



RECORDED

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MOUNTAIN RIDES TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
Wednesday, October 21, 2015, 12:30 p.m.
Ketchum City Hall Meeting Room, Ketchum, Idaho**

Board Members of the Mountain Rides Transportation Authority met in a Regular Meeting in the Ketchum City Hall Meeting Room, Ketchum, Idaho.

PRESENT: Chair Mark Gilbert (Sun Valley), Secretary Steve Wolper (At-Large), Michael David (Ketchum), Jane Conard (Sun Valley) and Joe Miczulski (Bellevue)

ABSENT: Vice-chair David Patrie (Blaine County), Kristin Derrig (Ketchum), Susan McBryant (Hailey)

ALSO Mountain Rides Executive Director Jason Miller

PRESENT: Mountain Rides Business Manager Wendy Crosby
Mountain Rides Operations Manager Jim Finch
Mountain Rides Maintenance Manager Ben Varner
Support Specialist Kim MacPherson
Ryan Thorne, *Idaho Mountain Express*

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mark Gilbert called to order the meeting of Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 12:30pm; Secretary Steve Wolper took roll and determined that a quorum was present.

2. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBER THOUGHTS

Mark Gilbert mentioned that Steve Wolper is having difficulty making the meetings at this time of day due to the interruption of work. Mark did not want to lose a vital member of the board due to a timing issue. The group decided to look to see if there were other days and times for the board to meet. We will include this as a discussion item at the next board meeting.

Michael David wanted to clarify his comment that was written in the paper that day. He would like that 5:30pm bus have more room because it was standing room only and he would like to have more year round residents in Ketchum.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA (including questions from Press)

There were none.

4. ACTION ITEMS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Action item:

Action to approve FY2016 transportation service plan

Jason Miller gave an update to the service plan for the upcoming year. In the packet are the changes to the routes and survey results from our online and on board survey. We changed our format this year and we think the approach has been very successful to solicit information from riders and non-riders using survey monkey as well. The response was tremendous. We have over 230 responses so far. In the past we had only had responses from riders but this year by using online version we were able to get 38 non-riders which is a significant response. We also received a lot of written comments. This really helps to form our 5 year plan as well as our service plan. The top 3 things to get people to ride: more frequent service, a better bus schedule relative to needs and making the bus trip quicker. When it comes to new service the top 3 things were: more frequent morning and afternoon commuter service followed by late night Valley and Blue route service and then more stable service throughout the year. Respondents really want us to focus on infrastructure as well. We will follow this up on December 2nd for the Strategic 5 year planning session. Mark Gilbert commented about the “more stable service” and wanted to know how to quantify what that would take. Jason Miller thought that it would take about \$400,000 to make it happen. Jason Miller said Mountain Rides is looking at instead of having 6 seasons that we would have peak and off-peak seasons. To do that it would take about \$100,000 - \$150,000 and that is doable in the next 3 - 5 years. **Jane Conard made a motion to approve the Mountain Rides FY2016 transportation service plan, as presented, that defines our bus, vanpool and bike-ped programs and services for the coming year. Steve Wolper seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

b. Action item:

Action to approve release of Invitation for Bid 2015-10-21 for unleaded and diesel fuel purchase via card lock system

Ben Varner stated that this is the annual sealed bid that we push out to several petroleum companies. We are projecting 27,000 gallons of unleaded and 65,000 gallons of diesel and the budget impact for 2016 is a little over \$300,000.

Joe Miczulski made a motion to approve the release and publication of the Invitation to Bid 2015-10-21 for unleaded and diesel fuel for 2016. Michael David seconded. Steve Wolper commented that we should partner with the school district to maximize price and that the economies of scale are not being realized which is not a fault of Mountain Rides. Mountain Rides has reached out in the past regarding this issue but not this year. Jason Miller stated that the BCSD has a tank on their property for their vehicles which is under a tight agreement with the city relative to property owners in the neighborhood and the concerns about access to a fuel tank on the property which ties it to just to the school district. Jason Miller and Rod Domke had a conversation with Valley Co-op last year and they charge a convenience fee for bulk delivery. Valley Co-op said we would see better prices using their stations. Ben Varner said he would look into a government partnership for 2017 and include the cities as well. Steve Wolper said there could be a “Blaine County fuel purchase.” Jane Conard asked if it was standard to offer only a yearlong contract or can we do a 6 month contract? Ben Varner said that no one is guaranteeing the pricing on any given day. The companies give us a discount off the daily price. The yearlong process is an internal process developed over time. Mark Gilbert stated that we really weren’t getting bids at all. If we are getting bids could we structure it so that they compete with each other and give us the fuel index plus cents on top of that? Wendy stated that we are usually getting about 3 bids: United Oil, Associated petroleum and Sinclair

