

Minutes

Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority

December 14, 2009

Place: Room 204, County Administration Building
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 6:37 p.m.
Others Present: Rachel Foster, Dale Hein, Blaine Lam, and Lori Pyatt

Chairperson Teeter called the meeting to order.

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Diane Kempen, Jack Mekemson, Greg Rosine, Char Sumney, Linda Teeter, David Worthams.

Members Absent: Paul Ecklund, Jan VanStratt

A quorum was present. A motion to excuse Mr. Ecklund and Ms. VanStratt was made, supported and approved.

2. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made, supported and approved.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Nothing was reported at this time.

4. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Sumney noted that 12C) should read "tasked *with* meeting..." A motion to approve the November 9, 2009, Minutes as amended was made, supported and approved.

5. ADDENDUM TO SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH METRO, THE CITY AND TAB

Chairperson Teeter explained that Mr. Ecklund had brought up the possibility of allowing half-fares to be extended to the Renewable Value (debit) Cards. Seniors, people with disabilities and those on Medicare qualified for the half-fares. A meeting to negotiate the issue had been held with Mr. Schomisch, where Ms. Teeter had proposed the idea of KCTA sharing half the cost in order to help cover Metro's shortfall that would occur. Financial and legal personnel had been contacted to insure that the KCTA could proceed.

In response to a question from Mr. Mekemson, Mr. Rosine suggested that Mr. Schomisch be asked to track the actual amount in order to provide a more accurate estimate of the shortfall that would occur in the future.

A motion to approve the Amendment to the Service Agreement was made by Mr. Rosine, and supported by Mr. Mekemson.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: All Present Nays: None

Absent: Ecklund, VanStratt, Worthams (who had not arrived yet)

The motion carried.

Chairperson Teeter appreciated that Mr. Ecklund had brought attention to the issue. In response to a comment on publicity from Ms. Sumney, Ms. Teeter stated that she would be at the City Commission meeting to speak on the issue.

6. CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH PROJECT MANAGER, DALE HEIN

After a brief explanation by Ms. Teeter, a motion to adopt the resolution extending the contract with the Project Manager, Dale Hein, was made by Ms. Kempen and supported by Ms. Sumney.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: All Present Nays: None

Absent: Ecklund, VanStratt, Worthams (who had not arrived yet)

The motion carried.

7. CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, LORI PYATT

A motion to adopt the resolution extending the contract with the Administrative Assistant, Lori Pyatt, was made by Mr. Rosine and supported by Mr. Mekemson.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: All Present Nays: None

Absent: Ecklund, VanStratt, Worthams (who had not arrived yet)

The motion carried.

Mr. Hein thanked the Board for their confidence in the KCTA Staff.

8. PTHS PLAN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mr. Hein read the resolution into the record (a copy of which will be on file with the minutes). All proposed members of this Committee had agreed to participate. Questions were asked regarding one of the proposed members and the term length. It was decided that Mr. Mekemson would work with Mr. Hein to communicate term limits and the process for replacing members (if they were to retire, etc.). Mr. Mekemson stated that those on the list were selected because they or their agencies had been long term stakeholders in area transit.

A motion to adopt the resolution establishing the PTHS Plan Oversight Committee Membership was made by Mr. Mekemson and supported by Ms. Kempen.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: All Present Nays: None

Absent: Ecklund, VanStratt, Worthams (who had not arrived yet)

The motion carried.

9. REPORT ON 196 MEETING

Chairperson Teeter thanked Mr. Hein, Mr. Ammon, Mr. Schomisch, and the Michigan Municipal League for organizing the meeting. Transit authorities that attended were given a history of the Kalamazoo system. Mr. Schrage from the State Department of Treasury also gave his input. A benefit of the meeting was hearing from the various authorities regarding how their systems were funded. Objections about opening P.A. 196 were heard, and the Kalamazoo legislative delegation declared its support of the KCTA.

Ms. Teeter stated the following options were of interest:

-Having two 196 Authorities put two millage levels to the voters. It was possible that these two Boards could be made up of the same Board members.

-Having one 196 Authority with a two-tiered millage; this would take much more investigation resulting in legislative change PA 196.

Nothing had been decided on at that meeting.

Mr. Hein would meet with Mr. Ammon to arrive at some conclusion regarding next steps. Mr. Rosine stated that, while there was no 'silver bullet', the responses given at the meeting were valuable, and more work with the authorities would be needed.

