

REGULAR BOARD MEETING - BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION CORPORATION (BPTC) FEBRUARY 24, 2015, 5:30 P.M.

In the Edward J. Kuntz Board Room of the Bloomington Transit Operating Facility, 130 W. Grimes Lane, Chairman Obermeyer convened the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bloomington Public Transportation Corporation.

ROLL CALL

Board Members present: Chairman Obermeyer, Vice Chairman McDaniel, Secretary Hasler, Board Member McLary, and Board Member Cartwright. Also present were Lewis May, General Manager, Brenda Underwood, Human Resources/Marketing Administration, Christa Browning, Controller, and a member of the public, Lillian Henegar, Bloomington Township Trustee.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS

Lillian Henegar, Bloomington Township Trustee, noted for 2014 she looked at 3,300 applications for assistance and what stood out to her was the need for public transportation. Chairman Obermeyer said if you have any questions we have a wonderful staff here that is willing to help in any way. She said the entire BT staff has done a wonderful job of trying to improve and increase the service. She said we get a lot from your input and appreciate you coming. Board Member McLary said something to consider from an advocacy standpoint is participating in the Monroe County Coalition for Access and Mobility (MCCAM) that meets once a month at the IU Disability Resource Center. He said it is a group of advocates and individuals that strive to improve public transit service and other types of transportation. Mr. May said they are primarily tasked with serving the needs of people with disabilities but a lot of times that includes improving funding for public transportation.

MESSAGES FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Vice Chairman McDaniel noted that today is the deadline for Bills to pass second reading in the House. He said we are going to lose a lot of Bills in the next couple of days a lot of them are going to die and then they will take a break and start all over Monday. He said they have already stated working on some of the House Bills in the Senate and Senate Bills in the house. He said most of the activity in the last couple of days has been second readings. He said the Budget Bill passed and it passed as we were afraid it was going to with a less than 1 percent increase in the first year and 8 percent in the second year.

Vice Chairman McDaniel said Transit Day at the State House is March 10. He said he is trying to line up some speakers.

MESSAGES FROM THE MANAGER

Mr. May noted that typically at this time of the year we get the annual request from Bloomington Parks and Recreation for use of free Summer Fun Passes that we have provide for the Kid City Camps to use to get children to and from various camp venues. He noted that this year their request is down compared to what it has been in the past. He said in 2014 the value of passes we provided was \$1,752 and this year the value of the passes they are requesting is \$1,566. Mr.

May said we have a motion on the agenda for the Board to grant this request for passes in exchange for discounted memberships at their Twin Lakes Recreation Center for all of our employees.

Mr. May said since our last Board Meeting Bloomington Hospital has made their formal announcement that they are planning to relocate the hospital located at Second and Rogers to a location to be determined. He said they have not actually announced where that location is but there is pretty good intelligence that says that new location will be at Curry Pike and State Road 46 where apparently they have an option on a number of acres of land at that location. Mr. May said that location is outside the City by several miles and under the ordinance that created Bloomington Transit back in the early '80s our service area is limited to areas only within the City of Bloomington. He said we have already had a number of inquiries from the public asking about how this is going to affect their ability to use public transportation to get to and from the hospital. He said people both on the fixed route system as well as the BT Access system have inquired. He said he wanted to get a discussion going with the Board so as to plan and prepare for finding a solution whereby a new hospital can be served by transit. He said in the hospitals announcement there was no time frame as to when this was going to happen but I think it is easy to see to relocate a hospital of that size and magnitude you are talking at least one to two years and probably longer than that. He said in his view there is adequate time for planning and preparation given that they have not even decided on the location at this point.

Mr. May said as you know and as we have talked about Senate Bill 379 if it becomes law and if the County Council enacts a County Economic Development Income Tax to provide dedicated funding for Bloomington Transit. This bill could create a significant funding source that could be used to expand service such as going to a new hospital location. He said from his prospective he did not think we would have a problem gaining City Council approve to expand our service boundaries if we can show we have sufficient resources such as SB 379 could provide. He said several years ago, primarily through Vice Chairman McDaniel's efforts at the General Assembly, State law was changed to enable PTC's such as BPTC to provide service beyond their City boundaries without the previous onerous requirements. He said the cost of any new service, especially outside City boundaries, is not going to be inexpensive. Costs will be driven by the number of days of service, frequency of service, length of route, and whether or not there is a paratransit element to the new service. He said at a minimum to provide a new hospital service we can expect annual operating costs to be at least \$350,000 not including any capital cost that might be required. He said once a final location is determined by the hospital, we will begin looking at the various service options and what the costs would be. Mr. May said he wanted today to be a starting point for discussion and he asked the Board for their thoughts and concerns. Board Member Cartwright said knowing how the City feels about finding an alternative location for the hospital, do you think they would be opposed to BT providing service to a new hospital location. Mr. May said he does not think the City Council considers the hospital decision to move a done deal. He noted at a recent Council meeting, the Council passed a resolution asking the hospital to reconsider and to stay. He said the Mayor has stated the decision is apparently final and we need to start planning and working to make the best possible outcome wherever it is going to relocate. Mr. May said like everyone, he agrees it is a bad idea and he wished the hospital would stay where it is. He added that any location that is several miles away from the City boundaries will make it expensive to service by transit given the distances that would have to be travelled and the lower densities. Board Member McLary asked how far is the location from the nearest current route. Mr. May said it depends on where you

measure it but it is 2.5 to 3.0 miles from City boundaries. Board Member McLary said do we know how many people go to Bloomington Hospital. Mr. May said yes in fact last year we did a 100 percent on off count on every route so we do have data. Vice Chairman McDaniel said how do we get the message to the City that this is not on a route and this is something they need to be considering and maybe even give them some minimal cost estimates. Mr. May said they understand the transportation implications that it has but he would be glad to work with Tom Micuda and the Mayor's office to communicate the impact on transit and costs of service. He said the City understands that BT does not go outside the City and they understand that people use public transportation to get to the hospital. Secretary Hasler asked if the route to the hospital would be a dedicated route. Mr. May said it could be a dedicated route or it could be an extension of an existing route. There are several options we will consider including the possibility of a dedicated route. Another option would be to develop a Westside local route much as we have discussed in the past that connected to an existing radial route. Chairman Obermeyer asked what were the possibilities of the hospital contributing to the cost of transit service extended to any location. Mr. May said we can always ask, however, it is important to note that the hospital has not approached us asking for transit service to anew location or offering to pay for it.

MESSAGES FROM THE CONTROLLER

Controller Browning gave an overview of the January Financial Report.

PUBLIC COMMENT – ACTION ITEMS

There were no comments from the public.

NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

Under New Business, Secretary Hasler moved to approve a donation of passes to Bloomington Parks and Recreation for the Kid City Summer Program. The motion was seconded by Board Member Cartwright. The motion was approved unanimously by all Board Members.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

MINUTES

The minutes for February 10, 2015 were presented for approval by Board Secretary Hasler and seconded by Board Member Cartwright. The minutes were approved unanimously.

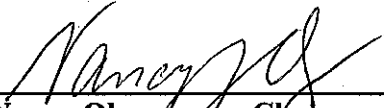
CLAIMS

The claims for February 24, 2015 were presented for approval by Secretary Hasler and seconded by Board Member Cartwright. The claims were approved unanimously.


ADJOURNMENT

APPROVE:

ATTEST:



3-10-15
Nancy Obermeyer, Chairman
Board of Directors BPTC



3-10-15
Gloria Hasler, Secretary
Board of Directors BPTC