Oil has been in the mix in the past. We buy all our fuel through a card lock system and the provider has both unleaded and diesel fuel. The card lock system has to provide fuel at multiple locations. We need to fuel in Ketchum, Hailey and Bellevue in addition to our vanpool requirements which is Gooding, Shoshone and Twin Falls. Mark Gilbert stated that there is a bid document which is set up by “Index plus cents” which is common in the transit industry. Mark Gilbert stated we need to sharpen our pencils in terms of our bidding methodology and try to look for savings in the manner that Director Wolper mentioned but also a bidding scheme that requires bidders to compete. Larger transit districts would have fuel delivered. Mark Gilbert stated that a possibility would be to fuel delivered to us and have agencies come to us. Right now we are locking ourselves in to a vendor for a year with no guarantee that they are a low cost supplier which is risky. Steve Wolper is not criticizing the process but going forward there ought to be a way to aggregate diesel purchases in Blaine County. Jason Miller stated that by not taking action today we could go and do a little research for this year. Michael David said one of our funding partners has a connection to Sinclair Oil. Sinclair Oil is always invited to bid but they don’t choose to bid. Wendy stated that when we changed vendors from United Oil to Associated Petroleum we saw our pricing go dramatically down. Wendy checks fuel prices on a regular basis by having drivers turn in receipts and check the bill. **Jane Conard moved table this item until the next meeting to allow staff to do some more research. Michael David seconded and the substitute motion passed unanimously**

c. Action item:

Approve declaration pf 2 vans and 2 buses as surplus property

Ben Varner stated that vehicles 10 and 11 have outlived their useful life as well as 1 commuter van and one Toyota support vehicle. We would like someone to come and take them off our hands. The commuter van is in good shape but has out lived its useful life with MRTA. Ben Varner stated there is a small market for the Gillig. Steve Wolper asked if there was a possibility to donate to the fire department as a last ditch effort. Ben Varner said he would love to have one for the fire department. **Joe Miczulski made a motion to approve the surplussing of 4 vehicles owned by MRTA.** Jason Miller stated that we do not stock engines and these engines are out of date for the vehicles that we have. **Jane Conard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.** Jason Miller thanked Dales Bates for the donation of the Toyota van many, many years ago when KART and Peak bus were coming together. It has served us well.

Steve Wolper left at 1:30pm.

d. Discussion item:

Update on south valley facility including September change order report

Mark Gilbert made a tour of the facility the day before. He made a suggestion to have it plumbed for solar power for the future but it is not in the current project budget. Jason Miller stated that we are doing well relative to contingency. Ben Varner showed recent photos of the facility. Ben Varner researched the issue of the Idaho Power hook-up. Back when the Southern Belle property was being developed, Bellevue didn’t require anything but sewer and water. It was clear that it was owner responsibility for utility hook-up. It was not communicated that we would have to hook up the power.

e. Discussion item:*Report on recent American Public Transportation Assoc. conference*

Mark Gilbert and Jason Miller attended the APTA annual conference. Mark Gilbert gave an update on the programs offered at the conference. One of the topics was regarding the “Economic impact” on operations. Jason Miller and Mark were able to meet with the president of Gillig and to try to arrange a meeting with the Crown family regarding the new hotel in Ketchum. There was also a meeting about a bill for Map-21 which we will get by December if at all. Mark also attended a program on sustainability and project delivery methods for construction projects. Jason Miller spoke of the “buzz” at the meetings were 3 things: technology and the role in public transit, Uber, Lift (TNC’s) transportation network companies, and Millennials and what it means for public transit. FTA is working on “Mobility on demand” which is a real shift in how to look at public transit; match a user with the right mode at the right time in real time. Battery electric is the new hot topic when it comes to buses. Within 5 years we could probably have an electric bus. A very useful session was on strategic planning. A good quote Jason liked: “Find a story that connects people to your passion and tell it over and over again.” Interesting closing session on demographics: millennial generation is larger than the baby boomers. This country will be determined by baby boomers economically and socially. There will be a major shift to people living in urban areas. Rural areas and colder climates will be going through some interesting changes. Millennials are choosing public transportation at greater levels than at any other time in the US. Another session on employee retention was very good, with agencies using employee evaluation 3 or 4 times a year. Mark Gilbert said we should look at our demographics going forward. Millennials are defined as 15-35 years of age.

5. Committee Reports

Planning & Marketing committee report for October from Chair Steve Wolper.

This report will go to the November meeting to be approved.

Finance & Performance committee report for October from Chair Joe Miczulski.

Susan McBryant was the only attendee. These meeting minutes are for reference only.

6. Staff reports

a. Dashboard performance reports for August 2015

b. Operations report – ridership numbers are higher than 2013 but not as much as 2014. We have several new drivers in training. Jim says: We need to entice drivers out of the SOVs and put their seats in our seats! Jim asked the questions as to whether millennials vote and Jason Miller stated that Millennials are less politically motivated.

c. Maintenance report – The focus is getting ready for the winter.

d. Marketing and Outreach report

e. Bike-Ped report – Kaz gave a report on the bike share program. More bikes were used on Ketchum than Hailey this year. Jason Miller had a meeting with Sobi and they have come around with more flexible ways for people to pay and deploy the bikes with employers. The bikes are working very well.

f. Business Manager report – We will be staying with Blue Cross for medical and dental.

g. Executive Director report – The survey has been an interesting and informative effort. Many people took the time to thank Mountain Rides. It makes Jason Miller very proud of our team.

Thank you to everyone who is here. It shows we are doing great work. The JPA is filed and signed by all the partners.

Mark Gilbert mentioned that they need to do Jason Miller's performance evaluation which Jason deferred until December. His evaluation will be under the new pay scale. Dave Patrie and Joe Miczulski will be on the committee for the evaluation.

7. Consent Calendar items

a. Approve minutes for September 16th regular board meeting. **Michael David moved to approve the September 16th minutes. Jane Conard seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Joe Miczulski abstained.**

b. Receive & File financials August 2015

Michael David moved to receive and file the financials. Jane Conard seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Adjournment

Jane Conard moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:47pm. Michael David seconded and the motion carried unanimously.



Chair Mark Gilbert