



MOUNTAIN AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES of BOARD MEETING Wednesday, May 17, 2017

OPEN SESSION 10:30 a.m.

Hootman Senior Center
2929 Running Springs School Road
Running Springs, CA

Board Members Present:

Terisa Bonito, Chairman, Member-at-Large
Randy Putz, Vice-Chairman, City of Big Bear Lake
Liz Harris, San Bernardino County, 3rd Supervisorial District
Bill Priest, San Bernardino County, 2nd Supervisorial District

Agency Personnel:

Kathy Hawksford, General Manager
Sandy Benson, Assistant General Manager
BettyAnn Merrill, Administrative Assistant
Tiffany Millburn, Outreach Coordinator

Members Excused:

Bob Jackowski, City of Big Bear Lake

Other:

Carol Greene, County Counsel

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bonito called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

Member Putz led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.2 Roll Call

Roll call was taken noting that Member Jackowski was excused.

2.0 STAFF PRESENTATIONS

None

3.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

4.0 PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

5.0 CONSENT CALENDAR

Chairman Bonito called for discussion of the Consent Calendar. Ms. Hawksford noted that ridership was up for Big Bear Dial-a-Ride due to the extended service hours. The Big Bear Off-the-Mountain had a decline in ridership in comparison to last year at this time which may be due to the opening of a section of the Pacific Crest Trail that was closed last year. Motion to approve was made by Member Harris with second by Member Putz. A roll call vote was taken with the motion passing unanimously.

6.0 CARRY OVER ITEMS

None

7.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Resolution 2017-005: Renewal of Line of Credit with First Mountain Bank

Chairperson Bonito recused herself from discussion of this agenda item. Ms. Hawksford stated that MT would like to renew the Line of Credit with First Mountain Bank for \$250,000 and explained that this funding is to cover any unforeseen cashflow issues. Terms and conditions of the loan remain the same as the previous year. A motion to approve was made by Member Harris with second by Member Putz. A roll call vote was taken with the motion passing unanimously with Chairperson Bonito abstaining.

7.2 Memorandum of Understanding with Victor Valley Transit Authority to provide Transportation Reimbursement Information Program (TRIP) Assistance

Ms. Hawksford explained that the previous provider for Coordinated Transportation Service in the MT service area was VTrans. VTrans was absorbed by Omnitrans. MT proposes entering into an agreement with Victor Valley Transit Authority (VVTA), a Consolidated Transportation Service Agency (CTSA), to provide this service for those in the MT service area. Funding for these services is consistent with MT's Operating Budget. Motion to approve was made by Member Putz with second by Member Priest. A roll call vote was taken with motion passing unanimously.

7.3 Application for Capital Grant Funding through the FY16-17 California Transit Security Grant Program – California Transit Assistance Fund (CTSGP-CTAF)

Ms. Hawksford informed the Board that MT was eligible to apply for funding under the FY16-17 California Transit Security Grant Program (CTSGP) in the amount of \$3,287. This funding will be used to cover the cost of a replacement vehicle camera system in the event that one should fail. No further discussion. Motion to approve was made by Member Putz with second by Member Harris. A roll call vote was taken with motion passing unanimously.

7.4 RIM Service Change

MT's Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) recommended the addition of Dial-a-Ride service on Sundays, which was implemented on November 14, 2016. The 105 passengers carried in the following seven month period is not sufficient to offset the cost of maintaining the additional service. Staff recommends discontinuing the Sunday Dial-a-Ride service in the RIM area. Motion to approve was made by Member Priest with second by Member Putz. A roll call vote was taken with motion passing unanimously.

8.0 GENERAL MANGER'S REPORT

Ms. Hawksford reported on the following items:

- **Trolley Service in the RIM implemented**

Ms. Benson reported that the Lake Arrowhead Chamber of Commerce sent out an e-blast and 25 businesses have volunteered to sell Trolley passes. She said that when they were testing the route a few months ago, many in the community came out to watch the trolley go by and waved. She said it seems to be well supported by the community.

