October 18, 2017

Authority Members Present: Jenny Dinsmore
David Flynn
James Manilla
Terri Cutright
Ron Bane
Denny Poluga
Clement Solomon

Authority Members Absent:

Other Personnel Present: David Bruffy
Wayne Pifer
Loring Danielson
Tracy DeBardi

I. Call to Order:

The Transit Authority Board Meeting for October 18, 2017 was called to order at 12:00 P.M. by Jenny Dinsmore.

II. Reading and Approval of Minutes September 13, 2017

Ron Bane Made a Motion to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2017 board meeting. David Flynn seconded the Motion.

  For: All  Opposed: None

III. Presentations:

A. Presentation by Morganton City Manager, Paul Brake

The Morgantown City Manager Paul Brake spoke about moving the Transit Authority out of current location at the Depot. Paul stated they are working on the redevelopment of activities at the waterfront and to promote walkability. Paul also stated a task force is needed to work with Mountain Line Transit and the stakeholders to find a more viable location for Mountain Line Transit Depot. The task force could possibly have a timeline (for Mountain Line Transit) by January 2018 as to when the move would be expected to take place.

Q & A

James Manilla said a major concern we have heard or read that the City wants Mountain Line Transit out by spring. What do you see as timing for the possible move as far as an interim period and permanent period?
Paul Brake stated “We would like to identify a time line, so to specifically answer your question, no it would not occur that quickly.”

Denny Poluga “So when the council voted last night 7 nothing to endorse that, what kind of information did they have on the impact this would have on the riding public?”

Paul Brake “Here is what I did discuss with them verbally, what Director Bruffy relayed to me. I said we will probably have follow up sessions and take a deeper dive into that. The Council understands that there are implications involved in that.”

Denny Poluga “But they don’t fully understand the implications right, because they didn’t have the information yes or no?”

Paul Brake “What we are focusing on is the development of the Riverfront area so we know that is a piece of that. So, the way you are asking that question the answer is no.”

Ron Bane “The biggest concern is not the City of Morgantown. We just passed a Levy that had almost 70% of approval which is unheard of. The money that was given was to provide a service for the entire county. The problem I see is that, again, yes it is good to have a task force but it seems to me like Jenny was illustrating the cart was before the horse on this one. You already came to us and had a vote last night at Council to say you’re gone and I am not trying to be negative I am just trying to say it is fact. Your Council should have said ‘let’s put this together before we put that on the docket for the City Council. What the City Council did last night affects the entire county, the businesses downtown and the University. There were stakeholders that were not in the room last night and it is concerning. We are starting off on a really bad moment here because those players were not even directed until five days ago. When dealing with facts here that on a short timeline we were told that it is going to happen and a vote from Council that you are out. Through your own email your thought was to move the Mountain Line Transit Depot to Westover. This is very concerning because if this is not done right when the levy comes up again and we do the wrong thing that funding is gone. Because the County is not giving us money anymore and now we are in a situation and I know that is in the back of everyone’s mind and I am going to say it that if we don’t corporate that three hundred and some thousand dollars is in jeopardy and we have to play ball with you. I am just concerned with what we are sending to the public and the effort that was put out there. The demands that people were asking for were met, we upped our schedules and better buses. We are using and utilizing that money from the Levy in the most positive way we possibly can. Not to say that we didn’t want another facility not to say I think it would be great to have another facility. We just have to be careful how we do this and utilize this opportunity and involve those people even to the point where it’s almost over stated. Nothing against you Paul but your department heads would not know what is going on with the Transit Authority. We get the minutes and the notations and David Bruffy gives us good information on what is going on with the Transit Authority. I don’t care about the park I just care about the person that Denny was talking about gets that ride to work, and the person that needs to change from one bus to another to get home ok. It sends a message that I am concerned. I think that every business owner should be concerned and the University should be concerned because the students that live out of town use those buses to get to the University. It is five days in and I am concerned. I can’t imagine that there will be a spot downtown that someone will not complain about the Transit Depot moving near them.”
Denny Poluga “I think a lot of our conversation so far has been on the negative side.”

Paul Brake “I am kind of picking up on that.” Denny Poluga “I think it is just trying to point out some of the difficulties that we see and the problems that we will be facing. Hopefully that when you get your task force together David Bruffy or some others can be an integral part of it so we don’t get surprised with a five day notice again. We need to kind of work together to move ahead. I mean the decision has been made and we have to start moving ahead. I don’t like the decision but it’s been made and we have to figure out a way to move ahead to benefit the riders and the Transit system. I think the strategy of how we move together is what’s important from this day forward. I am still going to complain to let you know that and your still going to hear concerns from the others. I do think that it’s a done deal and the best thing we can do is to kind of work together as best we can, and to keep us within the loop instead of outside the loop. Paul Brake “Sure that is understood.”

