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LEGISLATIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, January 5, 2015
11:30 am – 1:00 pm
Messerli & Kramer, P.A.
525 Park Street, Suite 130
Saint Paul, MN 55103

The meeting was called to order by Chair Gary Hansen. A quorum was present.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chair Gary Hansen, City of Eagan Council Member; Vice Chair Jeff Wosje, City of Plymouth Council Member; Executive Director Beverly Miller, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority; Clint Hooppaw, City of Apple Valley Council Member; Transit Administrator Mike Opatz, Maple Grove Transit; Community Development Director Michael Leek, City of Shakopee; Chief Operating Officer Dave Jacobson, SouthWest Transit; Senior Project Manager Jane Kansier, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority; Community Development Specialist Casey McCabe, City of Prior Lake; Scott County Commissioner Jon Ulrich; Rosemount Mayor Bill Droste; Shakopee Councilor Mike Luce; Executive Director Len Simich, SouthWest Transit.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: James Clark, Messerli & Kramer P.A.; Mary Nikolai, Messerli & Kramer P.A.; and Sherry Munyon, Capitol Access.

Jeff Wosje moved to approve the meeting agenda and Bill Droste seconded. The agenda was approved.

The next item on the agenda was approval of the minutes of the August 21, 2014 Board meeting. There were no additions or corrections made to the minutes. Jeff Wosje moved to approve the minutes and Clint Hooppaw seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

The board clarified the voting rules and explained that each member city is allowed one vote.

James Clark presented STA Insurance Waiver of Statutory Tort Limit. STA was given the option to waive the limit. Len Simich moved to not waive this limit and Jeff Wosje seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mike Opatz presented the treasurer's report and explained that the board came very close to budget. Clint Hooppaw moved to approve the report and Dave Jacobson seconded the motion. The treasurer's report was approved.

James Clark provided a brief presentation on the 2015 Dues and Budget, explaining that there are two possible scenarios – a \$0.15/capita and a \$0.16/capita. Mike Luce moved to pursue the \$0.15/capita route and Bill Droste seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Members: Maple Grove Transit, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority,
Plymouth Metrolink, and Southwest Transit Commission

James Clark presented the 2015 Legislative Agenda. The first STA legislative priority was Operational Funding, specifically the inclusion of STA in the transit bill this year. The second priority on the legislative agenda was Governance. The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) did not include a member from STA and the committee hoped for such an addition. Jon Ulrich proposed an amendment to legislative agenda by adding the term “elected representative” to TAB by the STA. The third priority on the agenda was Regional Transit Bonds, specifically the need for funding in order to maintain facilities, replace old buses, and expand services.

Beverley Miller distributed a handout which included legislative priorities and explained that STA’s greatest highlights are typically growth and ridership. A graph was included in the handout and showed a gap between the region and STA. Beverley expressed concern that the share of funding that STA controls has been changing dramatically over the years and that the funds governed by the board are decreasing.

Beverley also went over the transit and state bonds. The buses had to go down to the central cities but STA wanted to be able to travel between cities, suburbs, and beyond. Jane said the MVTA East/West service is a huge concern since all riders must go downtown to catch a bus. James expressed belief that a special project would be the best way to attain such funding and suggested the addition of a second point under operational funding such as “As a part of increased funding, the Suburban providers would like to include a demonstration of a pilot project regarding suburb to suburb transit service”.

Clint Hoopaw moved to approve the legislative agenda and Jeff Wosje seconded. The legislative agenda was adopted.

The board then discussed the lobbyist contract. Len Simich moved to accept the contract and Jeff Wosje seconded the motion. The motion carried and the contract was accepted.

The board also talked about their Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) Representation. James Clark explained that the TAC representative, Beverley Miller, was named by the board. Mike Opatz suggested the association have Beverley Miller serve as the TAC Representative and allow someone else to serve the next time. Michael Leek suggested that the board appoint a representative to the planning subcommittee and work to develop a rotational plan for representation among the providers. Clint Hoopaw moved to approve this suggestion and Mike seconded it. The motion carried.

The board then elected the 2015 STA Officers. Dave Jacobson, Mike Opatz and Gary Hansen were designated members of nominating committee and made the following recommendations for the upcoming two year term:

Chair – Jeff Wosje
Vice Chair - Jerry McDonald
Secretary Treasurer – Mike Opatz

Clint moved the nominations and Bill Droste seconded the motion. It carried and the officers were elected.

James Clark presented the December MVST Report and mentioned the Insurance dividend was \$112.

The next legislative committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 9 from 9:00 – 10:30 am.

The meeting adjourned.

Members: Maple Grove Transit, Minnesota Valley Transit Authority,
Plymouth Metrolink, and Southwest Transit Commission