

Faribault-Martin County Joint Transit Board – Executive Committee
FM Transit Facility
1023 North Dewey Street Fairmont, MN 56031
September 6, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Board Chair Bill Groskreutz. Joint Transit Board Executive Committee members present in person were: Faribault County Commissioners Young and Groskreutz and Martin County Commissioners Belgard and Bless. Also present was Jeremy Monahan, Faribault – Martin County Transit Director.

Board Chair asked for any changes to the agenda. Monahan asked to add a discussion regarding Operations Local Share to the Financial Reports.

Motion made by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Bless to approve the amended agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Monahan produced an Unpaid Bills report totaling \$23,496.99 and noted there will still be a number of regular and recurring bills arriving in the coming weeks that will be due before the next Executive Committee meeting including the Blue Earth Shell fuel bill. There was discussion regarding the details of a few of the bills.

Motion made by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve payment of the Unpaid Bills as presented and to approve giving the Transit Director authority to continue to pay other regular and recurring bills at the discretion of the Transit Director upon receipt. Motion passed unanimously.

Monahan produced a Bank Statement for the Transit Board. It showed that as of August 30, 2024 the Transit Board had \$348,043.41 for a bank balance. He noted that funding of over \$113,000 was expected in August which was the 2nd Quarter Federal Share reimbursement for the 2024 Operations Contract but it has not yet been deposited. It will be deposited in September. The rest of the activity for the month was pretty much business as usual.

Discussion turned to a report on the future local obligation for the Transit Board in particular if the Operations Local Share is increased to 15 percent after the 2025 contract when a 5 percent local share that is legislatively mandated expires. Monahan showed a draft analysis showing the status of the Transit Reserve Fund and how quickly it could be completely depleted from capital purchases and operations shortfall without either an extension or permanent change in the local share obligation, a change in the fares for passengers to increase some revenue, a reduction in service to reduce some expenditures, an annual financial commitment from member counties for operations, or a combination of all of these solutions. The Executive Committee noted that the State Legislature, especially our local representatives, know the potential financial impact to our local taxpayers and the options that may be available at the State level for solutions.

A motion was made by Commissioner Bless, seconded by Commissioner Belgard to invite State Representatives Olson and Bennet and State Senator Draheim to a Full Transit Board meeting so they can discuss the matter with the Transit Board. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion turned to Old Business and an update on a potential Transit Facility in Blue Earth. Monahan noted that he had continued work with the MnDOT funded consultant and focused now solely on the existing facility in Blue Earth. A Facility Grant Application is being worked on for submittal by the end of September. It will include acquisition of the building sections that are needed for Transit, renovations of the office space needed for Transit, small renovations for the garage area, demolition of the detached garage and paving over for Transit parking. Monahan was asked to get more information from the Faribault County Board as to if they would be able to purchase the building in its existing state and lease it to the Transit Board until the proposed project could be funded. Monahan is going to appear before the Faribault County Board on September 17th to discuss the matter.

Discussion turned to an update on the Replacement Vehicles. Monahan reported that two more vehicles were delivered on September 5th which now means that five (5) of the seven (7) 2021 vehicles have been delivered within a 2-week period. The last two buses will be delivered on September 20th. The plan was for these vehicles to be delivered over the course of a few months. After discussion it was determined that it is now no longer feasible to plan for payment of the vehicles reasonably without County financial assistance. Monahan will make plans to be on the agendas of both County Board meetings on September 17th and ask for financial assistance for paying for the replacement buses.

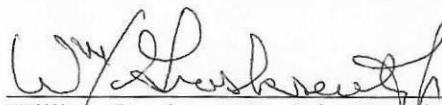
Discussion turned to Personnel Actions. Monahan wished to hire three Probationary Transit Drivers named Eugene Halverson, Roger Wells, and Holly Hovick. After brief discussion a motion made by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Young to accept the presented Personnel Actions. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion turned to the ridership report. Monahan presented the charts and noted that August was flat from July and that Martin County has been steady throughout the year, which is remarkable. With September will come the return of preschool ridership in Faribault County and a noticeable increase in those three routes ridership numbers

The next Executive Committee is scheduled for October 4th in Fairmont at the Transit Facility. The next Full Board meeting will be held on Tuesday October 22nd at 9:00 a.m. in Blue Earth.

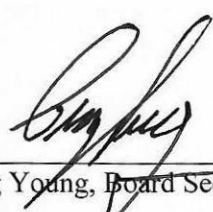
With no further business to wit, a motion was made by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Bless and the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

JOINT TRANSIT BOARD
FARIBAULMARTIN COUNTIES



William Groskreutz Jr., Joint Transit Board Chair

ATTEST:



Greg Young, Board Secretary