I. Call to Order:

The Transit Authority Board Meeting for January 13, 2021 was called to order at 12:07 P.M. by President Jenny Dinsmore.

II. December 09, 2020 Minutes

Terri Cutright Made a Motion to approve the minutes as presented from the December 09, 2020 board meeting. Ron Bane seconded the Motion.

For: All  Opposed: None

III. Presentations:

A. Driver of the Month For December 2020

The Transit Authority Board announced the Authority’s December Driver of the Month, Mr. John Blosser. The Authority also recognized Thomas Jones, Robert Smith, Anne Cramer, and Michael Kingan for their outstanding performance during the month of December.

B. Rider of the Month For January 2021

The Transit Authority Board announced Tom Stufflebean as the January Rider of the Month nominated by the Mountain Line Transit Citizen’s Advisory Committee. The next Mountain Line Transit Citizen’s Advisory Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, January 20th, 2021 via Zoom at 1:00 PM.
CEO Bruffy stated that Doug Hoskin, James Sayre, James Moran, and Josiah Huggins were hired as Full-Time Drivers.

IV. Opportunity for Public Comments:
None

V. Monthly Data Summaries and Correspondence

Mountain Line reports the total passenger trips to date this calendar year as of December 2020 were 432,710 compared 872,533 total passenger trips to date for calendar year 2019. The total passenger trips were down 50%. The total number of service days for the month of December 2020 was 31. Total passengers for December 2020 were 19,242 down 69% compared to December 2019. Disabled passenger trips were down 19%, senior passenger trips were down 34% and WVU passenger trips were down 92% compared to December 2019. During the month of December 2,769 passenger trips were provided using the Property Pass Tax passes. During December 2020 the Transit Authority traveled 117,345 miles.

NewFIT provided 76 passenger trips during December.

State Opioid Response (SOR) had 303 passenger trips in December 2020. There have been 964 total trips since our first rider in March 2020.

VI. Financial Report

A. December 2020 Financial Report

The financial report for December 2020 was reviewed by the Transit Authority Board Members.

James Manilla Made a Motion to accept for audit as presented the December 2020 Financial Report. Terry Cutright seconded the Motion.

For: All
Opposed: None

VI. Old Business:

A. Pifer Terminal Update

CEO Bruffy stated that the Pifer Terminal sign has been installed and they are working on the punch list. Mountain Line Transit Authority will coordinate with the Family of Wayne Pifer for the date for a dedication ceremony.

B. Transportation Plan Update

CEO Bruffy stated that the draft of the Transportation Plan has been given to Mountain Line Transit Authority and the comments and edits have been submitted to the consultants and we are waiting for the updated version. There will be a presentation at the February 10, 2021 Mountain Line Transit Authority meeting.
C. **AIM Grant**

**CEO Bruffy** stated that the contract for the Accelerating Innovative Mobility Grant (AIM Grant) has been negotiated and will be discussed at the next meeting on January 21, 2021 at 1:00 PM with the consultants.

D. **Hazard Duty Pay/Vaccination**

**CEO Bruffy** stated that the Mountain Line Transit Authority has conducted an anonymous survey with the employees and 26 of them stated they would get the vaccination for COVID immediately and the others preferred to wait until a later date. **CEO Bruffy** proposed that the Mountain Line Transit Board Members draft a personnel policy that stated if you get the vaccination and get the second shot, hazard pay will continue. If you choose not to receive the vaccination then your hazard pay will end immediately.

**Terry Cutright** requested that the employees and their families be educated about the vaccine before making this decision.

**Marley Ynigues** education is a good idea. Due to it is a non-traditional vaccine and there is so much misinformation that is being put out there and people need to be given the facts.

**Clement Solomon** stated that the CDC has good training resources for the vaccination. Also check the liabilities that could result from offering this type of incentive. He also suggested a mandatory training for employees.

**James Manilla** requested that other transit systems be asked how they are dealing with the vaccination with their employees.

**Jenny Dinsmore** wants the employees educated to health issues that are developed after having COVID further down the road.

**Denny Poluga** agreed that education is the first step to take. We should also look at all the repercussions by creating a policy like this. Make it convenient for employees to get the vaccine.

