

MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Regular Board Meeting
July 29, 2020 – 4:30 p.m.
Meeting conducted via video conference

Board Members Present:

Clint Hooppaw, Apple Valley
Kevin Burkart, Prior Lake
Jon Ulrich, Scott County
Chris Gerlach, Dakota County
Dan Kealey, Burnsville
Gary Hansen, Eagan
Gene Abbott, Savage
Jay Whiting, Shakopee
William Droste, Rosemount

Others Present:

Luther Wynder, MVTA
Heidi Scholl, MVTA
Richard Crawford, MVTA
Samantha Porter, MVTA
Aaron Bartling, MVTA
Tyre Fant, MVTA
Ben Picone, MVTA
Grace Vriezen, MVTA
Nene Israel, MVTA
Sue Borgerson, MVTA
Connie Massengale, Schmitt and Sons
Jenni Faulkner, City of Burnsville
PeggySue Imihy, City of Shakopee
Joe Morneau, Dakota County
Tom Lovelace, City of Apple Valley
Josh Feldman, City of Eagan

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Chair Clint Hooppaw. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of Agenda

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

III. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

IV. Consent Agenda

A Motion by Chris Gerlach and seconded by Dan Kealey to approve the Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was taken.

Hooppaw – Aye	Gerlach – Aye	Abbott – Aye
Burkart – Aye	Kealey – Aye	Whiting – Aye
Ulrich – Aye	Hansen – Aye	Droste – Aye

V. Old Business

None

VI. New Business

A. 2020 Internship Program and Facility Enhancements

MVTA Chief Operating Officer Samantha Porter provided an update on update on facility enhancement efforts at MVTA transit facilities and facility interns who have been hired this summer to help with beautification efforts.

B. COVID-19 Update

MVTA Chief Operating Officer Samantha Porter provided an update on MVTA safety and health initiatives that have corresponded to the COVID-19 pandemic. MVTA’s primary focus has been implementing measures on buses and at transit facilities to do everything possible to protect the health and safety of our customers and employees and the agency has been following and promoting recommendations from health experts. The most recent efforts involve installing permanent bus barriers that separate bus operators from the public. The permanent barriers will be replacing temporary plastic curtains that have been used since the onset of the pandemic. MVTA also is installing new ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UVGI) emitters in HVAC filters at Burnsville Bus Garage, Burnsville Transit Station and Eagan Bus Garage. The UVGI emitters inactivate pathogens that may be in the air. The cost for the filters is \$42,000 for the three facilities.

VII. Committee Reports

A. STA

Luther Wynder, MVTA Chief Executive Officer, provided an update on the July 13 Suburban Transit Association Meeting. The STA is continuing to work on a “moving forward discussion” and is focusing on areas including: legislative relations; public safety; Metropolitan Council relations; and metrics for moving forward. Kevin Burkart will be serving as treasurer of the organization with the support of MVTA staff. The next STA meeting is scheduled for Aug. 10.

B. Management Committee

1. Contract No. C-10145; (Wiley Law Office - Legal Services)

Heidi Scholl, MVTA Director of Administrative Service, explained that MVTA issued a Request for Proposals for legal services and received proposals from Kennedy and Graven Chartered and Wiley Law Office, PC. The review panel consisted of three MVTA staff members and one MVTA board member.

The initial evaluation consisted of a proposal review. MVTA then conducted interviews with the two firms and requested the MVTA Management Committee’s support/guidance in its final selection.

MVTA plans to contract with Wiley Law Office, PC for various legal services; such as: Board Meeting attendance, contract/procurement related items and human resource items.

A Motion by Gary Hansen and seconded by Burkart to approve the contract with Wiley Law Office. A roll call vote was taken.

Hooppaw – Aye
Burkart – Aye

Gerlach – Aye
Kealey – Aye

Abbott – Aye
Whiting – Aye

Ulrich – Aye

Hansen – Aye

Droste – Aye

VIII. Board and Staff Reports

A. Q2 Ridership Report

Transit Planner Ben Picone provided an overview of second quarter ridership and the impact COVID-19 has had on travel. Overall, 2020 ridership is down more than 50 percent compared to 2019 as a result of the pandemic. Local service is around two-thirds of ‘normal’ level while express ridership remains low. In recent weeks, all types of service have been trending upward and the Planning Department is monitoring ridership to determine what services should be added in conjunction with the September service change.

B. AVTS Modernization – Facility Lighting

MVTA Chief Operating Officer Samantha Porter noted that Minnesota Valley Transit Authority honored first responders and essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic by illuminating its new Apple Valley Transit Station sign in the color blue. The new modern façade at the ramp includes the MVTA logo and the ability to illuminate the building in MVTA colors as well as colors representing holidays, teams and special events.

C. Open Door Food Distribution

MVTA Public Information Manager Richard Crawford reviewed MVTA’s partnership with The Open Door Pantry on food distribution during COVID-19. The Open Door is a hunger-relief organization dedicated to ending local hunger through access to healthy food. In May, June and July, the Open Door conducted food distribution events at Apple Valley Transit Station. The events served more than 700 households.

D. Cedar Ave Red Line Station to Station Service/Facilities

MVTA Chief Executive Officer Luther Wynder provided an update on Red Line service and noted that the contract with the Metropolitan Council is up for renewal. Wynder noted that most of the ridership on the Red Line comes from the MVTA service area and discussions regarding the future of the service are planned.

- Commissioner Chris Gerlach encouraged additional discussions about the future of transit in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the psychological impact that will have on ridership for years to come.

IX. Adjournment

A Motion was made by Gerlach and seconded by Jon Ulrich to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Prepared by: Richard Crawford

Next Regular Meeting Scheduled Wednesday, Aug. 26, 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: _____