

EASTERN SIERRA TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Minutes of Friday, December 18, 2009

The Board of Directors of the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority, State of California, met at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, December 18, 2009 at the City of Bishop Council Chambers, Bishop California. The following members were present: Jeff Griffiths, Skip Harvey, Susan Cash, Linda Arcularius, John Eastman, Byng Hunt, David Stottlemyre and Vikki Bauer. Director Cash led the pledge of allegiance.

- Public Comment The Chairperson opened the public comment period at 11:34 a.m. Cathy Liberato voiced a concern regarding the holiday pay of ESTA employees. There was no one else from the public wishing to address the Board. Public Comment was closed.
- Chairperson Griffiths made a point of order to move agenda item #8, the Treasurer's Report, to after item #14, to allow time for the Treasurer to arrive at the meeting.
- Consent Agenda Moved by Director Stottlemyre and seconded by Director Harvey to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2009 meeting. Motion carried 7-0 with Director Hunt abstaining.
- 2010 Regular Board Meeting Dates Scheduling Moved by Director Eastman and seconded by Director Hunt to approve the dates for the regular meeting schedule for 2010. Motion carried 8-0.
- Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2010 Moved by Director Arcularius and seconded by Director Eastman to elect Director Harvey as Chairperson for 2010. Motion carried 7-0 with Director Harvey abstaining.
- Moved by Director Arcularius and seconded by Director Bauer to elect Director Cash as Vice-Chairperson for 2010. Motion carried 8-0.
- Operations Report Transit Director Monicka Watterson gave the Operations Report for the month of November 2009. Ms. Watterson reported that overall ridership continues to be down compared to last year with the exception of the CREST south route and the Mammoth Lakes fixed routes. The Mammoth Express, Lone Pine to Bishop, Lone Pine dial-a-ride and Walker dial-a-ride also had a slight increase in ridership for the month of November compared to November 2008.
- Monthly Grant Status Update Executive Director John Helm gave an update on the status of the budgeted grant revenue. Mr. Helm reported that not a lot of significant new information had been received. The JARC and

ARRA grants are in place and billing is intended to be finalized at the end of December. The ARRA requirements are proving to be more demanding than expected. At this time it is unsure if the grants will be retroactive. There is no new news on the Local in Kind match. Mr. Helm reported that he will present a mid-year budget review at next months meeting.

Service Change Policy

Mr. Helm reported that ESTA and Town of Mammoth Lakes staff met to discuss procedures for changes to the service that ESTA operates. A meeting was also held involving the executive officers of the jurisdictions to gain input from all of the member entities of the Authority. From these meetings a Service Changes policy was developed. Moved by Director Griffiths and seconded by Director Bauer to approve the Service Changes policy in order to establish the procedures for effective consideration and decision making for the Authority's transit services. Motion carried 8-0.

Agency Purchases of Bulk Passes

Mr. Helm reported that ESTA staff received a request to extend a discount on bulk purchases of transit passes. Mr. Helm reported that staff has discussed the request and recommends that a 10% discount be extended to agencies for advanced purchases of passes with a minimum order size of \$5,000. A discount would be offered for the purchase of all multiple ride passes with the exception of the 30-day dial-a-ride pass. The Board directed Mr. Helm to check the legal requirements of an expiration date on the passes bought in bulk. Moved by Director Eastman and seconded by Director Bauer to approve a program to offer a discount for the bulk purchase of passes by agencies.

Board Member Reports

Director Griffiths reported that he presented the Mission Clarification to the Bishop area employees. Mr. Griffiths reported that good questions were asked and he thinks it went well.

Director Harvey reported that he presented the Mission Clarification to the Mammoth area employees. Mr. Harvey stated that many questions were asked. Mr. Harvey reported that he volunteered to attend the next quarterly driver safety meeting to answer any questions or address concerns.

Director Bauer reported that the Mono County Board of Supervisors approved up to \$5,000 for transportation for Mono County veterans thru the Inyo Mono Veterans Service Office.

Executive Director Report

Mr. Helm reported that the Holiday schedule has been established. All services within the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the June Mountain Shuttle will operate all days. Mr. Helm also thanked

Directors Griffiths and Harvey for attending the mission clarification meetings. Mr. Helm also presented the FY 2008/09 Annual Report to the Directors. The Reds Meadow updated report was also presented.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Auditor/Controller, Brad Koehn gave the Treasurer's Report for the month of November. Mr. Koehn reported that there are sufficient funds to meet the next 30 days of obligations. Mr. Koehn reported that there has been a delay in the receipt of LTC funds from this year, particularly from the Mono County LTC.

Closed Session

Open session was recessed at 1:06 p.m. to convene in closed session with all Board Members present to consider agenda item No 15 Conference with Labor Negotiators. (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6) – Authority designated representatives; John Helm and Monicka Watterson. Bargaining group; AFSCME.

Report on Closed Session

Closed session was recessed at 2:15 p.m. to reconvene in open session to receive a report on closed session with all Board Members present. There were no items discussed in closed session, which were required by law to be reported on in open session.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority Board of Directors is to be held on January 15, 2010 in the Town of Mammoth.

Recorded & Prepared by:



Susan Rottner
Board Clerk
Eastern Sierra Transit Authority

Minutes approved: **January 15, 2010**