

ONEIDA-VILAS TRANSIT COMMISSION (OVTC) MINUTES

January 28, 2021,

ATTENDANCE: Steven Schreier, Marv Anderson, Chuck Hayes, Billy Fried, Milt Klingsporn. Dawn Winquist via phone. Absent Fred Radtke. Present: Roger Youngren, Transit Manager; Joel Gottsaker, Interim Director ADRC of Oneida County; Sue Richmond, Director ADRC of Vilas County. Others present Kayla Houp of The Lakeland Times.

CALL TO ORDER: Schreier called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. at The Vilas County Court House 330 Court St. Conference Room B, Eagle River, noting this meeting was properly posted in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law and meets the Americans with Disabilities Act.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Motion by Hayes to approve the agenda in any order as per the chair with a second by Klingsporn. All ayes. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION: none

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Motion by Anderson to approve Minutes of December 18, 2020. Second by Winquist. All ayes. Motion Carried.

MEETING WITH PRIVATE TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS: Schreier explained that during the Public Hearing these was much discussion and often the concerns were in the form of a question. He wanted to correct any miscommunications. Youngren reached out to two private transportation providers to set up a meeting. The meeting was with two private transportation providers, a GWAAR (Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources) representative, a WisDOT representative, Gottsaker, Richmond, Schreier, Youngren and Newman. The new program should be called Specialized Transportation not Paratransit. The private providers are concerned the MCOs are circumventing their service by using OVTC. The Specialized Transportation program would meet the needs of the county residents that have fallen through the cracks. Fried is concerned that by helping those that fall through the cracks that it will impede the private transportation provider's businesses. Youngren is asking the ADRCs for data on the people falling through the cracks. Hayes said this decision is up to the people that give us the money. WisDOT said there is a need and is appropriate to have this service. Richmond said that both ADRC's focus on the elderly and disabled and as stated in the 5-year transportation plan there is a need. She asked that the commission keep in mind there isn't a private transportation provider in Vilas County. The 85.21 trust funds can only be used for capital purchases and vehicle repairs. Richmond said the vehicles haven't been purchased and that OVTC can use the vehicles for other routes. Gottsaker said that there are people in the outlying areas that need service to the grocery store or to dialysis. Both ADRCs make referrals to private transportation providers. Anderson would like to see a trial program. Youngren will be reaching out to BART and Green Bay Transit regarding their specialized transit programs.

REPAYMENT TO ONEIDA AND VILAS COUNTIES: Youngren said cash flow is a constant problem. Third quarter expenses were submitted but not paid by WisDOT until late in December. Hayes reminded the commission that OVTC has a line of credit if short on cash. Fried said not to put the commission in a position to borrow from the line of credit. Anderson suggesting refraining from the county repayment until the fourth quarter funds are received from WisDOT. Schreier reminded the commission that OVTC often uses the line of credit for short-term borrowing and that OVTC doesn't have a general fund like the counties to draw on.

ACUTAL VS BUDGET YEAR-END: Youngren isn't totally comfortable with how the capital grant monies are reported. Capital Grant monies were not truly revenue because the funds were used to purchase three buses. Youngren anticipates reimbursement of \$100,000 for fourth quarter. OVTC owes the ADRC of Vilas County \$57,868 by the end of the month and the ADRC of Oneida County \$124,000 by the end of March. Youngren anticipates being in the black by \$35,000. Youngren submitted \$130,000 in expenses for third quarter, but \$30,000 was held back because WisDOT paid \$60,000 earlier in the year. WisDOT doesn't want to overpay the grant due to the CARES ACT covering all expenses.

RIDERSHIP REPORT: 1768 rides the previous month. Consistent with November ridership. Youngren doesn't anticipate any changes unless pandemic eases up. Fares were reinstated on January 4, 2021. The local welder has declined to build the fare boxes. OVTC has a sample fare box from BART. Fried and Schreier suggested checking with the Oneida county welder to see if he is able to build the fare boxes.

CONFIRM DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS: Richmond has reserved Conference B for the remainder of the year for the fourth Thursday of the month except for November and December. Commission member agreed on meeting date of November 18 and December 16 for those two months.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Anderson suggested that Youngren make a presentation to both county boards. Hayes said to be more specific with agenda wording. Grant Bornbach of Advanced Medical Transportation emailed Gottsaker a market analysis of non-ambulatory riders for the specialized transit program.

NEXT MEETING DATE: Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Vilas County Courthouse.

Schreier noted that he received an email from Winquist to say her call dropped by the phone system.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Future agenda items: Annual election of officers. Public comment section of agenda.

Minutes reflect the recorder's notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate committee.

Respectfully submitted by:

Barbara Newman
Office Manager