

ATTENDANCE: Erv Teichmiller, Bob Mott, Bill Freudenberg, Ed Hammer and Chuck Hayes. Excused Fred Radtke and Milt Klingsporn, Jim Altenburg, Dianne Jacobson and Sue Richmond. Also in attendance: Brian Jopeck of the Lakeland Times, Carrie and Rich Linzmeier of Stargazer/Northwoods Mobility, Julie Deaton, Sandra Maglish and Jenny Felty of Headwaters, Inc., Michelle Tuschl and Gregg Brusco of Rapid Cab, Kevin Boheske of Star Journal and Ben Sherman of WJFW

CALL TO ORDER: Teichmiller called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. at the Transit Commission Building, 1831 N. Stevens Street, in Rhinelander, 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: Hayes made a motion to approve Agenda and in any order, as per the chair with a second by Freudenberg. All ayes. Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There was a motion by Hammer with a second by Mott to approve the Minutes of the Regular Commission Minutes of August 10, 2017 and September 7, 2017. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Carrie Linzmeier of Stargazer Rider Service, Stargazer Limousine Service and Northwoods Mobility Services. She's never been to a board meeting, but watches what OVTC does. Wants to let everyone know that there is access for the elderly and disabled. Their companies have been here since 2013 and they have wheelchair trips all over the Northwoods. Finally speaking up and that they are an option. They offer limousine, charter and shuttle services and heard the OVTC. They want to be good neighbors, but it's difficult to compete with government. They have invested thousands of dollars. She suggested a different operating model and with their assistance to help keep costs down.

CLOSED SESSION: Closed Session: Motion by Hayes, second by Freudenberg to enter in to closed session pursuant to section 19.85 (1)(c) Wis Stats., to: consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of a public employee over which this body has jurisdiction or responsibility. (Employee/Hours Reduction) Roll Call Vote: Mott/aye, Hammer/aye, Hayes/aye, Freudenberg/aye, Teichmiller/aye, 8:06 a.m.

Motion by Freudenberg and second by Mott to return to open session at 10:10 a.m. Motion carried.

Board Chair said no money from the FTA. He was assured that the grant has been submitted and the review will be completed by the end of the fiscal year (September 30) Cash is need now and we were not successful in asking the county in resolution for the funds. An anonymous donor has offered sufficient funds for September and October. We realize that we need to reduce costs. Many of the elderly and disabled are unable to pay larger charges and feel our

fares are more affordable. Through August there are over 3000 rides Short term reduction of staff and operating costs. Employees have consented to defer their paycheck. We anticipate continued services. We will compress services to be more efficient and ask all people to call 24 hours in advance for a ride.

Motion by Mott to reduce staff schedules as proposed by Jim (Transit Manager). Second by Freudenberg. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mott to accept offer from employees of deferred paychecks, which shows a loyalty and belief in the program. Second by Hayes. All ayes. Motion carried.

We have incredibly loyal people. Riders love these fellows and often comment on that they feel safe. There is a nice comradery. Our drivers use names and are gracious and friendly.

Motion by Mott to require a 24 notice from passengers to group together more efficiently, except in an emergency. Second by Hayes. All ayes. Motion carried.

Board chair said we appreciate the for-profit folks. We don't work weekends, evenings and holidays. There is plenty of business for all. We fill a niche for people who can ill afford a higher rate. Three years to develop this system. Bulk of our customers are elderly and on a fixed income. One woman in Eagle River was unsure of her driving and gave up her car. She is totally dependent on our buses. We take people to meal sites for lunch and socialization. We took on Headwaters routes that were operating at a loss because we have access to funds to continue service. We want to work with cabs and other transportation services and not be in competition with them. There are a number of non-profits and they are obligated to reduce costs. The Minocqua Triathlon reduced its transportation costs by 50% which means more resources for the Youth Exchange program, Girls on the Run. Cabs are seen pulling into restaurants and other events on Saturday and Sunday.

Teichmiller and Mott spoke with U.S. Senator Ron Johnson's aide, U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin's aide, Congressman Sean Duffy's aide and Senator Tom Tiffany's aide. We want to avoid what happened this year in 2018 and not need a last-minute reprieve from an investor angel. We are a victim of our own success. We will continue to be safe, affordable and reliable.

2017 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT, STATUS OF FEDERAL FUNDS-BRIDGE LOAN AND 2017 SERVICES ADJUSTMENT: All covered above.

TRANSIT MANAGER REPORT:

- a) We have one or two buses arriving shortly. Its time to retire old tired buses. The buses to be retired are owned by Headwaters. We have a commitment from the Vilas Commission on Aging for \$15,000 for one new bus. Still working with a couple of other investors.
- b) 36923 rides through the end of August.

- c) 2018 Budget needs to be completed by the end of October. OVTC line items more specific than WisDOT. Would like to see WisDOT increase availability of funds by usage. More funds for those ascending and less to descending. OVTC has increased the ridership from when Vilas County Commission on Aging and Oneida County Department on Aging had buses. Neither Vilas nor Oneida County had the Headwaters routes.

LETTERS AND COMMUNICATION: None

**Next Meeting Friday, October 29, 2017 at 8:00 a.m. at 1831 N. Stevens Street, Rhinelander.
Next Executive Committee meeting October 19, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. at 1831 N. Stevens Street,
Rhinelander**

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m. am.

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

Respectfully submitted by:

Barb Newman, Office Manager
Oneida-Vilas Transit Commission