- **Stops on Big Bear Boulevard**

Ms. Hawksford reported that the plans for the bus turnouts to be located on Big Bear Boulevard have been submitted to Caltrans. Staff hopes to mesh the project with the City's plan to re-pave the boulevard during the summer of 2017, thereby completing the project at the time the repaving of the boulevard is completed.

- **Staffing**
Ms. Hawksford introduced Steve Brouard, MT's new Operations Supervisor working out of the Big Bear facility.
- **Resort Express**
MT carried 5,429 employees and 83 non-employees between December and mid-March on the Express Service to the ski resorts. The service was successful to the point that the resort requested additional hours of service. Member Putz requested that staff keep the board updated on efforts being considered by MT to help alleviate the traffic congestion issues in the Valley. Ms. Benson reported on her meeting with the City where such ideas were discussed.
- **Update – Facilities Project**
Ms. Hawksford reported on the discussion concerning possible location sites for new facilities both in Rim and Big Bear Valley. The selection process has been hampered by the limited number of properties for sale, the mountainous terrain, and MT's size and location requirements. Member Putz inquired how feasible the idea for a transit center would be. Ms. Hawksford replied that it was dependent on finding an appropriate site. Ms. Benson added that there may also be options to partner with others. Member Harris encouraged MT to keep Mayor Bill Jahn informed of progress.
- **Shelters**
Big Bear Outdoor Advertising (BBOA) is working on getting the shelter that had been at the bus stop at the Elks Lodge re-installed. BBOA has recently updated the solar systems on existing shelters within the City of Big Bear Lake.
- **Big Bear DAR Ridership Up**
Big Bear's Dial-a-Ride ridership is up due to the extension of service hours in the late evening and the Off-the-Mountain ridership is down from last year's numbers due to the lack of ridership from the Pacific Crest Trail hikers.
- **Verification of Transit Training (VTT)**
Ms. Hawksford informed the Board that every year the drivers have to undergo eight (8) hours of safety training by a certified trainer. MT invited Brian Hunt from AZ Bus, who has been in the transportation industry for over 30 years, as guest speaker. Mr. Hunt utilized a 1949 World War II film, "Twelve O'Clock High" to emphasize the power of teamwork, attention to detail, willingness to change strategy and following rules to promote safety and success and instill trust in leadership. Presentation was enthusiastically received. Member Priest commented that he had been at a few of Mr. Hunt's presentations in the past, which were excellent.
- **Service Adjustments during AMGEN Time Trials in Big Bear on May 19th**
Ms. Hawksford informed the Board that staff has been working the past month with the coordinators of the AMGEN event to rearrange bus services to accommodate the road closures to be implemented during the tour. The night prior to the event, MT buses will be parked at the airport. Fixed Route service will be provided on the East end of the Valley and only Dial-a-Ride on the West end. OTM service is being routed down Highway 38; therefore, there will be no pickup in Fawnskin. The mid-day OTM is being cancelled. Notices have been posted on buses, DoubleMap app and the MT website. Member Putz expressed his gratitude for the efforts MT is making to accommodate the AMGEN event.
- **Tudor House Transportation**
Ms. Hawksford read a letter of thanks from Lake Arrowhead Rotary for the service provided the

previous evening between the Resort and the Tudor House with accolades to the drivers for their professional service.

- **Board Meetings**

Ms. Hawksford stated that meeting every other month does not seem to be working out and that perhaps it would be better to schedule meetings every month, and cancel the months when there are no agenda items. Ms. Benson stated that the owner of Santa's Village had offered the use of his facilities for meetings. Discussion followed.

9.0 GENERAL COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

9.1 Administration

None

9.2 Board Members

None

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bonito adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m. The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, June 21, 2017, 10:30 a.m. at City of Big Bear Lake, Training Room, at 39707 Big Bear Blvd., Big Bear Lake, CA.