

**CONNECT TRANSIT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
PROCEEDINGS OF FEBRUARY 23, 2016**

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 23, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Bill Wilson, Chairman
 Mike McCurdy, Vice-Chairman
 Ryan Whitehouse, Secretary
 Jennifer McDade
 John Bowman
 Judy Buchanan

TRUSTEES ABSENT: John Thomas

CITY MANAGERS: Mark Peterson, Town of Normal Manager

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

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 4:32 p.m. Roll call was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Anthony Grant, Property Manager for the Phoenix Towers Apartment Building in Bloomington addressed the Board. He was present voice his concerns regarding the proposed route restructure. Many of the residents of Phoenix Towers are upset regarding the proposed change. Phoenix Towers is a senior and disabled housing complex with over 158 apartment units. Connect Transit service is the primary mode of transportation for many of these residents.

Mr. Grant stated many of the residents have expressed their concerns to him. They believe that they are being marginalized and that their feelings are not being considered with the proposed route restructure. They requested that he bring their concerns to the Board on their behalf. They request that the bus stop at Phoenix Towers not be removed and that the demographics of Connect Transit's ridership be considered.

Trustee John Thomas arrived at 4:35 p.m.

Town of Normal Manager Mark Peterson questioned if Phoenix Towers was an assisted living facility. Mr. Grant responded that it is not. Mr. Peterson noted that the McLean County Assisted Living Center will be four (4) miles away from the nearest bus stop with the proposed route restructure.

Andrew Johnson, General Manager inquired with Kyle Boehm, Planner, about the number of boardings per day at Phoenix Towers. Kyle Boehm, Planner, responded that there are four (4) to five (5) boardings per day.

Chairman Bill Wilson thanked Mr. Grant for his comments and stated that the Board would now convene to an Executive Session to review Executive Session minutes.

Motion by Trustee John Thomas, seconded by Trustee John Bowman to adjourn to Executive Session.

Time: 4:40 p.m.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Judy Buchanan, seconded by Vice Chairman Mike McCurdy to return to Regular Session.

Time: 4:45 p.m.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting of January 26, 2016 and Executive Session of March 24, 2015 and April 28, 2015
2. Disbursements for Month of January, 2016
3. Financial Report for Month of January, 2016
4. Capital and Self Insurance Reserve Fund Balances for month of January, 2016
5. Monthly Statistical Report for month of January, 2016

Motion by Trustee Judy Buchanan, seconded by Vice Chairman Mike McCurdy that the Consent Agenda be approved.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Recommendation for Tire Lease RFP#16-01

Andrew Johnson, General Manager introduced this item. He stated only two (2) bids were received. Michelin North America, Inc., the incumbent bidder was the successful bid. Leasing tires is a more cost effective option for Connect Transit's fleet. He recommended that the Board approve the tire lease.

Motion by Trustee John Bowman, seconded by Trustee Judy Buchanan that the General Manager be authorized to execute a five (5) year contract with a three (3) year base and two (2) one (1) year options with Michelin North America, Inc., to provide tire lease for all revenue vehicles.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Andrew Johnson, General Manager noted he submitted his electronic report a little late due to being on vacation the previous week.

Mr. Johnson informed the Board that Connect Transit would be creating a full safety plan. He would bring the finalized safety plan back to them for approval at a future date. There would be an annual review of the plan each year thereafter.

In his written report he informed the Board of the 2016 Chili Cook Off winners. He encouraged them to attend next year's cook off.

He and Isaac Thorne, Chief Operating Officer, (COO) attended APTA's Transit CEO Seminar and were pleased to hear the Transportation Safety Administration call out Connect Transit as the Most Outstanding System.

Staff is currently working on the proposed budget. There would be a Budget Work Session very soon.

Finally, Mr. Johnson reminded the Board of APTA's 2016 Transit Board Seminar which will be held in San Antonio, TX from April 30, 2016 to May 3, 2016. He encouraged any of the Board members to contact him if interested in attending the Seminar.

TRUSTEE'S COMMENTS

Town of Normal Manager Mark Peterson inquired if Mr. Johnson would be participating in the One Voice trip to Washington, D.C. Mr. Johnson stated that he would. Connect Transit would be supporting local municipal programs and projects.

Vice Chairman Mike McCurdy stated some of the programs and projects on the list for funding are mental health care and the Hamilton Road extension.

Vice Chairman McCurdy noted transit in the Bloomington Normal community has taken a step to the next level. He has noticed that current construction projects are now including transit in their planning processes. He commended the Board and Connect Transit staff for all of their hard work and advocacy.

Trustee Judy Buchanan reminded the Board of the Chamber of Commerce Gala. Connect Transit was a nominee, however, did not win the award. Connect Transit's visibility as a community player is growing; relationships are being built.

Mr. Peterson stated he was surprised that Connect Transit did not win the award. Even the award recipient was surprised.

Trustee Judy Buchanan stated Connect Transit is still building its community partnerships.

There were no further comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Vice Chairman Mike McCurdy, Seconded by Trustee John Bowman to adjourn

AYE: All

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Time: 5:01 p.m.

Ryan Whitehouse, Secretary