit Authority Board of Directors at their meeting dated Friday, December 16, 2011, Chair Fricke adjourned the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Beth A. Sowles, Recording Secretary

Date: December 16, 2011