

# MINNESOTA VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Regular Board Meeting

March 31, 2021 – 4:30 p.m.

Meeting conducted via video conference

## **Board Members Present:**

Clint Hooppaw, Apple Valley  
Kevin Burkart, Prior Lake  
Lisa Freese, for Jon Ulrich, Scott County  
Tammy Block, Rosemount  
Dan Kealey, Burnsville  
Gary Hansen, Eagan  
Bob Coughlen, for Gene Abbott, Savage  
Jay Whiting, Shakopee

## **Others Present:**

Luther Wynder, MVTA  
Heidi Scholl, MVTA  
Richard Crawford, MVTA  
Tania Wink, MVTA  
Tyre Fant, MVTA  
Ben Picone, MVTA  
Grace Vriezen, MVTA  
Nene Israel, MVTA  
Dawn McGuire, MVTA  
Samantha Porter, MVTA  
Aaron Bartling, MVTA  
Chad Deegan, MVTA  
Steve LaFrance, MVTA  
Dan Rudiger, MVTA  
Vicky Loehrer, MVTA  
Cody Kruse, MVTA  
Jason DeMoe, MVTA  
Connie Massengale, Schmitt and Sons  
Bill Forbord, Schmitt and Sons  
Jenni Faulkner, City of Burnsville  
Tom Lovelace, City of Apple Valley  
Josh Feldman, City of Eagan  
Ben Reber, Wiley Law Office

## **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 Jay Whiting and seconded by Gary Hansen to approve the agenda. The Agenda was approved unanimously. Chair Hooppaw noted that he would move staff introductions earlier on the agenda.

## **III. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **Introductions**

Richard Crawford, MVTA Public Information Manager, introduced new MVTA Customer Service Specialist Jason DeMoe to the board.

Samantha Porter, MVTA Chief Operating Officer, introduced new MVTA Safety and Risk Specialist Cody Kruse to the board.

## **IV. Consent Agenda**

A Motion by Dan Kealey and seconded by Tammy Block to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. A roll call vote was taken.

Hooppaw – Aye	Block – Aye	Coughlen – Aye
Burkart – Aye	Kealey – Aye	Whiting – Aye
Ulrich – Aye	Hansen – Aye	

## **V. Old Business** **None**

## **VI. New Business** **None**

## **VII. Committee Reports**

### **A. STA Meeting (March 8, 2021)**

Luther Wynder, MVTA Chief Executive Officer, provided an update on the Suburban Transit Association’s meeting in March. STA representatives are awaiting the latest forecast for the Motor Vehicle Sales Tax. Wynder noted a bonding bill has money allocated for improving stations for the Red Line at 140<sup>th</sup> and 147<sup>th</sup> streets in Apple Valley.

### **B. Management Committee Meeting**

- 1. BBG Modernization Update** – Facilities Manager provided an update on the Burnsville Bus Garage Modernization. MVTA has received grant funding that will allow for improvements in two phases. In the first phase, the garage will be expanded to increase the number of large buses that can use the facility from 70 to 100. Other repairs will be completed to improved the state of repair of BBG, including moving the bus wash bay to the northwest corner of the facility. In the second phase, fueling stations will move to the southwest corner of the facility. MVTA plans to advertise for bids at the end of May and bring items to the board for approval in July. LaFrance said MVTA is excited to move forward with the upgrades. Chair Hooppaw noted that the facility wasn’t originally built as a bus garage.
- 2. Approval of MVTA Employee Handbook** – Heidi Scholl, Director of Administrative Services, reviewed the updated MVTA Employee Handbook that was reviewed by the Management Committee. Scholl said various sources were

used for the updates and that the proposed handbook updates were reviewed by MVTA’s legal counsel. Scholl said the revisions will allow MVTA employees to use floating holidays rather than being assigned holidays to have off. She noted that the floating holidays will need to be used in the calendar year. Scholl explained there would be no financial impact to the MVTA budget.

A Motion by Kevin Burkart and seconded by Jay Whiting to approve the MVTA Employee Handbook. A roll call vote was taken.

Hooppaw – Aye      Block – Aye      Coughlen – Aye  
Burkart – Aye      Kealey – Aye      Whiting – Aye  
Ulrich – Aye      Hansen – Aye

**C. Legislative Update**

Luther Wynder, MVTA Chief Executive Officer, provided an update on federal CARES funding. He said the region received \$185 million in the first round of funding and suburban providers, and legislative representatives had to provide pushback to get funding distributed by the Metropolitan Council. Wynder said the federal funding is not related to transit system’s deficits, but rather to offset loss of revenue during the pandemic and to maintain operations and cover costs of personal protective equipment. MVTA will receive funding in the second round of federal CARES funding and is working with local legislators to ensure that future federal distributions will be allotted to suburban providers.

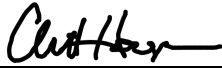
**VIII. Board and Staff Reports/Updates**

**Operator of the Year event** - Luther Wynder, MVTA Chief Executive Officer, gave a recap of the Operator of the Year appreciation event at the Eagan Bus Garage in collaboration with Schmitty & Sons. Chair Hooppaw noted that it’s been a challenging year for the operators. Bill Forbord, of Schmitty & Sons, said the event was a great opportunity to thank operators for all they’ve done in the past year.

**IX. Adjourn**

A Motion was made by Kevin Burkart and seconded by Dan Kealey to adjourn the meeting at 5:26 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes Prepared by: Richard Crawford**  
**Next Regular Meeting Scheduled Wednesday, April 28, 4:30 p.m., at Burnsville Bus Garage, 11550 Rupp Drive, Burnsville, MN.** All regularly scheduled Board meetings will be held at the posted time and location unless otherwise notified.

Approved by: 

Date: April 28, 2021