

Faribault-Martin County Joint Transit Board –
Special Executive Committee Meeting
Faribault County Human Services Center Conference Room
412 North Nicollet Street
Blue Earth, MN 56013
June 27, 2023

The Special Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Board Chair Elliot Belgard. Joint Transit Board Executive Committee members present in person were: Faribault County Commissioners Young and Groskreutz and Martin County Commissioner Belgard and Bless. Also present in person was Jeremy Monahan, Faribault – Martin County Transit Director.

Monahan had not produced a formal printed for the agenda but had notified the board members that he wished to discuss three things before the Full Board meeting that was to follow this special meeting:

- 1) Review and discuss the proposed 2024 Operations Budget
- 2) Discuss the proposed Juneteenth Holiday Policy Change
- 3) Discuss the Out of State Travel Request to Washington DC

Monahan began by showing the Executive Committee the Draft 2024 Operations Budget Line Item Report. It showed that MnDOT had notified the board that for 2024 a 3 percent increase over the 2023 budget would be allowed, which is \$1,531,200 in total. Monahan presented each line item, most increased by 3 percent from the previous year with some exceptions. The proposed budget was \$1,547,036 in total which is \$15,836 more than will be awarded. Monahan explained that with a 5 percent local share obligation, and a projected revenue amount of \$100,000, there will be enough revenue made to cover the 5 percent local share of about \$77,000 and cover the \$15,836 projected overage with another estimated \$6,000 plus being able to be put into the Transit Reserve Fund should the projections all go according to plan.

After some discussion regarding wage amounts and some of the line item expenses, a motion was made by Commissioner Groskreutz, seconded by Commissioner Young to recommend to the Full Board that they approve the Draft 2024 Operations Budget as proposed for the application to MnDOT. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion turned to the Juneteenth Holiday. Monahan noted that due to an oversight, discussion of the holiday had not been brought up by him at any previous Board meeting or Executive Committee meeting. However since the holiday has now passed, and the state and both counties have recognized it as paid holidays, he wished to bring to the Full Board for consideration of recognizing it and for considering a possible retroactive paid holiday for the staff that worked on the holiday that should have had the day off. The Executive Committee members discussed that the recognition of the holiday is almost a foregone conclusion as it is a state and federal holiday and recognized by both counties. So having it recognized by the Transit Board moving forward should not be an issue. As for a retroactive paid day, they did not make any formal

recommendations but suggested Monahan propose something to the Full Board and see what the discussion leads to.

Finally discussion turned to an out of state travel request to Washington DC. Monahan had already discussed with the Executive Committee in June a request for out of state travel to Wisconsin in October. An opportunity had come up to travel to Washington as part of the Minnesota Public Transit Association Board of Directors to meet with the federal congressional delegation from Minnesota and other members of congress involved in transportation. Commissioner Groskreutz asked what the benefit of the trip would be. Monahan noted that the ability to advocate for continued and increased funding for rural transit directly to the decision makers would be the biggest benefit. Commissioner Bleess also pointed out and Monahan agreed that the networking benefit by meeting these individuals would be great.

With no further business to wit, the Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:55 a.m.

JOINT TRANSIT BOARD
FARIBAULMARTIN COUNTIES



Elliot Belgard, Joint Transit Board Chair

ATTEST: 

Jaime Bleess, Board Secretary