

MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
Regular Board Meeting
January 26, 2005 – 4:30 p.m.
Burnsville Transit Station

Board Members Present:

Meg Tilley, Eagan
William Droste, Rosemount
Ruth Grendahl, Apple Valley
Wally Lyslo/Margaret Schreiner, At Large
Kevin Lienau, Savage
Elizabeth Kautz, Burnsville

Others Present:

Beverley Miller, Executive Director
Michael Abegg, Planner
Barb Ross, Best & Flanagan
Tom Knier, Laidlaw Transit
Robin Selvig, Customer Relations Manager
Mitch Rasmussen, Burnsville TWG
Lois Spear, Finance Officer
Gene Franchette, Dakota County
Tom Bright, Facilities Manager

I. Call to Order

Chair Meg Tilley called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

II. Election of Officers

Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Ruth Grendahl to elect the following slate of officers: Chair – William Droste; Vice Chair – Kevin Lienau; Treasurer – Ruth Grendahl; and Secretary – Jon Ulrich. Motion carried. Droste then assumed the chairmanship of the meeting.

Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Meg Tilley electing Margaret Schreiner as the At-Large commissioner and Wally Lyslo as the At-Large alternate commissioner. Ruth Grendahl noted that she was unaware of the term limits on the at-large commissioner and suggested that the Board revisit the Joint Powers Agreement to change that language. Motion carried.

The sign-up sheet for committee assignments was passed around the room.

III. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Ruth Grendahl to approve the agenda as published with one additional miscellaneous item under staff reports regarding the Apple Valley parking situation. Motion carried.

V. Consent Agenda

Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Meg Tilley to approve the Consent Agenda as published. Motion carried. Motion carried. Resolutions adopted as part of the Consent Agenda are attached to these minutes.

VI. Old Business

A. *Metro Transit Contract Extension*

Beverley Miller briefly reviewed the memo included in the packet regarding the Metro Transit contract extension. It is for 18 months for nine articulated buses. Metro Transit is the only provider able to meet our needs for articulated buses at this time. The increases were attributed to health insurance rate increases, labor rate increases, and the cost of diesel fuel. Motion by Meg Tilley and seconded by Kevin Lienau to approve the Metro Transit Contract extension. Motion carried.

VII. New Business

A. Apple Valley Weekend Service

Mike Abegg reviewed the memo in the packet regarding potential weekend service in Apple Valley. He indicated that conditions have changed since service was discontinued – most specifically, the opening of the Light-rail line to the Mall of America. There was discussion about how weekend service could serve the Minnesota Zoo more capably with the opening of the light rail line and only one transfer to a bus. Margaret Schreiner suggested that because the Minnesota Zoo is a state asset, research be conducted to determine if there are specific resources that might help cover the cost of transportation to the Zoo. It was also suggested that the MVTA partner with the Zoo when surveying about the need for weekend service. It is likely that the MVTA will be back before the Board seeking approval for a data-gathering effort regarding weekend service in Apple Valley, as this was not part of the 2005 approved budget.

VIII. Staff Reports / Update

A. Meeting Calendar

Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Meg Tilley adopting a meeting calendar for 2005 based on MVTA Board meeting taking place at 4:30 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of the month. Motion carried.

B. Meetings with City of Lakeville

Ruth Grendahl reviewed several meetings conducted between the MVTA, the City of Apple Valley and the City of Lakeville regarding transit. AT this point, Lakeville has not expressed an interest in joining the transit taxing district, but rather is going to survey its residents to determine the interest in transit. Ruth also noted that even if Lakeville joined the district (which would require legislative action), there would only be funding for capital and there would still be no dollars for operations. Michael Abegg offered some information regarding the license studies last fall, indicating that 57 percent of the cars parking at Apple Valley are from outside the transit taxing district. He added that 33 percent of the cars parking at Burnsville are from outside the transit taxing district. He further noted that if cars from Prior Lake, Shakopee and Inver Grove Heights (areas within the taxing district but outside the MVTA service area) were counted in Burnsville, the number would grow to 37 percent. System wide, that would translate to a total of 35 percent of the cars parking at MVTA sites are from outside the MVTA service area.

