

VTA Advisory Board Audit and Finance Subcommittee

Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2019

The Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority Advisory Board Audit and Finance Subcommittee met Friday, March 15, 2019 at 9:30 AM in the offices of the Transit Authority, 11 A Street, Edgartown. Present were Lenny Jason (Chilmark) and Lou Paciello (Edgartown). Also present were Angela Grant (VTA), Lauren Thomas (VTA) and Suzanne Cioffi (VTA).

Guest present at meeting: John Alley

The meeting was called to order at 9:38 AM

Minutes-November 19, 2018—tabled to next meeting.

RTA Task Force: Ms. Grant stated there had been 18 meetings, all in Boston and none in an RTA service area, with 2 meetings being attended by Secretary Pollack. The Secretary recognized the process was taking too long, however needed Task Force to move forward for Legislation. Ms. Grant stated that there will be more reporting requirements going forward customized to each RTA, and with a potentially sizeable amount of funding tied to these reporting requirements. She stated an MOU will need to be signed in the future for funding but will keep it at the local control. Transit Authorities Financial Update:

A) State Budget: The Governor's Budget is at \$84 million for RTAs but does not include discretionary funding; the RTA's have requested \$90.5 million to put them where they should currently be based on forward funding from FY14/15. It is expected for the RTA budget to increase \$2.5 million dollars annually going forward.

B) FY20 Budget: \$6,144, 428 - difference includes always approves to what expect state funding is but do not spend to it what state funding. Ms. Grant stated a major difference is in passenger fares, which are predicted to be \$200,000 more, but included a fare increase. Mr. Paciello inquired when the VTA last increased fares. Ms. Grant stated we did it over five years, but last actual zone fare increase was in 2015. Ms. Grant stated the need to have a conversation about fare increase but wants to remain mindful of low income and year round passengers in the off-season. Looking into possibility of having zone fares that fluctuate with the change in operating seasons. Also need to look at Paratransit as we are right on the line of expense and fare recovery and everything else than ok. The VTA is the only agency in state that brings in more revenue than we get in funding assistance. Mr. Jason asked if the fare increase will cover union negotiations. Ms. Grant stated it will be from \$500, 000 to \$800,000. Mr. Jason asked how she plans to make it up. Ms. Grant stated was not sure; Operations company had met with mediator end of February and agreed on discipline; mediator is coming back in April. Will not plan any new service for upcoming season, but did receive a grant to restore service on Route 1 and Route 13 for summer. Union will need

to settle for less and will need to raise fares to help offset the cost. She stated Andrew Grant and Suzanne Cioffi have been doing a massive review of all trips to see if there are any underperforming that we can cut for the off season. Possible micro-transit for the off season on Route 4, Route 2, West Chop Loop, but these services can charge a premium rate.

She stated union wants 65 days off per year, health insurance 90/10. Ms. Grant stated Mr. Pigman thinks they might plan a strike at beginning of season. If they do not agree, state at an impasse and allowed to strike. TCI can legally offer last offer and business will go as usual. The drivers that want to come to work can cross the picket line. Mr. Jason asked about a short fall somewhere and who will drive the buses. Ms. Grant stated Darren and his office staff, and VTA staff will dispatch. She stated Ed Pigman is working on a contingency plan.

Ms. Grant stated the solar panel installation has been delayed until September, but she was able to pre-buy \$69,000 worth of electricity at 80 cents on the dollar.

Also looking at a \$100,000 increase for rent in FY21 when the new lease with the Airport comes up. She stated MassDOT knows about the lease with Airport is expiring and that the RMV lease in the VTA building is up in 2019.

Mr. Jason made a motion to accept FY20 budget as presented and Mr. Paciello 2nd.
m/s/c

New Business:

Ms. Grant stated she is going out for surgery 4/18/19 if medically cleared. Stated she will be non- weight bearing for 12 weeks, but will be available by phone and hopes to be back part time after the first several weeks following.

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 AM, motion made by L. Paciello and 2nd by L. Jason.

Documents:
Draft Budget FY 2020

Date

Signed