I. Call to Order:

The Transit Authority Board Meeting for November 9, 2016 was called to order at 6:02 P.M. by Jenny Dinsmore.

II. Reading and Approval of Minutes October 12, 2016

James Manilla Made a Motion to approve the minutes from the October 12, 2016 board meeting. Terri Cutright seconded the Motion.

For: All                      Opposed: None

III. Presentations:

A. Driver of the Month For

The Transit Authority Board announced the Authority’s October 2016 Driver of the Month, Mr. Thomas Jones. The Authority also recognized Joshua Griffin, Marlene Steven, John Blosser and Todd Stone for their outstanding performance during the month of October 2016.

B. Rider of the Month

The Transit Authority Board announced that Wei Zhang is the November 2016 Rider of the Month selected by the Mountain Line Transit Citizen’s Advisory Committee.

C. Personnel Changes

The General Manager stated we hired two new full time drivers: Robert Smith and Timothy Cumpston.
IV. Public Hearing on Evansdale Dr. service Elimination:

Public Comment opened at 6:05 p.m.

Roshan Daniel is a student at WVU. I am here on behalf of the student government association and a 5th year senior. On behalf of the students of Evansdale would like the Transit Authority Board to vote against this change. This is a change that will really hurt the students of Evansdale.

Ross Levell is a student at WVU. I am an Engineering student at WVU. I am asking that you keep this service at Evansdale. I think this will add to the parking issues that already exist. I would like you take into consideration the students that have walking difficulties.

Jillian Kinder is a student at WVU. It has been stated that this is due to safety concerns which is the reason for this change. This will cause a lot of students to have to travel farther just to get to a pick up spot to get to the Evansdale campus. You are trying to make this campus more walkable and with that come a lot more safety concerns. Please consider that when you are thinking about how you are going to vote on this change. Just know that there are a lot of students who are against this change.

Kelly Margano is a graduate student at WVU. I hope you all listen to the students and vote against this. I think it will be safer for the students to keep this route and I think it would help with the traffic congestion.

Adam Roh is a student at WVU. The bus is a very vital part for students that have classes on the Downtown campus and the Evansdale campus. There are times due to the harsh winters where the PRT may be down for many hours a day and it is very difficult to rely on the WVU buses. Those now go to the lower crossing building which is further away from the Evansdale camps. We would really appreciate if you would consider the students and reject this change.

Adrienne Uphold is a freshman journalism student at WVU, I live at towers. It’s not just the students that are being affected by this. I see a lot of people who have gone to the grocery store on Patteson Drive that come to towers to catch the bus. I think you need to consider the Morgantown community as well as the students.

Public Hearing closed at 6:13 p.m.

Denny Poluga Made a Motion to discuss the Evansdale Drive service elimination. Jim Manilla seconded the Motion.

For:  All  Opposed: None

Denny Poluga asked the General Manager how many incidents we have had in the last 15 - 20 years?

The General Manager stated we have had one incident back in 2006 where we hit a pedestrian, it was driver error and in result the driver was taken off driving assignments. Denny Poluga stated his major concern is that elimination this service will cause difficulties for those with disabilities or injuries.
Ron Bane stated the reason for having this route is not only to increase ridership for Mountain Line Transit but also for to benefit the students. If we take this route away not only does it take away the students ability to get around the Evansdale campus, but also discourages the students from riding Mountain Line in other areas. By taking the students down onto Patteson Drive you are not getting the students to their direct destination. The best way to promote our routes is to provide the easiest access to them. By eliminating this service we are taking away the hub that is the crucial key for recognition of all other services and routes.

James Manilla asked on this proposed new route, what would the stops be on this route?

The General Manager stated the stops would be at Towers and the Evansdale Crossing.

James Manilla asked does WVU want to eliminate all the streets with in this route where the transit goes through?

Jenny Dinsmore asked is the road going to be a wide walkway?

Terri Cutright asked will service vehicles be allowed in this area?

Clement Solomon stated when Evansdale campus was re-developed, the theme of the re-development was to make it a pedestrian campus. Can we do this all in one shot, I don’t know. Service and emergency vehicles will be able to get through.

Jenny Dinsmore stated the other thing that bothers me is that you have a PRT system that is unreliable.

Terri Cutright asked how often does the bus go through Evansdale campus?

The General Manager stated we run about 80 trips a day through the Evansdale campus.

James Manilla asked the General Manager what would happen to this service if it were to change?

The General Manager administratively this would mean reproducing all the schedules. As of the terms of the service this will add a 5-10 minute increase in the route time. As to the students this would mean the Ag Sciences, Evansdale Library and Engineering won’t be accessible.

Terri Cutright asked what this will do to the community with the traffic congestion?

The General Manager stated this will not make the congestion any better. I can’t recommend the change; this doesn’t meet our mission and what were supposed to do. The reality is that this is a controlled road and if we don’t have access to the road than we are limited to what we can do.

Denny Poluga Made a Motion to not support this change to Evansdale Drive. James Manilla seconded the motion.
Denny Poluga asked for the General Manager to send a letter to WVU from the Board to ask them to reconsider the change to Evansdale.

V. Opportunity for Public Comments:

None

VI. Monthly Data Summaries and Correspondence

October 2016

The General Manager stated that the total passenger trips to date calendar year October 2016 were 882,535 compared to 935,772 total passenger trips to date for calendar year 2015. The total passenger trips for the year were down 6%. The total number of service days for the month of October 2016 was 31. Total passengers for October 2016 were 118,802 down 3% compared to October 2015. Disabled passenger trips were up 42%, senior passenger trips were down 3% and WVU passenger trips were down 1% compared to October 2015. During October 2016 the Transit Authority traveled 98,381 miles.

A. New & Restored Service Ridership Updates

The General Manager stated we have seen an 87% increase in ridership after New & Restored service that started on August 8, 2016.

VII. Financial Report:


The General Manager reviewed the financial report for October 2016 with the Transit Authority Board Members.

David Flynn Made a Motion to accept for Audit September 2016 Financial Report. Terri Cutright seconded the Motion.

IX. Old Business:

None

X. New Business
A. Telephonic participation in Board Meetings

The General Manager is to going to research this in more detail.

B. Evansdale Drive Service Elimination Proposal

Discussed earlier in the meeting under Agenda Item IV.

C. Work Session Retreat Date, Time and Location

The General Manager is to email dates and times to the Board members.

D. New Passenger Transfer Location

The General Manager reported that locations for a possible New Downtown Passenger Transfer Station may need to be researched.

E. WVPTA Bike/Bus Shelter Grant Proposal

David Flynn Made a Motion to authorize the General Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the West Virginia Division of Public Transit or the West Virginia Public Association or the Federal Transit Administration for Bike/Bus Shelters. James Manilla seconded the Motion.

For: All                       Opposed: None

F. The Ridge Service Proposal

James Manilla Made a Motion to authorize the General Manager to enter into a service agreement with College Park Ridge. Terri Cutright seconded the Motion.

For: All                       Opposed: None

G. Grey Line Scheduling Software Proposal

The General Manager stated he has contacted a local software company M & S Consulting. He has asked them for a proposal for replacing the current Grey Line manifest software. If this company can stay within the same budget as what we are currently using this could be a cost neutral solution.

XI. Board Member Reports and MPO Update

The General Manager stated the Mon River Crossing is down to three alternatives that are the most viable.

The General Manager stated that we had a banner made up with happy holidays for our fence in front of our building. We will also be offering Local businesses an opportunity to advertise on our buses…

XII. November Board Meeting Date and Time
No December Board Meeting

XIII. Adjournment

David Flynn Made a Motion to adjourn at 7:25 PM.