There was discussion of how to proceed. Ruth Grendahl distributed a letter to the Mayor of Apple Valley from the Mayor of Farmington. Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Meg Tilley directing staff to send a letter to each of these communities, including the cost per household to add transit.

C. Insurance Premium Update

Information was included in the packet regarding the MVTA's insurance. It was noted that the premium came in about \$9,000 under budget. Ruth Grendahl noted that this should be

shared with Metro Transit, given that they cited significant increases in insurance premiums as one reason for the rate increase.

D. I-35W BRT Study Update

Michael Abegg provided a brief overview of the I-35W BRT study that was recently submitted to the legislature and that was presented to the House Transportation Committee on Tuesday. Among the key finds of the report is that currently, with 87 buses on I-35W during the peak period, some 3,200 riders are being transported, which translates into 1.2 lanes of traffic alone. The MVTA has a copy of the full study on file. It should be noted that no funds have been designated for implementation of BRT on I-35W at this time.

E. Service Time Commitment from CA Communications

Beverly Miller noted that there was a memo in the packet following-up on the questions regarding response time for the MVTA's new phone vendor.

F. Argosy University Update

A memo was included in the packet responding to last month's request from William Cowan regarding service to Argosy University. It was noted by Board members that a quarter-mile should not be too long a distance for students to walk to the school.

G. Permit Parking in Apple Valley

Ruth Grendahl discussed the City of Apple Valley's desire to move ahead with permit parking at the Apple Valley Transit Station should another solution not be available. She indicated that their legal counsel, Mike Dougherty, has studied the issue associated with obligations of facilities built with federal funds and determined there is nothing to preclude this option. Given that the MVTA leases the site from the City, it was suggested that the City obtain approval from the MVTA to conduct the permitting. The City of Apple Valley would be responsible for the administrative and enforcement aspects of the program. Motion by Ruth Grendahl and seconded by Meg Tilley approving the City of Apple Valley's desire to proceed with permit parking at the Apple Valley Transit Station, based on mutual agreement of any federal funding restraints on sites such as the Apple Valley Transit Station by MVTA and City of Apple Valley legal counsel. Motion carried.

H. Driver of the Year

Bill Droste announced the winners of the 2004 Driver of the Year designation:

- Metro Transit – William Ritenour
- Laidlaw Transit – Vicky Cady
- Schmitt & Sons – Lyle Laabs

The Driver-of-the-Year dinner will take place on February 23 (next Board meeting). The Board meeting and dinner will be at Casper's Cherokee Sirloin Room in Eagan. Details will follow prior to the next meeting.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Review Committee Assignments

Committee assignments were reviewed, specifically relating to STA, to ensure there is enough representation from the MVTA. Committee assignments will be ratified at the February meeting.

B. STA

Margaret Schreiner gave a brief summary of the last STA meeting, including:

- Discussion of a multi-year bonding bill
- Gas tax? Up in the air
- MVET funding continues to be less than projections

- A hand-out of transportation funding proposals was distributed (copies will be provided to all MVTA Board members)
- A class was conducted in Farebox 101 – noting that there are no spare fareboxes, and how revenue is lost because of the significant number of dysfunctional fareboxes
- It appears that the MVTA and other transit agencies will not be asked to participate in the 20-60-20 budget reduction plan
- Bill Droste asked if the STA minutes could be provided to all Board members

IX. Adjournment

Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Ruth Grendahl to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 p.m. Motion carried.

Minutes Prepared By:

Robin L. Selvig

Next Regular Meeting Scheduled: Feb. 23, 2005, 4:30 p.m. Casper's Cherokee Sirloin Room, Eagan, followed by Driver of the Year awards dinner

All regularly Scheduled Board Meetings will be held on the **FOURTH** Wednesday of the month at the posted time at the Burnsville Transit Station Second Floor Conference Room unless otherwise notified.

Approved by: _____

Date: _____