

**CONNECT TRANSIT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PROCEEDINGS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Connect Transit was held at the Connect Transit Board Room #135, 351 Wylie Drive, Normal, Illinois 61761 on February 28, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Mike McCurdy, Vice-Chairman
 Ryan Whitehouse, Secretary
 John Bowman
 Judy Buchanan
 Lauren Lacey
 Jennifer McDade
 John Thomas

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

CITY MANAGERS: Steve Rasmussen – City of Bloomington Assistant City Manager

STAFF PRESENT: Andrew Johnson, General Manager
 Julie Beer, Executive Assistant

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 4:30 p.m. Roll call was taken.

Motion by Trustee John Thomas, seconded by Trustee Judy Buchanan to allow City of Bloomington Assistant City Manager, Steve Rasmussen to participate in the Board meeting.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting of January 24, 2017
2. Disbursements for Month of January, 2017
3. Financial Report for Month of January, 2017
4. Capital and Self Insurance Reserve Fund Balances for month of January, 2017
5. Monthly Statistical Report for month of January, 2017

Vice Chairman Mike McCurdy stated the new bus shelters that are going up in the Town of Normal look really sharp. He noted there are slots that could be used for advertising. He questioned if there were any opportunities for branding. Andrew Johnson, General Manager responded that the details are being worked out for same.

Motion by Trustee Judy Buchanan, seconded by Trustee John Thomas that the Consent Agenda be approved.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

City of Bloomington Assistant City Manager, Steve Rasmussen stated Mayor Tari Renner had received a letter from Dontae Latson, Executive Director of the YWCA McLean County concerning the discontinuance of their MediVan Service due to the lack of funding. He questioned if the Board of Trustees would consider discussing the possibilities for Connect Transit to provide service to the individuals no longer able to use the MediVan service.

Mr. Rasmussen stated the MediVan service was ½ funded by the State of Illinois and ½ funded by the users. There is no funding from the State of Illinois now. It costs \$120,000 per year to provide. This service transports individuals to medical appointments.

Secretary Ryan Whitehouse questioned the charge per trip to the customer. Mr. Rasmussen stated the charge is \$20 per trip.

Vice Chairman Mike McCurdy stated this would be worthy of discussion prior to the March Board of Trustees meeting.

General Manager Andrew Johnson stated he would like to have a conversation with the YWCA to gain a better understanding of what Connect Transit can do to assist the YWCA's MediVan clients.

Trustee John Bowman stated that Connect Transit is a curb to curb service. The YWCA MediVan service is a door to door service.

Mr. Rasmussen stated he would work on planning a meeting with the YWCA and Connect Transit staff to discuss this issue.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Andrew Johnson, General Manager informed the Board that contract negotiations with Illinois State University (ISU) had begun. ISU, as well as Connect Transit are both experiencing the loss of State of Illinois funding.

Mr. Johnson stated given all of the changes in Washington D.C. with the new administration, and Connect Transit's extreme need for funding, staff has put together a Request for Proposals for a federal lobbyist.

Regarding State of Illinois funding, Connect Transit is good through the end of the fiscal year, but still behind one quarter of funding. The State did make a transfer into the Transportation Fund the previous week. He hoped for a payment in March or April.

Town of Normal Manager Mark Peterson arrived at 4:45 p.m.

Mr. Johnson stated he has resigned his position with Connect Transit effective on March 24, 2017. It had been an honor to work with the Trustees, and all of Connect Transit's employees. He stated he is excited for his new position in Champaign, IL. however he will be sad to leave the Connect Transit family.

Vice Chairman Mike McCurdy stated the Board would be discussing Connect Transit's next chapter, but the last chapter had been extraordinary. Mr. Johnson's leadership has provided an amazing service to Connect Transit. He thanked him for assembling a great team of employees and his leadership over the last six years. He wished him well in his new opportunity.

TRUSTEE'S COMMENTS

Vice Chairman Mike McCurdy reminded the Board that new officer selections would be made at the March Board meeting. He had appointed Trustees Judy Buchanan and Lauren Lacy to a committee to determine who would be interested in serving as officers for the next year. They will report back to the Board with recommendations and a vote will take place at the March meeting. He thanked Trustees Buchanan and Lacy for serving on this committee.

Vice Chairman McCurdy stated he would like to complete a comprehensive review of Connect Transit's By-Laws. He requested that the Trustees review same and forward any suggested edits to Ms. Julie Beer, Executive Assistant.

Vice Chairman McCurdy cautioned the Board about cell phone use during Board meetings. He reminded them that Connect Transit and its Board of Trustees are subject to the Freedom of Information Act. He would be providing further information in the near future.

Vice Chairman McCurdy noted Connect Transit Bus Operator, Sue Kaur present at the meeting. He asked that she stand to be recognized for her outstanding efforts the day of the bus fire. The Board appreciates her efforts and her calm head and cool demeanor to evacuate the passengers on the bus. Ms. Kaur stated it was her duty to keep all the passengers safe.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Trustee Judy Buchanan, Seconded by Trustee John Thomas to adjourn to Executive Session.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Time: 4:49 p.m.

Motion by Trustee Judy Buchanan, seconded by Trustee Lauren Lacy to return to Regular Session and adjourn the meeting.

Time: 5:57 p.m.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Julie Beer, Executive Assistant