

**MID MON VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY
1300 MCKEAN AVE
CHARLEROI, PA 15022
February 22, 2024
MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Board Members had their updated photos taken between 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM by Flash Photo Photography of North Charleroi.

Directly prior to the Call to Order, the following Board Member was sworn-in by Mayor Timothy Herd to begin their term of office: Scott Nedrow (Donora Borough).

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chairman – 6:00 PM
2. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG – Chairman
3. ROLL CALL – Secretary

There being 12 members present at 6:00 PM, there was a quorum.

Members Present

Bernie Bandini
Mark Boyle
Ed Bryner
Chris Carroll – Zoom
Devin DeRienzo
Earl Doman
George Eckert
Fred Exley
William Furlong
Timothy Herd
Fred Naccarato
Scott Nedrow

Members Absent:

Diann Donaldson
John Habel III
Frank Kennedy
Rik Pankiewicz

California, Fayette City, Fallowfield Township, Roscoe & Coal Center (awaiting member appointments).

Staff Present:

Ashley Seman
Aeriel Dochenetz
Stephanie Lee
Michael Perry

Others Present:

Blane Black, Solicitor
Marc Roncone, MV Transportation
Randy Potter, Rider

4. Chairman Eckert inquired if there were additions or corrections to the January 25, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes? Hearing none, Chairman Eckert asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 25, 2024, Board Meeting. Mr.

Bryner made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Furlong seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. PUBLIC FORUM

- a. A rider expressed apprehension about specific drivers displaying unfriendly or disrespectful behavior towards them.

6. REPORT FROM THE CARRIER – MV Transportation, Inc., Marc Roncone

- a. Mr. Roncone reported on fixed route service for the month of January 2024 as follows: Actual Vehicle Miles were 73,461; Revenue Vehicle miles were 62,038; Actual Vehicle Hours were 4,179.22; and the Revenue Vehicle Hours were 3,643.26.
- b. Mr. Roncone also reported there were 2 incidents without injury; 1 incident with injury; 1 preventable accident without injury; 2 non-preventable accidents without injury; and 0 accidents with injury. Mr. Roncone stated that there were 0 security issues; 5 valid complaints; and 0 compliments.
- c. Mr. Roncone also informed the Board that there were 3 road calls; 26,271 miles between road failures; 5 major mechanical failures; and 9 other mechanical failures.
- d. See **Attachment I.6** for further details, provided in the agenda packet.

7. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a. Chairman Eckert announced the passing of Ms. Sandy Davis, who served as a dedicated member of the MMVTA Board for 35 years representing the Borough of Roscoe.
- b. Chairman Eckert introduced Scott Nedrow who is now representing the Borough of Donora on the MMVTA Board of Directors.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

- a. Mr. DeRienzo reported that the Finance Management Committee was sent a finance report to review the bills contained in the agenda packet under **Attachment I.8.a.**
 - i. Mr. DeRienzo reported that the total bills for February amounted to \$436,161.63 in Operating Expenses and \$100,786.22 in COVID Expenses.
 - ii. Mr. DeRienzo reported that the Capital Expenditures for the month of February were:
 1. \$1,530.00 payable to TRC Engineering Services for Pre-Award & Post Delivery Bus Inspections (State & Capital Funds).
 2. \$10,448.54 payable to Scheidt & Backmann for Farebox System Warranty (Federal & Local Funds).
 3. \$1,500.00 payable to RAM Industrial Services for Bus Facility Grinder Pump Mobilization (Federal, State & Local Funds).

4. \$17,284.10 payable to Gillig for Bus Mirrors (State & Capital Funds).
 5. \$4,770.50 payable to Desak's Plumbing & Electric for Pipe & Lift Rail Repair for Grinder Pumps (Federal, State & Local Funds).
- iii. Mr. DeRienzo made a motion to accept February's Finance Report and approve payment of the same. Mr. Naccarato seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- b. Mr. DeRienzo stated that the Capital Projects list follows the Finance Report and is found in **Attachment I.8.b** of the agenda packet for review.
 - i. Mrs. Lee updated the Board on current capital projects:
 1. Mrs. Lee stated that two bids were received for Repair/Seal Coat/Line Painting of Park & Rides Lots in North Charleroi, California and Crookham; Arnold Sealcoating bid \$12,550.00 and Protec Sealcoating bid \$23,257.00. Mrs. Lee advised the Board that the project has been awarded to Arnold Sealcoating.
 - a. Mrs. Lee noted that the difference in bid pricing for Protec Sealcoating is due to them using a more expensive brand of materials, however, both products are eco-friendly materials.
 2. Mrs. Lee stated that work on the Grinder Pump Replacement at the Maintenance Facility has been completed by Desak's Plumbing & Electric.
 - a. Mrs. Lee noted that there was an added cost with the project due to replacing a broken galvanized pipe.
 - b. Mrs. Lee also noted that the RAM Industrial Services had to come on-site and start the pumps so that a 1-year warranty would be received.
 3. Mrs. Lee stated that the Bus Radios project has been completed by Source Inc.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Human Resources – Fred Exley, HR Committee Chair – No report.
- b. Steering Committee – Vacant, Committee Chair
 - i. Mr. Herd updated the Board that the Steering Committee met on February 6, 2024, at 5:30 PM and discussed the following:
 1. An article regarding transit funding was handed out to all present. A discussion began regarding the fact that many transit agencies are projecting deficits by next year with the depletion of COVID funds and how will the MMVTA increase funds?
 2. The committee discussed the pros and cons of implementing a fare increase.
 3. Mrs. Donaldson noted that electric charging stations would give the impression that the park & ride lots were being

utilized and may encourage more to park and take the bus. Also, fees from the charging stations may help as well.

