

MINUTES— FOX CITIES TRANSIT COMMISSION
March 26, 2014

Commissioners Present

Chairperson Chuck Rundquist
Aldersperson Kyle Lobner
Aldersperson Jeff Jirschele
Kevin Vonck
Carol Kasimor
Rick Detienne

Valley Transit Staff

Deborah Wetter, General Manager
Sal LaPuma, Assistant General Manager
Lisa Laughlin, Communications Technician

Commissioners Excused

Vice Chair Carolyn Mewhorter
Lynn Erickson

Others Present

Chairperson Chuck Rundquist called the meeting to order at 3:00p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no questions or corrections to the minutes of the March 12, 2014 meeting, Commissioner Rick Detienne moved that the minutes be approved which was seconded by Aldersperson Kyle Lobner. The minutes were approved (6/0).

APPEARANCES

Public Participation of Agenda Items

There were no public appearances.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Payments

General Manager, Deborah Wetter presented the check register covering 03/01/14 through 03/16/14 for questions and comments. A motion was made by Commissioner Carol Kasimor and seconded by Aldersperson Jeff Jirschele to accept the payments 03/01/14 through 03/16/14. The motion carried (6/0).

Acceptance of Two Federal Transit Administration Bus and Bus Facilities Capital Grants of \$709,697

Ms. Wetter recommended that the Transit Commission accept the FTA capital grants of \$709,697 and that Valley Transit's spending authority for 2014 be modified to include the new capital funds. Valley Transit intends to use the grant monies to replace two old, fully depreciated buses with more than 500,000 miles each. If the cost of two buses exceeds the available money in the grants, the grant monies will be combined with other capital funding to cover the full cost. The local share will be paid out of Valley Transit's depreciation fund. A motion was made by Commissioner Rick Detienne that the grants be accepted which was seconded by Aldersperson Jeff Jirschele. The motion carried (6/0).

Acceptance from Wisconsin DOT of Two Federal Transit Administration Capital Grants for \$165,992

Ms. Wetter recommended that the Transit Commission accept from the Wisconsin DOT, two

Federal Transit Administration capital grants for \$165,992 and that Valley Transit's spending authority for 2014 be modified to include the new capital funds. Valley Transit intends to use the funds to replace a 1995 fully depreciated maintenance support vehicle and parts and tires with the remaining portion to be combined with other capital grant funding for the purchase of two replacement buses. Alderperson Jirschele asked if because the RTA enabling legislation did not pass in the State legislature this year we will have to start cutting service in 2015 and 2016. If so, will we really need all the buses we have? Ms. Wetter answered that the concern at this time is that the Federal Highway Trust and Mass Transit Funds are likely to run out of money by August 2014. The Congress will have to find new revenue sources by that time or highway projects will end as well as transit funding. It is likely that Congress will find a solution because of the importance of road money (as well as transit) to many states and communities. Therefore, Valley Transit is not expecting to have to make any major service reductions in the next year or two while we continue to work for RTA enabling legislation at the state level. If we are running the same level of service, we need to replace the 1994 buses that we are still operating. The buses are requiring increasing levels of maintenance and cost to keep in service and need to be replaced. A motion was made by Alderperson Kyle Lobner which was seconded by Commission Kevin Vonck. The motion carried (6/0).

INFORMATION ITEMS

Federal Transit Administration FY 2013 Triennial Review – Final Report

Ms. Wetter presented the final report on the 2013 Triennial Review. The review this year was significantly more in depth than in the last two reviews. The Triennial Review focused on Valley Transit's compliance in 18 areas. There were no deficiencies found with the FTA requirements in 14 of the 18 areas. All of the deficiencies were procedural. No deficiencies were found in the way Valley Transit was operating the service or spending the federal money. The staff at Valley Transit will produce a manual with procurement policies and procedures for Valley Transit specifically that reflect federal transit requirements. Valley Transit will use that manual rather than the City of Appleton procurement policies as we have done in the past. The procurement policies and procedures are due to the FTA by June 2, 2014. Once accepted by the FTA, all deficiencies will have been corrected and will be marked completed.

February Financials

Ms. Wetter reported that Valley Transit is slightly under budget as of February 28, 2014.

February Ridership and Revenue

Ms. Wetter reported that both ridership and revenue were down significantly this February compared to 2013 and that it is very likely due to the extremely cold weather this year. There were numerous days of business and school closings which affected Valley Transit ridership. She commented that we will be watching closely to see if the ridership for March and April show an upturn due to warmer weather (which we hope is coming soon.)

Legislative Update

Ms. Wetter shared with the Commission that the Fox Cities RTA bill (SB259) passed the Senate 25/7 with bipartisan support in February. The Assembly voted along party lines to not vote on the bill. Ms. Wetter also reported that she was in Washington D.C. last week with representatives of the Wisconsin Urban and Rural Transportation Association and their partners to meet with the

Wisconsin delegation. We were able to meet with Congressmen Reid Ribble and Tom Petri to discuss issues facing public transportation particularly the concern with the funding for the Highway Trust and Mass Transit Funds and the lack of federal funding available for bus and bus facilities. Both congressmen understood the issues and they and their staffs indicated that they are working to correct both problems.

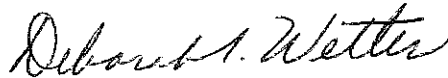
Pending Items

Ms. Wetter stated that there were no pending items. Chairperson Chuck Rundquist asked that each member of the Commission bring to the table at the next meeting what they felt was the major issue facing Valley Transit. Ms. Wetter was asked to add that item to the pending issues list.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 09, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mrs. Deborah Wetter
General Manager