

April 30, 2020 Meeting Minutes – Martha’s Vineyard Transit Authority Advisory Board

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 via Zoom.

Present: Alice Butler, Oak Bluffs; Mark Snider, Edgartown; Elaine Miller, Tisbury; Lenny Jason, Chilmark; June Manning, Aquinnah; Sarah Nevin, Community Disabled Rider Rep, Edgartown; Angela Gompert, VTA, Lauren Thomas, VTA and Suzanne Cioffi, VTA.

Absent: Carlton Crocker, Community Rider Rep, Chilmark

Guests: Aaron Wilson, MV Gazette and Rich Townes

9:50 Ms. Butler called the meeting to order

Moment of Silence: A moment of silence was observed for long time VTA Advisory Board Member and friend John Alley who passed away March 19, 2020.

Public Comments: there were no public comments

Minutes: Ms. Miller made a motion to accept the minutes from March 13, 2020. Mr. Jason 2nd. Ms. Manning abstained as was absent from the meeting. m/s/c

Financial Update:

- A) Draft Financials: Ms. Gompert presented the board with financials through March 31, 2020. She stated revenue is up 5.54% due to fare increase from July 1, 2020 but not as up as they have been as not have been accepting fares for the 2nd half of March. She stated the expense side is down as reduced service from the winter. Mr. Snider has requested to see 30 day financials as well as year to date.
- B) CARES Funding: Ms. Gompert stated the Federal Operating Grant towards the bottom of the financial statements of \$27,880.71 is CARES funding to backfill lost revenue and increased expenses due to the pandemic. She advised the board that she extended the winter service schedule through April 30 lowering the expenses but has noted an uptick in ridership. She stated the summer schedule will be reduced as well and will begin collecting fares starting around July 1st. She stated she thinks that ridership numbers may be off for the next few years but that the CARES funding does not have an end date so will be able to backfill lost revenue. ^ June Manning left the meeting at 10:10 am.

Old/New Business:

- A) Coronavirus (COVID-19 & Future plans): Ms. Gompert stated that as of March 20th, VTA implemented rear door boarding and has stopped collecting fares. She stated she has secured enough masks for passengers who do not have one. She stated moving forward service will be adjusted to meet demand, for example South Beach will start with 30 minutes as opposed to every 15 minutes and should ridership increase we would add a bus to make the service every

15 minutes, the 5X to Aquinnah will not be scheduled. She said the schedule starting May 1 mirrors the fall schedule. They do have a schedule for Memorial Day weekend and it will be determined what is needed depending on the Governor's order. She said they will continue no fares month of May and will revisit in June. She stated better barriers will be in place for the drivers. She stated MV 3D Printing donated face shields for the drivers. She also informed the board of the continued efforts on cleaning/sanitizing the buses.

Ms. Nevin expressed concerns regarding riding public transit. Ms. Gompert stated the VTA has been sanitizing the buses, installed hand sanitizers and have been providing riders with masks who need them, the drivers have masks and face shields. She stated disposable gloves can be added to the bus for distribution for riders.

Mr. Jason inquired about the budget and remaining three months in the quarter. Ms. Gompert stated that expenses will be lower, approximately \$90,000 to 100,000, as the winter schedule was extended until May 1st and the in season schedule will be implemented mid to late June. She stated VTA will be most likely be charging fares again around July 1st and that CARES funding will help backfill revenues lost.

Ms. Gompert stated the increase in insurance premium of 100% will be the next 2-3 years due largely in part to accidents and incidents in 2017 & 2018. She said the insurance is paid in the first couple months of fiscal year and June 30th there are will be adjustments for buses taken out of service and new buses added to policy. Ms. Gompert advised decrease in accidents and new insurance company offers programs for accidents risks and prevention.

- B) Operations Update: Ms. Gompert stated in prior years drivers were here by April 1st for training and testing. She stated this year drivers will be arriving mid-May and will need to self-quarantine for 14 days. She stated these drivers will be available late June/beginning of July. Drivers from previous summers are arriving and will be available after self-quarantining. The board asked a series of questions that were answered by Ms. Gompert.
- C) Capital Projects: Ms. Gompert advised due to COVID-19 most projects have been stalled. She stated the final drawings from Eversource have been submitted for Church Street. She stated a resident of Edgartown has a non-binding referendum added to the ballot for Annual Town Meeting. She stated she will present at the Town Meeting VTA's plan to proceed for the Church Street upgrades.

She informed the board that VTA was awarded No Low Grant for the differential cost of another electric bus.

She stated in FY21 the windows will be replaced in the building.

D) Comprehensive Regional Plan: Ms. Gompert stated the consultants have been working on the plan during COVID-19; she stated they changed outreach method of being in-person to electronic communications. She stated the plan will include COVID response and going forward will include an off season schedule plan for the 20-21 winter.

Ridership:

Ridership is down 16.73% in March.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2020.

10:52 Mr. Snider made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Miller 2nd. m/s/c.

Date

Signed