

# MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Regular Board Meeting  
July 28, 2021 – 4:30 p.m.

Meeting conducted via video conference

## **Board Members Present:**

Clint Hooppaw, Apple Valley  
Jon Ulrich, Scott County  
Tammy Block, Rosemount  
Jenni Faulkner, Burnsville,  
Dan Kealey, Burnsville  
Gary Hansen, Eagan  
Casey McCabe, Prior Lake  
for Kevin Burkart  
Gene Abbott, Savage

## **Others Present:**

Luther Wynder, MVTA  
Heidi Scholl, MVTA  
Richard Crawford, MVTA  
Tania Wink, MVTA  
Ben Picone, MVTA  
Aaron Bartling, MVTA  
Grace Vriezen, MVTA  
Vicky Loehrer, MVTA  
Samantha Porter, MVTA  
Chad Deegan, MVTA  
Steve LaFrance, MVTA  
Cody Kruse, MVTA  
Dawn McGuire, MVTA  
Jason DeMoe, MVTA  
Rukia Aden, MVTA  
Nene Israel, MVTA  
KaSondra Wiederich, MVTA  
Lisa Freese, Scott County  
Victoria Pena, Schmitt and Sons  
Bill Forbord, Schmitt and Sons  
Tom Lovelace, City of Apple Valley  
Ben Reber, Legal counsel  
Terri Heaton  
Julie Addington

## **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chair Clint Hooppaw. A quorum was present.

## **II. Approval of Agenda**

A motion by Gary Hansen and seconded by Jon Ulrich to approve the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **III. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **IV. Consent Agenda**

Gary Hansen asked about the removal of Cedar Grove Transit Station from consent agenda item IV. E pertaining to Facility Security and Patrol Services and whether the expectation was that Metro Transit would take security services over at Cedar Grove

Transit Station. Heidi Scholl, MVTA Director of Administrative, indicated that was the reason the item was on the agenda. A Motion by Hansen and seconded by Block to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was taken.

Hooppaw – Aye	McCabe – Aye	Ulrich – Aye	Block – Aye
Hansen – Aye	Faulkner – Aye	Abbott – Aye	

**V. Old Business – None**

**VI. New Business – None**

**VII. Committee Reports**

**A. Suburban Transit Association**

1. STA Meeting (July 12, 2021) - MVTA Chief Executive Officer Luther Wynder indicated he wasn't in attendance at the meeting. Hooppaw said a presentation regarding equity was provided at the July meeting. The presentation was similar to a presentation provided at a previous TAB meeting. Hooppaw said it was good that everyone was receiving the same information.

**B. Management Committee Meeting**

**1. Approval of Refinance of Gross Revenue Bonds Series 2013**

MVTA Director of Finance Tania Wink introduced the item and turned discussion over to Terri Heaton, with Baker Tilly, Municipal Advisors, the municipal advisor to the MVTA Bond Board. Heaton reviewed a PowerPoint, explaining that proceeds of the Series 2013 Bonds were originally used to finance a \$5.9 million expansion and partial renovation of the Eagan Bus Garage.

The objective of the refinancing is to call the remaining \$3,155,000 of bonds outstanding and keeping the same term for the remaining 7 years to reduce annual debt service and pledging the same revenues for this limited obligation bond.

The refunding achieves the following:

- Present value savings of \$257,140
- Debt service reserve fund reduction of \$349,943
- MVTA cash of \$500,000 applied to reduce debt
- Annual reduction of debt service of \$166,500 (2022-2028) and total reduction of debt service of \$1,165,138.

MVTA is a joint powers agency. Members of the Joint Powers Agreement are the cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Rosemount and Savage and the counties of Dakota and Scott (the "Members"). The Joint Powers Agreement is established for the purpose of issuing bonds on behalf of the members. Each of the members will need to adopt a resolution granting their authority to the Bond Board granting their authority to issue the Bonds. Members include Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, Rosemount, Savage, Prior Lake and Scott County. Dakota County is considered withdrawn and is not being asked to individually authorize the refunding.

Dan Kealey noted that the refunding savings will provide \$166,000 in cash flow savings per year and that the timing is excellent in this low-interest rate environment.

Wink noted that the item had been recommended for approval by the MVTA Management Committee and recommended approval of the following motion: With the support of the Management Committee, MVTA staff is recommending that the MVTA Board accept the proposal from Truist Bank, a North Carolina corporation, to purchase the Bonds and authorize the refunding bonds. Further the MVTA Board would authorize MVTA staff to complete the necessary steps to finalize the Gross Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2021 as outlined in the Presale document from Baker Tilly, the bond resolutions drafted by Kennedy and Graven and the proposal from Truist Bank.

A Motion by Gene Abbott and seconded by Kealey to approve A roll call vote was taken.

Hooppaw – Aye  
Hansen – Aye

McCabe – Aye  
Kealey – Aye

Ulrich – Aye  
Abbott – Aye

Block – Aye

### **VIII. Board and Staff Reports/Updates**

- Ulrich said with recent festivals in Scott County and high case rates of COVID-19 in the county, he said MVTA needs to remain vigilant in protecting customers. Block inquired whether MVTA is still requiring masks on buses. Chief Executive Officer Luther Wynder said federal mask mandates are still in effect. MVTA’s Public Information Manager Richard Crawford, said MVTA is messaging information regarding mask mandates and noted that he was out at Marschall Road Transit Station during service for Twin Cities Summer Jam and MVTA was messaging mask requirements and getting compliance from customers. With the Delta variant news, Crawford said the safety of our passengers needs to remain a top priority.
- Block said she has received feedback from Rosemount residents who are being required to go back to work in September who are looking for additional routes and routing in Minneapolis.

#### **A. Quarter 2 Ridership Report**

Aaron Bartling, MVTA Planning Manager, provided an update on Second Quarter 2021 Ridership. Bartling said recent upticks in ridership indicated showed signs of “a light at the end of the tunnel. Minneapolis Express ridership nearly doubled between May and July and Express ridership is expected to continue to grow with more employees returning to work in the fall.

MVTA Connect ridership continues to be a highlight with record ridership growth month-over-month since November 2020. Bartling said MVTA plans to extend hours of service from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and launch service in Eagan in the fall.

#### **B. Summer Outreach Update**

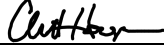
Crawford provided an update on recent outreach initiatives, including marketing during Lakefront Music Fest, service from Burnsville Transit Station and Eagle Creek Park and Ride to Twin Cities Summer Jam at Canterbury Park, and service to the Vikings Training Camp and summer parades in Apple Valley, Rosemount and Burnsville.

**IX. Adjourn**

A Motion was made by Abbott and seconded by Block to adjourn the meeting at 5:28 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes Prepared by: Richard Crawford**

**Next Regular Meeting is Wednesday, September 29, 4:30 p.m., hosted via Microsoft Teams (information to follow).** All regularly scheduled Board meetings will be held at the posted time and location unless otherwise notified.

Approved by: 

Date: Sept 29 2021