

MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Regular Board Meeting
February 19, 2020 – 4:30 p.m.
Horse and Hunt Club

Board Members Present:

William Droste, Rosemount
Gene Abbott, Savage
Clint Hooppaw, Apple Valley
Chris Gerlach, Dakota County
Jon Ulrich, Scott County,
Jenni Faulkner, Burnsville,
for Dan Kealey
Casey McCabe, Prior Lake, for
Kevin Burkart
Gary Hansen, Eagan
Jay Whiting, Shakopee
Amanda Novak, Elko New Market

Others Present:

Luther Wynder, MVTA
Heidi Scholl, MVTA
Richard Crawford, MVTA
Steve LaFrance, MVTA
Aaron Bartling, MVTA
Grace Vriezen, MVTA
Tyre Fant, MVTA
John Miller, MVTA
Tania Wink, MVTA
Susan Borgerson, MVTA
Nene Israel, MVTA
Ben Picone, MVTA
Chad Deegan, MVTA
Samantha Porter, MVTA
Dan Rudiger, MVTA
Kristi Sellwood, MVTA
Joe Smetana, MVTA
Bill Forbord, Schmitt and Sons
Connie Massengale, Schmitt and Sons
Kevin Voith, Schmitt and Sons
Tim Podas, Schmitt and Sons
Darren Boyer, Schmitt and Sons
Jennifer Tandberg, Schmitt and Sons
Laslie Boyer
Tom Lovelace
Jim Strommen, legal counsel

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Chair Clint Hooppaw. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Agenda

- Amanda Novak, representing the city of Elko New Market as an ex-officio MVTA Board Member, was introduced as she was attending her first meeting.
- Gary Hansen noted that he was listed as being in attendance at the January Board Meeting and that the minutes should be corrected to reflect that he was not in attendance.

A motion by Jay Whiting and seconded by Gary Hansen to approve the agenda. The Agenda was approved unanimously.

III. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IV. Consent Agenda

Gene Abbott indicated that he was unfamiliar with some of the abbreviations used in the packet. MVTA Chief Executive Officer Luther Wynder indicated MVTA would provide an updated list regarding frequently used abbreviations. A Motion by Abbott and seconded by William Droste to approve the Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was taken.

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|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| Hooppaw – Aye | Abbott – Aye | McCabe– Aye |
| Faulkner – Aye | Gerlach – Aye | Droste – Aye |
| Hansen – Aye | Whiting – Aye | Ulrich – Aye |

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

A. Greater Viking Lakes Transit Service Concepts

Planning Manager Aaron Bartling and Public Information Manager Richard Crawford provided a report on a Town Hall meeting that was conducted on Feb. 12 at Viking Lakes in Eagan. Informal discussions about enhanced public transit service for the area in the past year culminated in the Town Hall meeting designed to gather feedback from businesses in the Greater Viking Lakes area. The Town Hall was a collaborative endeavor involving MVTA, Viking Lakes and the Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Bartling reviewed route concepts that were shared at the Town Hall. They ranged from extending Route 436 to more directly serve the area to potential new routing that could provide connections to the Mall of America, Eagan Transit Station and the 46th Street light rail stop.

Crawford said people who attended the meeting were encouraged to take a survey on the concepts and early results from the survey showed support for extending Route 436 to more directly serve the area.

Wynder said funding will be necessary to add new routes to serve the area and the feedback from the business community will help determine future concepts and support pursuit of funding to provide any new service.

Commissioner Hansen said he was pleased that the Town Hall meeting was conducted and that additional service to the area has been discussed in the past year.

VII. Committee Reports

A. STA

Luther Wynder, MVTA Chief Executive Officer, provided a report on the Feb. 19 Suburban Transit Association Legislative Breakfast. The five STA Legislative Priorities for 2020 are:

1. Reinstate General Fund appropriations eliminated in 2019.

2. A more equitable distribution of MVST funding.
3. Include STA agencies in enhanced safety/security initiatives.
4. Include STA projected in Met Council bonding requests.
5. Funding required to add regional technologies.

Board Chair Clint Hooppaw, who also serves as president of the STA, said there was a good contingent of legislators at the breakfast and good representation from the House and Senate Transportation committees. Hooppaw also noted that representatives from STA would be meeting with new Met Council Chair Charlie Zelle later in the week to discuss the priorities.

VIII. Board and Staff Reports

A. Travel Training Presentation

Community Outreach Specialist Kristi Sellwood provided an overview of recent outreach initiatives. In 2019, MVTA conducted more than 109 events – ranging from business outreach and job fairs, to classroom presentation and field trips. About 1,500 people were reached during the events.

In 2020, outreach plans include promotion of new Route 498, group transit trips to entertainment venues, more visits to civic and social organization, promotion of MVTA’s internship program, and marketing during the State Fair to take advantage of a large “captive audience.”

Commissioners were also encouraged to notify MVTA if they were aware of organizations that could benefit from having an MVTA public transit outreach event.

B. Grant Application Submissions

Luther Wynder, MVTA Chief Executive Officer, reported that MVTA plans to submit grant applications for the following programs:

- 2020 Regional Solicitation
- FTA 2020 Buses and Bus Facilities
- FTA 2020 Accelerating Innovative Mobility

One of MVTA’s priority grant submissions is for the Burnsville Bus Garage Modernization. A 2018 study found that the building has significant deficiencies in need of repair and that the garage received the lowest score of any garage in the region based on a consultant’s ranking.

C. Apple Valley Transit Station Modernization Update

Samantha Porter, MVTA Chief Operating Officer, provided an update on Apple Valley Transit Station ramp expansion and modernization. All five levels of the ramp were open for parking the week of Feb. 10 and elevators were operational. The ramp expansion is adding 392 parking spaces. Ramp painting and other finishing work will occur through the spring.

IX. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Faulkner and seconded by Whiting to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Prepared by: Richard Crawford

Next Regular Meeting Scheduled Wednesday, March 25, 4:30 p.m., at Burnsville Bus Garage, 11550 Rupp Drive, Burnsville, MN. All regularly scheduled Board meetings will be held on the **FOURTH** Wednesday of the month at the posted time and location unless otherwise notified.

Approved by: _____

Date: _____