Ms. Teeter stated the next steps would include:

- meeting with County leaders to receive their opinion on creating a second 196 Authority
- finding out from Mr. Ammon his opinion on the best route
- contacting the local delegation regarding any legislative support that may be needed
- Mr. Rosine stated he would like to hear from Flint's Authority regarding their arrangement
- January's meeting would see an update

(Mr. Worthams arrived at 6:05pm.)

10. VISIONING PROJECT REPORT AND FINAL DELIVERABLES

Mr. Lam hoped that the lack of audience members would not discourage the Board because his meetings with the community led him to believe that the KCTA was very much in touch with the public. He thought the public's understanding of transit was very deep in some areas. He asked that, from a timetable and process standpoint, the Board would let him know how best to give them his recommendations regarding the following:

- Governance
- Operational and Organizational Capacity
- Public Awareness

He added that he didn't think it would take much time and there would be no further expense involved. He hoped that a meeting could be set up for an hour or more in order to share his presentation and recommendations regarding timetables, risks and potential costs. He hoped to have a closer look at the COA work and the merging of MetroVan and Care-A-Van.

Mr. Rosine stated he looked forward to a presentation to hear Mr. Lam's recommendations and findings. Ms. Teeter said the Annual Meeting would be on Jan 11, and a second January meeting would be held on the 25th. Mr. Hein was asked to work with Mr. Lam to arrange a discussion meeting.

11. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Hein stated there would be one more Transit Talk the following Wednesday; the State AARP office had been involved in its promotion, and he anticipated many attendees. He had been contacted by the Health and Community Services Department for guidance regarding the Mobile Dental Clinic. A few 196 Authorities that had not been able to attend the meeting in Lansing had contacted him for more information. The Director of the Poverty initiative had communicated with Mr. Hein regarding transit issues surrounding May 2010's "Project Connect"; community van usage was a possibility as well as area agencies providing tokens for attendees. Eastern Michigan University contacted him regarding how WMU provided transit to students.

12. REPORT FROM TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

Mr. Schomisch was attending the City Commission Budget meeting that evening. Mr. Hein had asked Mr. Schomisch about ridership: the lower gas prices caused the decrease in ridership. The fareboxes had all been replaced, and the swipe cards would be implemented in January.

13. REPORT FROM PROJECT MANAGER

Mr. Hein highlighted the following from his Report (a copy will be on file with the minutes). A Transit Talk had been held with Advocacy Services for Kids. Both meetings with the teens and parents produced many ideas and responses because they were actual riders. He noted the distinctly different perspective between riders (details) and non-riders (perceptions). Mr. Hein also stated that there were audit planning books for the members, and that the auditors needed the conflict of interest forms filled out and turned in.

Chairperson Teeter noted the last paragraph, saying that a management consultant would be pursued to draw up a timeline and give guidance in order to help the KCTA move forward toward transitioning the system.

In response to a question from Vice-Chair Rosine, Mr. Hein gave an overview of the Adopt-A-Shelter program, which the Disability Network would be administering.

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Executive – There was nothing to report.
- B. Budget Review – There was nothing to report.
- C. Public Transit/Human Services – There would be a meeting of the Oversight Committee in January.

15. OLD BUSINESS

There was nothing to report.

16. NEW BUSINESS

There was nothing to report.

17. CITIZENS' TIME

There were no comments made.

18. MEMBERS' TIME

-Mr. Worthams apologized for his tardiness due to his commute, and then referred to agenda items 5, 6, 7, & 8, saying he wanted the record to reflect he would have voted in support of the adoptions/approvals. He thanked the members of the Authority for their condolences during his recent loss.

-Ms. Kempen also addressed her own tardiness due to work issues (she had, however, arrived before the meeting started that evening).

-Chairperson Teeter addressed an article in the December 3rd edition of the Kalamazoo Gazette. She was the Director of Michigan Citizen Action which took the lead in the campaigns. An employee who had worked on the last two weeks of the May campaign was paid by the campaign fund. A legal review of the reimbursement for the employee was done and was deemed to be a justifiable expense. Ms. Teeter, herself, had not received any funds as she had volunteered her time. The Gazette reporter had picked up the story, and Ms. Teeter had responded to the reporter's question. She apologized for any sense of irregularity, but stated no impropriety existed. She then wished health and safety for the Board Members over the holiday season.

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm.

KCTA Chairperson

KCTA Secretary