

EASTERN SIERRA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Minutes of Friday, March 13, 2009

The Board of Directors of the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority, State of California, met at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, March 13, 2009, at the Town of Mammoth Lakes Council Chambers, Minaret Village Shopping Center, Suite Z, Mammoth Lakes, California. The following members were present: Skip Harvey, Susan Cash, Vikki Bauer, Dave Stottlemire, Jeff Griffiths, Linda Arcularius, John Eastman and Byng Hunt. Director Dave Stottlemire led the pledge of allegiance. Chairperson Griffiths introduced new member to the Board, Dave Stottlemire.

Public Comment With Respect to Closed Session The Chairperson opened the public comment period at 11:32 a.m. There was no one from the public wishing to address the Board. Public Comment was closed.

Closed Session Open session was recessed at 11:34 a.m., to convene in closed session with all Board Members present, to consider Agenda Item No. 5a (Conference with Labor Negotiators. Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 – Authority designated representatives; John Helm and Monicka Watterson. Bargaining group; AFSCME), and Agenda Item No. 5b. (Performance evaluation of the Executive Director, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957).

Report on Closed Session as Required by Law Closed session was recessed at 12:58 p.m. to reconvene in open session to receive a report on closed session with all Board Members present. Chairperson Griffiths gave the report on closed session. Report on 2008 Personnel Evaluation of ESTA Executive Director.

The ESTA Board of Directors has concluded its 2008 personnel evaluation of Executive Director John Helm. Mr. Helm has the full support and confidence of the Board of Directors.

Two years have passed since the creation of ESTA and the transition from Inyo Mono Transit. The greatest asset that ESTA inherited from Inyo Mono Transit was a dedicated, caring and professional team of drivers, as well as a knowledgeable, hard-working, and efficient staff. It is precisely because of this committed workforce that ESTA will be able to weather these difficult financial times and emerge stronger on the other side.

The Board of Directors is committed to working with ESTA staff and John to maintain a high quality transit service. This will not be an easy task, but with cooperation and teamwork, we can first and

foremost fulfill the needs of the traveling public, and at the same time, build a transit system that is sustainable long into the future.

During the evaluation process, the employees of ESTA stepped forward to give the Board important feedback. The Board appreciated those employees that took the time to give us insight into the working environment of the organization. While we acknowledge the formidable circumstances that ESTA faces, we firmly believe that with the direction of this Board, the leadership of John Helm, and the support of an effective team of employees, we can accomplish our goals.

Public Comment

The Chairperson opened the public comment period at 1:05 p.m. Selma Calnan read to the Board a statement with her views of the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority. Brigid Salamon stated her concerns with regards to contacting Eastern Sierra Transit and requesting transportation to the Board meeting today. Ms. Salamon felt it was wrong to deny her personal transportation so she could attend the meeting. Arleen Callahan stated her concerns regarding the Mammoth Express bus leaving Bishop at 7:00 a.m., and her inability to get to the bus stop at that time. The Board requested these issues be agenized for the next meeting.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Director Hunt and seconded by Director Harvey to approve the minutes of the ESTA Board of Directors meeting of February 20, 2009. Motion carried 6-0, with Directors Eastman and Stottlemire abstaining.

Moved by Director Harvey and seconded by Director Cash to approve the minutes of the ESTA Board of Directors meeting of March 2, 2009. Motion carried 7-0, with Director Stottlemire abstaining.

Transit Services in Mammoth Lakes

Bill Crockroft from Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA) gave a presentation to the Board with an overview of the transportation services provided by MMSA. Mr. Crockroft reported that the ski area has 30 vehicles to provide transit services to their guests. MMSA has 41 employees in the winter months that drive the vehicles as well as three fulltime, year-round mechanics on duty. Mr. Crockroft reported that regular meetings are held involving the Town of Mammoth Lakes, MMSA and Mr. Helm, keeping the lines of communication open and helping to provide better transportation to all in the area.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Helm reported that the lines of credit have been paid down to \$50,000 each. The current cash flow of ESTA is positive.

Director Cash requested the Board create a policy for allocation of unanticipated revenues. Director Hunt requested closely watching the amount of interest earned by the accounts held by ESTA. Director Arcularius requested that ESTA prepare to build a reserve and not assume the lines of credit will always be available from the member jurisdictions.

Operations Report

Monicka Watterson gave the Operations Report for the month of February. Ms. Watterson reported that overall ridership was down compared to the month of January. February had less operating days due to holidays and fewer days in the month.

Vehicle Graphics
Postcard Location

This item was pulled from the agenda and will be brought back to the Board at a later date.

2009/2010 Budget
Deficit

Mr. Helm reported to the Board new provisions have been made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) with the possibility of reducing the budget deficit by \$50,000. Mr. Helm reported that if additional funding is not received and services do need to be cut, the process for those cuts needs to start soon. Public hearings need to be held to receive input from the communities.

Director Arcularius excused herself for a conference call at 1:56 p.m.

After a lengthy discussion the Board authorized staff to start the process of public hearings focusing on the needs of the community. Also looking into the possibility of operational and/or administrative adjustments and the feasibility of a new fare increase.

Management
Consulting Services

Director Bauer reported to the Board that due to concerns presented to the Board from employees, she determined an outside consultant might benefit in addressing these concerns. Mono County Board of Supervisors approved funding of management consulting services for ESTA should the Authority choose to utilize these services in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.

Director Arcularius rejoined the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

Moved by Director Harvey and seconded by Director Griffiths to approve the contract for management consulting services to be provided by Terry Gooch Ross to further develop the organizational performance of the Authority, with the requirement

that a provision be added to the Scope of Work ensuring that the consultant will maintain individual employee confidentiality, with review and concurrence by legal counsel. Motion carried 8-0. The Board thanked Mono County.

Recess/ Reconvene

The Chairperson recessed the meeting at 2:40 p.m. for a five-minute break. The Board reconvened at 2:45 p.m. with all Board Members present.

Employee/Board Communications

ESTA employees have communicated to the Board of Directors the desire to enhance the level of communications with the Board. Communications have been hindered due to the conflicts of drivers work scheduled conflicting with Board meetings. The Board requested staff to research the additional costs of having regular evening meetings and how other agencies address this concern. Moved by Director Harvey and seconded by Director Eastman to schedule a Special Meeting on Monday, April 20, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in Bishop. Motion carried 8-0.

Reports

Director Bauer gave a report on her trip to Washington D.C. on a quest to gain support on a transportation bill for additional operational funds within the ATTPL grant funds.

Mr. Helm reported that Tuesday and Wednesday of next week he would be attending the Cal ACT conference and accepting an award on behalf of ESTA/Inyo Mono Transit for its long time membership.

Future Agenda Items

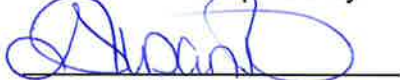
Discussion regarding the continued meeting schedule on Fridays due to some agencies dealing with furloughs.

Workshop with legal counsel regarding the Brown Act.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority Board of Directors is to be held on Friday, April 17, 2009 in Bishop at the City of Bishop Council Chambers at 10:00 a.m.

Recorded & Prepared by:



Susan Rottner
Board Clerk
Eastern Sierra Transit Authority

Minutes approved: **April 17, 2009**