Paul Brake “Bear with me I hope I don’t sound too repetitive, again I want to emphasize that in the conversation with Council it is a priority to retain the bus system within the downtown area. I mean the routes are not going away. We are talking about the transfer location so let’s be clear on that, because someone was asking me last night is certain bus stops going away and no that has nothing to do with that.” David Bruffy “Actually, it could happen depending on where we are.” Paul Brake “But the point that I am making is what Ron Bane was speaking to is those individuals that don’t have ability or chose not to have a vehicle still have access to outstanding transportation bottom line. We should be focusing on that as our overall objective. Again, with these different push back and different locations it’s a little bit different flavor now. We don’t have the ability now to keep doing that. I have been involved in the stakeholder engagement and as I said in the beginning of this. We are cut from the same cloth, worked in the profession for a long time. You have to listen and hear out what the problems are and identify the people that are impacted in the immediate area. We really need to drill down on that and see how can we address and mediate that as much as we can and be very attentive to those details and address those. I think having that open communication and open forms and things like that will take a process of where there will be a greater stakeholder engagement. I don’t think every last person is going to be on board with it. But again, continuing with the system we have, it’s a broken system and it does not work.” Jenny Dinsmore “But our system does. We put a lot of hours into making sure it works.” Paul Brake “I don’t mean that with any disrespect, but I can tell you that the flow and function is not the best setup where the Depot is at now and I think we can do better.”

B. Driver of the Month For September 2017

The Transit Authority Board announced the Authority’s September 2017 Driver of the Month, Mr. Thomas Jones. The Authority also recognized John Blosser, David Taylor, James Smith and Anne Cramer for their outstanding performance during the month of September 2017.

C. Rider of the Month For August 2017

The Transit Authority Board announced that Patty Taylor is the October 2017 Rider of the Month selected by the Mountain Line Transit Citizen’s Advisory Committee.
The General Manager stated we hired one new full time bus driver Billie Kennedy and a full time depot clerk Donna Braham. We also have Maria Smith celebrating 10 years with Mountain Line Transit Authority.

D. APTA Expo Update

The General Manager stated in addition to training there were 900 vendors at the expo. There were 2 items interesting and we will follow up on. The first was affordable software that will take our data feeds and analyze our on time performance on routes. The second was hardware that is LED that communicates using cell signal to be able to make changes and display Route notifications.

IV. Opportunity for Public Comments:

William Hutchins
I am in favor of the move of the Depot. I am thrilled of the success and growth of this enterprise. I always said that this is not the best place for the depot. I am an attorney and I offer my services to both entities the city and the Authority. I want to see this very important service improve.

V. Monthly Data Summaries and Correspondence

September 2017

The General Manager stated that the total passenger trips to date calendar year September 2017 were 712,168 compared to 763,733 total passenger trips to date for calendar year 2016. The total passenger trips for the year were down 7%. The total number of service days for the month of September 2017 was 30. Total passengers for September 2017 were 11,133 down 9% compared to September 2016. Disabled passenger trips were down 3%, senior passenger trips were down 2% and WVU passenger trips were down 13% compared to September 2016. During September 2017 the Transit Authority traveled 105,565 miles.

VI. Financial Report:

A. September 2017 Financial Report

The General Manager reviewed the financial report for September 2017 with the Transit Authority Board Members.

James Manilla Made a Motion to accept for Audit September 2017 Financial Report. Terri Cutright seconded the Motion.

For: All
Opposed: None

B. Capital Escrow Budget Amendment (light replacement project)

Denny Poluga Made a Motion to accept the Capital Escrow Budget Amendment. Ron Bane seconded the Motion.

For: All
Opposed: None
VII. Old Business:

None

VII. New Business

A. MSS Media Supplemental Agreement

Ron Bane Made a Motion to adopt the MSS Media Supplemental Agreement. David Flynn seconded the Motion.

For: All Opposed: None

B. Greyhound Agreement

Tabled until the November 2017 Board Meeting.

C. Lot A Entryway Paving

The General Manager presented 3 price bids for paving Lot A Entryway to the Board.

Ron Bane Made a Motion to approve the Green River Group for $8,925 bid for the Lot A Entryway Paving. James Manilla seconded the Motion.

For: All Opposed: None

IX. Board Member Reports and MPO Update

None

X. Next Board Meeting Date and Time

November 8, 2017 at 12:00 Noon

XI. Executive Session (Personnel Matters)

Entered into Executive Session at 1:18 pm

David Flynn made a motion to move into Executive Session. Ron Bane seconded the motion.

The General Manager stated per state code this is to discuss personnel matters.

Returned to normal meeting at 1:29 pm

Jenny Dinsmore called the meeting back to order.

XII. Adjournment

Denny Poluga Made a Motion to adjourn at 1:30 P.M.