4. To show support for current proposed legislation that would increase transit funds, it was discussed that support letters should be sent to our area Legislators. It was proposed that a draft letter could be provided, and each municipality could send the letter on their letterhead. Communities could also send letters of support for the yearly County funding requests. Mr. Berestecky questioned if petitions could be provided on the bus for our customers to sign. Mrs. Seman stated that she would have to investigate this to see if it would be permissible.
5. The committee also discussed how to increase ridership for younger age groups. Some ideas were:
 - a. Later service.
 - b. Traveling to the Strip District, which was just implemented.
 - c. Institute trip promotions.
6. The number of times a committee meets was discussed. Mrs. Seman stated that the scheduling of meetings is up to each committee chairman.
7. Mr. Herd updated the Board that he would have to step down as the Steering Committee Chairman and asked if other members of the committee would consider taking the position?
 - ii. Mr. Herd stated that the Steering Committee plans to meet again in April.
- c. Safety & Security – Ed Bryner, Chairperson – No report.
- d. By-Laws – Vacant, Committee Chair
 - i. Mr. Black made note that the committee is looking towards adding a succession plan for Executive Committee positions to the current By-Laws.
- e. Capital/Construction – Chris Carroll, Chairperson – No report.

At this time, Chairman Eckert encouraged Board Members to consider filing the vacant Committee Chairman positions for the Finance Committee, Steering Committee and By-Laws Committee.

10. REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

- a. Executive Director
 - i. Mrs. Seman thanked the Board Members for coming in early to have their updated photos taken and noted that there will be a makeup day for photos scheduled for next month's meeting.
 - ii. Mrs. Seman stated that the MMVTA was contacted by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to give notice that it is time to have MMVTA's comprehensive review of the agency completed,

otherwise known as a Triennial Reviews (every 3 years). Mrs. Seman updated the Board on the following:

1. The Triennial Review determines whether the MMVTA is managing the FTA-funded programs correctly.
 2. The MMVTA is currently going through the pre-site review, that is due February 29, 2024, and this will be followed-up with a site visit later.
 - a. There are 23 categories including legal, finance, maintenance, oversight, ADA, and Title VI to name a few.
 3. Staff and MV Transportation have been working hard and Mrs. Seman was pleased to announce that all pre-site review questions have been submitted ahead of the February 29, 2024, due date.
 4. PennDOT will also be coming on site for their performance review.
 5. Mrs. Seman and Mrs. Lee will be traveling to Harrisburg for a quick meeting between March 13, 2024, and March 15, 2024. Mrs. Seman stated that the meetings she will be attending are specifically for CEOs and Executive Directors of Transit Agencies and the meetings that Mrs. Lee will be attending are specifically for Operations.
- iii. Chairman Eckert asked if the FTA or PennDOT will speak with Board Members? Mrs. Seman advised that PennDOT has interviewed Board Members in the past.
- b. Marketing
- i. Mrs. Dochenetz updated the Board on the following:
 1. PennWest University's Spring Break will begin on March 2, 2024, and end on March 10, 2024. The Vulcan Flyer and Cal Commuter will not be operating during this time.
 2. Transit Driver Appreciation Day will be on March 18, 2024. A special "thank you" treat will be given to all MV Transportation drivers for their dedication and hard work in making it possible for transportation to be safe and accessible. Mrs. Dochenetz stated that their contributions to our communities are truly appreciated.
- c. Operations
- i. Mrs. Lee provided the Board the following Operation updates:
 1. Mrs. Lee attended safety meetings and received positive feedback from the operators regarding the new service and the new radios. Some suggestions and comments from the operators regarding different service items are currently being investigated.
 2. Mrs. Seman and Mrs. Lee attended the Washington County State of Economy event which showcased Washington

County's successes, challenges, and its economic outlook for 2024.

- a. The first speaker was the CEO of Washington Health Systems, who stated that it is being acquired by UPMC, and the merger is not completed due to waiting on the government's approval.
 - b. Two Washington & Jefferson College professors spoke about the economic outlook for not only the county but also the state and globally.
 - c. There was an energy round table speaking about hydrogen hubs in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. This is a long-term project that will bring in another source of clean energy to our area.
3. Mrs. Lee stated that overall, this event was very interesting and educational.

11. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

- a. Mr. Naccarato read a letter from the Donora Borough regarding the appointment of Mr. Scott Nedrow to the MMVTA Board of Directors for the term January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2028.
- b. Mr. Naccarato gave kind comments regarding the passing of Ms. Sandy Davis.

12. OLD BUSINESS – None.

13. NEW BUSINESS – None.

Mr. Boyle called for an Executive Session at 6:33 PM. The purpose of the Executive Session was to discuss a passenger matter. The Executive Session ended at 6:41 PM.

14. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Chairman Eckert asked if there were any further business to discuss? There being none, Mr. Bryner made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM.

REMINDER:

THE NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR:

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024, AT 6:00 PM

MAKEUP PICTURES ARE SCHEDULED FOR:

THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024, FROM 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM

YOUR ATTENDANCE IS APPRECIATED!