

Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority Advisory Board

Present: Elaine Miller, Tisbury; Bob Wasserman, West Tisbury; Robert Mackay, Oak Bluffs; Angela Gompert, VTA; Lauren Thomas; *Felicia Webb, VTA; *Jeannette Orsino, Public.

Absent: Lenny Jason, Chilmark; Mark Snider, Edgartown; Kim Leaird, Disabled Rider Representative (West Tisbury).

Mrs. Miller called the meeting to order at 9:34 am.

Public Comments: None.

FY 23 – Financials through January 23:

The Board reviewed the financial statements through January 2023. Ms. Gompert highlighted several line items in the comparative income statement: Accounting Expense is up due to timing of invoices; Outside Services are up due to purchases not being charged off to a capital grant yet, as VTA is awaiting the countersigned contract; Fuel is up for two reasons: 1) Electric buses –the cost/Kwh is fixed, but supplier costs from Eversource increased, 2) VTA previously had a very good contracted rate for diesel and unleaded, but that contract expired and was non-renewable; Utilities are up due to supplier rates, VTA switches suppliers as appropriate.

Mr. Wasserman inquired if driver recruitment expense is separate in Purchased Transportation. Ms. Gompert explained that Purchased Transportation includes any expense related to the Management Contract and is not separated by detail, only by department, like Fixed Route, Demand Response.

Mr. Mackay asked for clarification on what Contract Revenue is. Ms. Gompert responded that includes Human Service Transportation brokered through GATRA, the Steamship Authority's share of Tisbury Park & Ride Services, labor for the MVRHS Maintenance Contract and Church St Postal Station.

Mr. Mackay inquired about Legal Expenses – Ms. Gompert responded that the expense was from the closing of Lobster Alley, and the review of those documents associated with it.

Ms. Miller inquired as to why Accounts Payable (Operating) was up approximately \$1M – Ms. Gompert responded that was from taking delivery of a new bus from BYD.

FY 24 Budget Discussion:

Ms. Gompert presented the FY24 proposed budget in the amount of \$8,088,000. Ms. Miller asked if there was a standard increase in the budget from year to year, as it seems to have increased about 8-10% since 2020. Ms. Gompert replied that any expected funding increases from the State are budgeted in, as well as Proposition 2.5 for Local Assessments – the budget is done in February, as per the Revenue Anticipation Note schedule, any anticipated larger expenses and predicted farebox income/ridership. Discussion followed.

Ms. Gompert stated she expects to exhaust the funds from relief contracts in FY24; State Contract Assistance has increased slightly from the prior year, which is based on 60% ridership, 30% of population and 10% on service area land size.

Mrs. Miller asked for a motion to approve the FY24 Operating Budget of \$8,088,000. Mr. Mackay made a motion to approve the budget, Mr. Wasserman 2nd [MSC]

Ridership:

Ms. Gompert shared a calendar year ridership comparison - calendar year 2022 increased 12.78% from calendar year 2021. Off-season ridership shows the most growth, as during the in-season buses are at capacity already due to labor shortage.

Project Update:

Fixed Route Technology Upgrade: Ms. Gompert provided an update on the On-Board Technology upgrade project taking place in the fleet, which includes farebox replacements with electronic ticketing options, the addition of automated passenger counters, on-board signs and automated stop announcements, computer-aided dispatch and vehicle location systems.

Lobster Alley:

Ms. Gompert stated she is waiting on plans to rehab the property. It is expected the house will be ready for employees late next fall. Ms. Gompert explained that the VTA is trying to better accommodate employees by providing single bedrooms with common areas, similar to the model the hospital uses.

West Tisbury Town Hall:

Ms. Gompert updated the Board that the permanent switch gear for inductive charging at Church Street has been delayed, which affects the temporary switch gear currently at Church Street being moved to West Tisbury. The charging cabinet for West Tisbury has arrived and will be installed at the Town Hall in the next month. West Tisbury Town Administrator has been updated as well.

Miscellaneous:

Mr. Mackay inquired who is responsible for the new bus shelter in front of the Hospital. Ms. Gompert responded that the shelter was provided by MassDOT.

Minutes:

Mrs. Miller asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 31, 2022. Mr. Wasserman made a motion to approve the minutes, Mrs. Miller 2nd. Mr. Mackay abstained. **[MSC]**

Mrs. Miller asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wasserman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Mackay 2nd. **[MSC]**

Mrs. Miller declared the meeting adjourned at 10:41 AM.

*Indicates joined late or left early

Date

Signed