

MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Special Board Meeting
April 7, 2005 – 8:00 a.m.
Burnsville Transit Station

Board Members Present:

William Droste, Rosemount
Kevin Lienau, Savage
Elizabeth Kautz, Burnsville
Will Branning, Dakota County
Tom Pepper, Eagan TWG
Ruth Grendahl, Apple Valley
Wally Lyslo, At Large

Others Present:

Beverley Miller, Executive Director
Robin Selvig, Customer Relations Manager
Michael Abegg, Planner
Wally Lyslo, At Large Alternate
Lynn Moratzka, Dakota County TWG Rep
Tom Baker, BTS Developer
Tom Knier, Laidlaw Transit

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair William Droste at 8:02 a.m.

II. Public Comments

There were no comments from the public.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Wally Lyslo and seconded by Kevin Lienau to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

IV. Old Business

A. Baker Lease

Beverley Miller reviewed a memo provided by Barb Ross regarding the lease with Tom Baker to develop the two retail pads at the Burnsville Transit Station. Mr. Baker noted that the west building will be 8,400 square feet (first to be constructed) and the east building will be 7,400 square feet. These are consistent with the existing Planned Unit Development (PUD), and will require only staff-level approval at the City of Burnsville. Tenants for the project include an independent coffee shop, a sandwich shop, dry cleaners, and a proposal has been presented for the Dakota County License Center. These uses would occupy about 5,500 square feet of the first building. Mr. Baker would like to start construction as soon as he receives the go-ahead from City of Burnsville, with plans to have tenants in by October 1. Mr. Baker indicated that his financing is in place, and he is hopeful that construction will take place on both buildings at the same time. Elizabeth Kautz indicated that she has heard from Dakota County Commissioner Mike Turner, and that the License Center is very anxious to move forward and obtain additional space. Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Wally Lyslo to approve the lease between the MVTA and Apogee Investments (Tom Baker). Motion carried.

B. Parking and Related Legislative Issues

The latest version of SF1925 was distributed to Board members. This is the bill sponsored by Sen. Chris Gerlach. A “delete all” was done on the version distributed at the last Board meeting. The bill provides for voluntary participation for up to four years, during which time cities are able to use the property tax funds for operations. After four

years, these cities would be considered part of the Transit Taxing District, and their property taxes would then be used to pay for debt service.

Board members still had concerns about the language, and about an interpretation regarding issues of “growth” or “fee for services” vs. a new “tax” – that would automatically be vetoed by the Governor. Motion by Elizabeth Kautz and seconded by Wally Lyslo to direct staff to write a letter to Dan McElroy clarifying the Governor’s position on this (referencing growth, that this is a “fee for service” and is in line with the region’s object of reducing congestion. Motion carried. Kevin Lienau expressed concern about the agreement between the city and the Met Council, with no indication that a contiguous service provider should be included in the discussions. Beverley Miller noted that this was raised by several of the opt-out communities, and the MVTA/STA would continue to work for language that is advantageous to us.

With regard to the issuing of permits, Ruth Grendahl stated that Apple Valley needs a solution, and absent of anything else, they will begin to issue permits. She said that in a recent discussion she had with Dan McElroy, he said “Why would you not use permitting?” The letter from the FWHA with its official ruling on permitting has not yet been received. Bill Droste expressed concern about implementing permitting system wide in the MVTA area, due to the need for enforcement and that the MVTA does not have the staff to enforce. Apple Valley Transit Station is a bit different as the City owns the Transit Station and the City’s code enforcement staff will implement the permitting.

Bill Droste also noted that as the 2005 legislative session winds down, the MVTA should work with STA to implement a formula for the Met Council to use in expanding the Transit Taxing District – particularly as plans are approved for the Council’s 2030 plan.

Discussion of the parking and legislative issue will continue.

Bill Droste noted that the Met Council fare/service cut hearing is slated for Wednesday, April 20 at Burnsville City Hall, 5-7 p.m.; and that the MVTA’s public meeting on proposed Apple Valley service changes will be from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 25.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m. Motion carried.

Minutes Prepared By: Robin L. Selvig

Next Regular Meeting Scheduled: April 27, 2005, 4:30 p.m. Burnsville Transit Station, Second Floor Conference Room

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: _____