**Jenny Dinsmore** requested that this be tabled until the next Mountain Line Transit Authority meeting on February 10, 2021.

**CEO Bruffy** thanked the board members for their comments and suggestions because this was not a policy that he wanted to make without their input. He will come up with a training and education plan for employees concerning the vaccine. He also will provide employees with the forms to sign up to get the vaccination.

VII. New Business

A. **Personnel Policy Rehire**

**CEO Bruffy** stated that Mountain Line Transit Authority has had employees that have left in good standing. We need to put a policy in place to be able to rehire former employees and how to deal with seniority and benefit eligibility. He asked the board members to approve the update to the Personnel Policy with the Rehire Eligibility and Service Recognition amended to the Personnel Policy.
Marley Ynigues Made a Motion to authorize the CEO to amend the Personnel Policy with the Rehire Eligibility and Service Recognition Policy as present to the board member. James Manilla seconded the Motion.

For:  All  
Opposed: None

B.  First Transit Inspection Services Contract

CEO Bruffy requested that the Mountain Line Transit Authority Board Members allow him to enter into contract with First Transit to inspect the new Gillig buses being built in California due to there are several different stages that have to be inspected as the bus is being built and someone must be onsite.

Denny Poluga Made a Motion to authorize the CEO to enter into contract with First Transit to inspect the Gillig buses as they are built as presented. James Manilla seconded the Motion.

For:  All  
Opposed: None

C.  Proposed 30 Day Pass Cost

CEO Bruffy stated that the current 30 day passes that we have expired on December 31, 2020. He explained to the board members the process for passengers to turn in expired thirty day passes. Passengers are being helped to use our touchless fare available on Token Transit. He shared a video with the board members that contained the directions on how to use Token Transit to purchase passes. The pass is downloaded to a passenger’s phone and then they show the driver their pass on their phone. There is an applications fee that will be added to the cost of a pass.

Denny Poluga Made a Motion to authorize the CEO to raise the price of the thirty day pass to $38.50. James Manilla seconded the Motion.

For:  All  
Opposed: None

D.  Proposed Fare Cap for Mobile App

CEO Bruffy proposed that for the benefit of passengers who aren’t able to afford a 30 day pass but end up purchasing more single ride passes than the value of the 30 day pass. When a rider has spent $38.50 in single ride passes the last one will automatically switch them to the 30 day unlimited ridership.

Denny Poluga Made a Motion to authorize the CEO to set a Fare Cap for of $38.50 as the CEO presented. James Manilla seconded the Motion.

For:  All  
Opposed: None

E.  City Grant Funding Request

Denny Poluga Made a Motion to authorize CEO Bruffy to request by application funding from the City of Morgantown in the amount of $356,500.00. Terri Cutright seconded the Motion.
F. Proposed Section 125 Benefit Plan

CEO Bruffy explained to the board members how the 125 Benefit Plan works. It offers several services for Mountain Line Transit Authority employees. There will be a presentation next week that will give more details on the benefits and how everything will work. They will continue exploring how this plan will work and the benefits and fees to employees for the benefit. The contract proposal will be brought back to the board for their approval.

IX. Board Member Reports and MPO Update

MPO Report

CEO Bruffy stated that the Mileground project is coming close to completion. The West Run and Burroughs work is progressing.

Board Member Reports

James Manilla gave an update on the Ramada Inn project for social services agencies to move into the building. They will need to have a hub at that location for buses.

CEO Bruffy gave an overview on when agencies will be moving into the building. There are a lot of questions that needs to be answered before it can be determined how much bus service will be needed and at what times. One of the proposed names that is being considered is Hope Hill.

Terri Cutright stated that the organization that is heading this project is Morgantown Community Resources.

Terri Cutright stated that the Governor is going to have a grant program for landlords and renters can apply for on the Governors website.

Marley Ynigues The NAACP has reached out regarding transportation for those 80 and older who are going for their vaccines. There were some logistics that had to be worked out but there was appreciation for Mountain Line Transit Authority bringing that service together.

X. Next Board Meeting

February 10, 2021

XI. Adjournment

James Manilla Made a Motion to adjourn at 01:40 p.m.