



SAGINAW TRANSIT AUTHORITY REGIONAL SERVICES BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday – March 25, 2024
STARS Board Room (615 Johnson St.)

12:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Kathy Miller called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Ms. Kathy Miller – Chair, Mr. Floyd Kloc, Mr. Carl Ruth, Ms. Vickie Dillon, Ms. Diana Gutierrez, Mr. Michael Hanley, Ms. Evelyn McGovern

Members Absent: Ms. Kristy Nelson

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS

Mr. Kloc moved to excuse all absent members, which was seconded by Mr. Hanley. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Ruth moved to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Kloc. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Cash Flows

Ms. Lauren Pavlowski, CFO, presented the cash flows through March 17, 2024.

Draft January 2024 Financial Statements

Ms. Pavlowski presented the draft January 2024 Financial Statements.

AWARENESS & ENGAGEMENT

Ms. McGovern said the Awareness and Engagement Committee set agenda topics for the next few meetings, the topics being: HSC Line, the Memorial Cup, and Branding and Communications. Mr. Kloc motioned to receive and file this committee report. Mr. Ruth supported. Motion carried unanimously.

RESOURCES & OPERATIONS

Mr. Glenn Steffens, Executive Director, said he formatted this agenda to make the Executive Director's Report shorter, and see how this fits pertaining to Strategic Planning.

Millage Renewal Recommendation & Proposed Ballot Language

Mr. Steffens presented the millage renewal recommendation and proposed ballot language for the August 2024 election. Resources & Operations and Finance approved it at 3.2 mills for five years, which would be rescinded if we get a county wide millage. Mr. Kloc moved to approve the proposed millage and ballot language, which was supported by Mr. Ruth. Motion carried unanimously.

Memorial Cup Project Funding, Resources, & Partnerships

Mr. Steffens said we are trying to find people who want to fund our services for the cup, as well as accepting donations and grants if they come our way. We are hiring in anticipation of this event, possibly wrapping buses with Saginaw Spirit, and are continuing to work on maps. We hope to provide these handouts to the city. There was a brief discussion about the memorial cup and the business directory.

State Transit Funding Report

Mr. Steffens is working with the Transit Caucus regarding funding statewide. We need three hundred million for transits to break even. Even MDOT has stated the 265 million proposed funding level is unacceptable. Mr. Steffens updated the Board that more Republicans have been joining the caucus, which was previously overwhelmingly Democrat. We need both parties involved in this caucus.

Federal Government Earmark, 4 New RTW Vans, Hiring Update, & CBA Negotiations

Mr. Steffens said there were two budget bills in DC, both benefit STARS. We have been awarded 1.2 million for new infrastructure, and the state match will bump it up to 1.5 million. We will continue to push for more funding from senators and continue applying for grants. Mr. Steffens explained that all 4 RTW Vans that were approved at a previous board meeting are already in our possession. He also updated the board about HR continuing to hire and train new drivers. Mr. Steffens is meeting to negotiate the union contracts soon and will be tackling certain issues during this negotiation. We need to find savings in the contract in order to increase wages and/or benefits.

Senior Shopper & Grocery Getter

Mr. Steffens explained the logistics of the Senior Shopper and Grocery Getter programs that he and his team are working on. He also updated the Board on the 100k toward bus shelters that the City Council approved. Mr. Kloc asked if the city or STARS will put these shelters, Ms. Forbes replied that we have to install these shelters. Mr. Steffens will work out the logistics with the city to be sure they take care of them after the fact and commended the Planning team on the work done on this project.

Lift & RTW Efficiency

Mr. Steffens said there has been a tremendous productivity increase, of about 75-100%, and thanked management for making great strides. He said fixed route is also working on lowering drivers breaks and encouraging good attendance. Things are already running smoother.

Mr. Klock moved to receive and file. Mr. Ruth supported the movement. Motion Carried unanimously.

INNOVATIVE SERVICE OFFERINGS

Memorial Cup, Route Changes, Panic Button, & Frankenmuth Shuttle

Mr. Steffens stated this committee will focus on the businesses, residents, and the return-on-investment side of the Memorial Cup. He said the route changes have been well received, but we have had issues with signage as our crane is currently broken. We are working on the Panic Button system and will keep the Board updated. Mr. Steffens has not received a request from Frankenmuth for a shuttle during the Memorial Cup, but we are keeping those buses wrapped just in case we get a last-minute ask from them. We also quoted them for the shuttle starting up again in July, August, and September; but we are waiting on CVB and the DDA to review the budget for this service.

SVSU Multimodal Station, & Flint Connection

Mr. Steffens shared that SVSU has been awarded a Federal Earmark of 500k for a multimodal station to better connect STARS, Bay Metro, and Midland. In other news, we will soon be connected with Flint's Planner to speak about a connection.

Funding Relocation, & Steps toward NEPA

Mr. Steffens said we need seed money to begin NEPA, but we have accomplished some steps toward NEPA through our Feasibility Study and other projects. We need additional funding options for this.

Mr. Kloc moved to receive and file this committee report, which was supported by Mr. Ruth. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Miller mentioned repeating topics across multiple committees to approach them from different vantage points.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Steffens mentioned bonding as an option for seed money for the site relocation. There was brief a discussion on bonding. He also mentioned another millage for this. There was a brief discussion on how a millage could fund this. Ms. Miller and Ms. Dillon both suggested we look at this from a countywide perspective and consider city residents. Mr. Kloc wanted to be certain the county would not be able to sign off on our millages. Mr. Steffens will look at what other transits have done in the past.

Mr. Steffens update the Board on the tragedy in the Kildee family. He said Ms. Kristy Nelson has joined the Board, with Jimmy Greene likely to join in April. We will be running a shuttle for the Saginaw Symphony this Saturday. Mr. Steffens mentioned an event at the Saginaw Club organized by his wife. Mr. Greene gave a brief update on Memorial Cup events that are in the works.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Ms. Gutierrez said the agenda was easy to follow and thanked the staff for their passion.

Mr. Ruth said to keep up the good work.

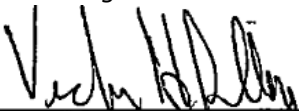
Mr. Kloc told Mr. Steffens to keep up his innovative approach.

Ms. McGovern asked if Flint, Frankenmuth, or Blue Lakes will be doing anything like our services for the Memorial Cup, Mr. Steffens responded that we are a fragmented county. Mr. Greene said it is a condition of the bid for teams to go from Frankenmuth to Saginaw. Ms. McGovern commended the staff for finding ways to fund these services.

Mr. Hanley said the reports are very thorough and to keep up the great work.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ruth moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by Mr. Kloc. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Miller adjourned the meeting at 1:06 PM.



Vickie Dillon, Secretary

Date: 5/13/24