

Minutes

Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority

Committee of the Whole

May 11, 2009

Place: Room 207A, County Administration Building
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 6:18 p.m.
Others Present: Rachel Foster, Dale Hein, Gabrielle Russon, Bill Schomisch and Lori Pyatt

Chairperson Teeter called the meeting to order.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Paul Ecklund, Diane Kempen, Jack Mekemson, Greg Rosine, Char Sumney, Linda Teeter, and Jan VanStratt

Members Absent: Terry Kuseske and David Worthams

A quorum was present. A motion to excuse Mr. Kuseske was made by Mr. Rosine, supported by Mr. Ecklund, and approved. Chairperson Teeter later recalled that Mr. Worthams stated he would be late or absent from the meeting due to work requirements. A motion to excuse Mr. Worthams until he arrived was made by Mr. Mekemson, supported by Ms. Kempen, and approved.

2. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS ON THE CANVASS OF THE VOTE

Chairperson Teeter asked for comment time on the canvass of the vote. The official record showed 16,037 'yes' votes and 9,290 'no' votes. The stakeholder meeting the previous morning had been a positive one, and the organizations and jurisdictions that supported the millage would be thanked either in letters or by a personal showing of thanks at upcoming meetings. The KCTA would also play a supportive role in the November election.

Mr. Schomisch stated that the Service Agreement would be on the City's May 18th agenda.

3. REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION VISIONING

Mr. Schomisch stated that, even though the May 5th millage would support existing 'status-quo' services, the system would not be 'staying still' due to the use of Federal dollars.

Mr. Hein summarized his "KCTA... Visioning for the Future" document (which will be filed with the official copy of the minutes.) The highlights included:

- Routing: this would include looking into new stops, linking the rural areas and WMU with the city, and hub and grid line services.
- Merging C-A-V and MetroVan.
- Linking with other forms of transportation, including the airport, rail services, park and ride systems, etc.
- Same-day service for demand/response.
- “Greening the System”
- Changing P.A. 196 to seek a multi-tiered millage under one authority.
- Regionalization: the possibility of connecting to other counties in the area.
- Technology and how it could lead to further efficiencies.
- Fleet composition and how best to utilize the vans, buses, and small buses.
- Public awareness would be a continual effort.
- Stakeholder involvement: broadened support would be sought.

- Governance could be looked at for further effectiveness, transparency and accountability.
- Fare increase process would be looked at.
- Public Transit/Human Service Coordinated Plan would soon complete a plan to be used going forward.

Ms. Kempen brought up the idea of looking into a coordinated effort between elementary and junior high schools. Ms. Sumney stated that the out county areas should be a focus on Public Transit/Human Services Coordinated Plan. Mr. Schomisch gave a few examples of items that were currently in the works: farebox replacement, bus shelters, and AVL. Ms. Van Stratt added that she would be available to help with finding out what South County services were needed.

Secretary Mekemson stated he was happy to see such a list, and the bigger changes would probably happen through communication with the rest of the community. He added that the PT/HS plan would be a coordinated effort with the community organizations. He looked forward to going back to townships to say ‘Thank You’ for their support.

Vice-Chair Rosine said that how to set the list as priorities, and how to set them as realistic goals would be an interesting focus during strategic planning.

Chairperson Teeter indicated that the City of Kalamazoo and TAB would be significant partners moving forward. Mr. Schomisch had been asked to give a “Transit 101” presentation for the newer members. She thought that the vision would be worked on over the summer, and then taken to the community citizens and leaders in the fall. She thanked Mr. Schomisch and Mr. Hein for their work.

Mr. Rosine stated that having materials prepared, and distributed before meeting with the community would lead to better prepared visioning sessions.

Mr. Schomisch added that sharing jurisdictional C-A-V ridership numbers was valued by area leaders, and would be beneficial to continue; his staff would format the documents usually given to the TAB for KCTA’s use as well. He planned on bringing information back to the KCTA from upcoming Federal and State meetings.

Chairperson Teeter stated that the next meeting would be June 8. She hoped that Mr. Rosine’s ‘info packet’ idea would be followed up on. The Agreement with Blaine Lam would also be addressed at that meeting.

4. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes from April 27th, as presented, was made by Ms. Kempen, supported by Vice-Chair Rosine. Secretary Mekemson said he would add Lisa Bradshaw to the list of those present. The changes were agreed upon, and the minutes (with the addition) were approved.

5. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION TO LEVY THE 2009 TRANSIT MILLAGE

Mr. Hein read the resolution into the record. (A copy of the document will be on file with the official copy of the minutes.) A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Mr. Mekemson and supported by Ms. Kempen.

KCTA’s legal counsel, Ms. Foster, stated that in order to be fiscally responsible the levy was only for one year, in order to allow the KCTA to levy a lower rate if the full levy was not needed in future years.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: All Present
The motion carried.

Nays: None

Absent: Mr. Kuseske, Mr. Worthams

6. CITIZENS' TIME

No comments were made.

7. MEMBERS' TIME

-Mr. Ecklund stated that he had been impressed at the campaign's level of organization.

-Ms. Kempen reported that previously disgruntled demand/response riders at the YMCA were reporting much better experiences.

-Mr. Mekemson wondered if the vision list should be divided into groups according to items which were already in process.

-Mr. Schomisch had been invited talk to a Calhoun County transit sub-committee; he would be giving a summarized history of transportation in Kalamazoo County.

-Mr. Hein said he was impressed with the campaign efforts and the wide success of the millage in spite of economic climate.

-Mr. Rosine added that the Board Members should offer their support with the fare increase issue and the City's November election.

-Chairperson Teeter said the successful millage was a sign of a caring community, but it was just the beginning of communicating what transportation could be in the County. It was a time for celebrating, thanking the supporters, and moving forward. She then recognized Mr. Knott for his fabulous work as the Campaign Coordinator.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 pm.