

April 29, 2020

Ms. Gompert stated in accordance with Governor Baker's emergency modification of the Open Meeting Law this meeting will be held virtually. Remote participation only.

Present: Lenny Jason, Elaine Miller, Angela Gompert (VTA), Lauren Thomas (VTA) and Suzanne Cioffi (VTA)

Guest: Will Sennott, MV Gazette

2:44 Ms. Miller called meeting to order

Minutes: Ms. Miller made a motion to approve and accept minutes from 3/13/2020. Mr. Jason 2nd. m/s/c

Financial Updates:

- A) Draft financials from March 31, 2020. Ms. Gompert advised the Year to Date Revenues \$1,574,099.92 overall it is up 5.25% from prior fiscal year through March 31st. Expenses are up 8.25% through March of prior fiscal year. The boards made inquiries of the financials and Ms. Gompert provided answers. She stated the fare box revenue is down approximately \$20,800.00 for the month of March.
- B) CARES Funding: CARES funding became available as of January 20, 2020 and VTA is able to retroactive expenses back to that date. Ms. Gompert stated that we are able to backfill operating expense losses to the CARES funding; Ms. Gompert advised the funding lost was \$27,870,00 due to fare box revenue, cleaning costs and sanitizing expenses. Ms. Gompert stated that the Gompert was submitted by MassDOT to FTA end of last week. Ms. Gompert stated that once the Gompert is approved will receive a signed contract for the funding. The board asked a series of questions and Ms. Gompert provided answers how the CARES funding will be implemented. Ms. Gompert informed the board that she requested funding from CARES Act three years as there was no end date.

Ms. Gompert advised the board with CARES funding they are going to retrofit the high floor buses to provided higher protection for the drivers and for the month of May will continue with the rear door boarding. She stated going forward especially with the month of June and going into July that we know we will have more service and ridership so that we will need to start collecting fares, as there would not be enough CARES funding to cover expenses. Ms. Gompert stated she believes will be collecting fares at the latest around July 1st. She stated she has ordered face shields for drivers and have secured enough masks for drivers to give out to passengers without masks.

- C) Airport Lease: Ms. Gompert advised she received a letter from the airport about our lease and all tenants of the business park giving a myometrium rate for leases expiring June 30, 2021. Ms. Gompert stated she is attempting to negotiate a lease with the airport before the end of this fiscal year.

D) Ridership: Ms. Gompert advised Year to Date is down 16.77% through March. Ms. Thomas stated ridership was 16,042 for month of March, approximately 50% down from last March. Ms. Gompert stated we will notice a bigger drop in ridership in April due to COVID-19 issues.

Insurance: Mr. Jason stated he remains concerned about the insurance costs. Ms. Gompert stated it is 100% more than last fiscal year due to new buses and claims. She stated that the insurance is pre-paid in first 3-4 months of fiscal year and that there will be adjustments by June 30th. Ms. Cioffi updated the board regarding the Ceded Market that the VTA insurance is covered due to accidents from 2017 & 2018 and cases remaining open so were not renewed. She informed VTA will remain in the State Market for approximately 3-4 years. In 2019 the amount of accidents has been drastically lower from previous years. Ms. Gompert stated our liability insurance also is higher due to another lawsuit. Ms. Miller inquired what can do for protections in the future for accidents and exposure. Ms. Gompert stated operations will be more formal and enhanced training.

Contract: Ms. Miller began discussion of contract for Administrator. Ms. Gompert stated she has been working for the pleasure of the board for 20+ years and believes a contract is in the best interest of the Authority and herself. Ms. Miller stated she believes a contract is necessary for protection and totally in favor of a contract. She stated she believes the draft contract Ms. Gompert submitted was a good contract. Mr. Jason stated they have had previously discussed a contract but never took place; he thinks the time has come to fulfill those obligations. Ms. Miller made a motion to accept the contract as written. Mr. Jason 2nd. m/s/c. Ms. Miller stated she will present the contract to full board tomorrow. Ms. Gompert stated the agenda for the board was posted before Audit and Financial. Ms. Miller stated she will present to the board on the following board meeting.

Old Business: Mr. Jason inquired about the status of Church Street Project. Ms. Gompert stated Eversource plans have been submitted. She stated that a town resident was able to get a non-referendum article onto the town warrant for a vote. She stated that answer to the question is no as it also includes whether the buses belong on Church Street. Due to town meeting being postponed until June and that the project would have had to be completed before May; project is on hold. Ms. Gompert stated that the MV Commission has submitted a letter from Bill Veno stated the project will not change operationally how the VTA operates and costs. She stated the letter did not address other off-site locations more advantageous for traffic and congestion as that would require further study. Ms. Gompert stated the MV Commission will not conduct the study and that it would come back to the VTA to complete the study.

3:30 Mr. Jason made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Miller 2nd. m/s/c

Date

Signed