

MINUTES— FOX CITIES TRANSIT COMMISSION
June 26, 2013

Commissioners Present

Chairman Chuck Rundquist
Vice Chairperson Carol Mewhorter
Rick Detienne
Aldersperson Jeff Jirschele
Lynn Erickson
Kevin Vonck
Aldersperson Kyle Lobner
Carol Kasimor

Valley Transit Staff

Sal La Puma, Assistant General Manager
Nikki Voelzke, Community Relations Specialist
Amy Erickson, Paratransit Coordinator
Debra Ebben, Administrative Services Manager

Commissioners Excused

None

Others Present

None.

Chairperson Chuck Rundquist called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no questions or corrections to the minutes of the June 12, 2013 meeting, Commissioner Mewhorter moved that the minutes be approved which was seconded by Commissioner Detienne. The minutes were approved (7/0).

APPEARANCES

Public Participation of Agenda Items

There were no public appearances.

Commissioner Vonck arrived at 3:03 P.M.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Payments

Administrative Services Manager Debra Ebben provided a brief summary of the check register covering 06/01/13 through 06/20/13. A motion was made by Commissioner Detienne and seconded by Aldersperson Lobner to accept the payments 06/01/13 through 06/20/13. The motion carried (8/0).

Approval to Award 2013 Contract for the Appleton Downtown Trolley Service to Lamers Bus Lines

Paratransit Coordinator Erickson reviewed the downtown trolley service with the Commission. The 2013 trolley service will operate July through September on Thursdays and Fridays from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. Appleton Downtown Inc. (ADI) will pay the local share of the service. In June, Valley Transit issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the trolley service that includes two option years. Valley Transit received one responsive proposal

from Lamers Bus Lines. The proposal was evaluated on experience, technical responsiveness, safety and cost. Lamers is a local company who provides charter, school bus, shuttle and specialized transportation services. They have five trolleys available to provide the service. The proposed hourly cost remained the same as last year's contracted rate of \$71.31 per hour.

Commissioner Kasimor asked how the service worked with the "Link". Assistant General Manager Sal La Puma explained that the service operated in place of the "Link" during its hours of operation and that both services ran the same route. Alderperson Lobner asked about the purpose of the option years. Assistant General Manager La Puma explained that this would allow Valley Transit to negotiate with Lamers to establish the rate for each of the option years.

A motion was made by Alderperson Lobner and seconded by Commissioner Vonck to approve the award of the 2013 Contract for the Appleton Downtown Trolley Service to Lamers Bus Lines for one year with two one year options. Approved (8/0).

INFORMATION ITEMS

Set meeting dates for July 2013

July Fox Cities Transit Commission meeting dates have been moved to July 17 and July 31 at 3:00 PM in City Hall.

May Ridership and Revenue

Ridership in May increased 7.4% from 2012 with year to date ridership up 2.8%. Revenues increased 21.4% in May, and year to date are 3.4% above 2012. Individual routes are still being affected by summer construction. Evening ridership was up 5.8% in May and is overall up 6.5% over 2012. Total rides and total paid rides for May are the highest since 2005.

Alderperson Lobner asked about the capacity on the school tripper routes; he has noticed that the ridership continues to grow and was wondering if we have to turn away riders. Assistant General Manager Sal La Puma told the Commission that if the bus is full, Valley Transit occasionally has denied rides. He also mentioned that that he plans to meet with Appleton Area School District next week to discuss capacity on these routes.

May Financials

Overall Valley Transit is slightly below budget through May. Other Revenue is over due to sales of surplus Valley Transit property. The only expense categories over budget are Utilities, which is higher in winter months and lower during the rest of the year, and Training & Conferences, which was due to FTA Drug & Alcohol training and training sessions on the maintenance asset management system.

Legislative Update

Community Relations Specialist, Voelzke reported that the Assembly and Senate have passed the 2014/15 budget and have voted to keep transit in the Transportation Fund with a 4% increase in transit funding in 2015. They also voted to allocated an additional \$250,000 for paratransit operations. The Governor has final approval of the budget and can veto items he does not want to stay in the budget.

Operations Update

Assistant General Manager La Puma reported that Route 20 is continuing to experience significant construction delays along the route making it increasingly difficult for the route to stay on schedule. His staff is still working on tweaking the route to make it work for our customers.

Pending Items

Valley Transit continues to work on and report back to the Commission on pending items.

Chair Rundquist brought up the Post-Crescent newspaper article regarding evictions from the Transit Center, Library and parks and whether or not the problem is more serious now. Mr. LaPuma explained that we haven't changed our policies but have had a security guard in place since August of 2012. Ms. Voelzke explained that transit evictions were up in 2011 and 2012 but Valley Transit attributes a large part of that is due having additional hours staffed by Valley Transit staff and our contracted security guard (program began in the fall of 2012). She explained that as with any growing urban area and public space utilized by a large number of people, issues arise. These issues can be anything from loitering and other nuisance issues to more serious issues that would warrant an eviction. Some of the evictions given were at the request of the Appleton Police Department due to activities that happened in the Washington Square area but not on transit property. Mr. LaPuma explained if they are evicted from a parking ramp by APD for illegal substance abuse, they are also evicted from transit property and are counted as evictions by the APD and Valley Transit – in one instance, it involved 4 individuals being evicted. We all track our own evictions so in some cases there is 1 incident but 2 agencies tracking the evictions. Commissioner Vonck added that we have 1,300 boarding per day at the Transit Center and the number of evictions for serious issues is a very small percentage. Alderperson Jirschele added that it is important that the public know Valley Transit is taking passenger security and comfort seriously and there are expulsions that happen to ensure that the Transit Center and Washington Square area is a safe and welcoming place for everyone. Alderperson Lobner asked how we can get this information out to the public. Ms. Voelzke stated that Valley Transit will get this information out to the public via social media and our website. An information sheet is being developed to cover a number of topics including safety and security in the Transit Center area.

ADJOURNMENT

The next scheduled meeting will be at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 17th, 2013. The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Sal La Puma
Assistant General Manager