

## VTA Advisory Board

### Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2019

The Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority Advisory Board met Friday, December 13, 2019, at 9:30 AM at the offices of the Transit Authority, 11 A Street, Edgartown. Present were Alice Butler (Oak Bluffs), John Alley (West Tisbury), Lenny Jason (Chilmark), June Manning (Aquinnah), Elaine Miller (Tisbury), Mark Snider (Edgartown) and Sarah Nevin, Disabled Community Representative-Edgartown. Also present were Angela Grant (VTA), Lauren Thomas (VTA) and Andrew Grant (VTA).

Absent was Carlton Crocker, Rider Community Representative-Chilmark.

Guests at the meeting: Will Sennett, MV Gazette.

The meeting was called to order at 9:35am.

Ms. Grant advised that the minutes from the November 8, 2019 would need to be tabled to the next meeting.

#### **Ridership:**

Ms. Grant advised that ridership was down 3.06% for November. The Board expressed their pleasure that ridership was down that little, considering Routes 2, 4, 8 and 10A were not running. Year to date ridership is down 14.99%. Ms. Grant discussed ridership with the board. After her discussion, the board asked a series of questions and answers were provided. Ms. Grant stated that weather has a direct impact on our ridership. Ms. Grant stated she looked up data from the DPU (Department of Public Utilities) on Uber and Lyft trips. She said for 2017 the number of trips for the six towns was 93,824 and 2018 the number of trips was 173,095, 84% increase in the year. The board discussed various ways to increase revenue but agreed will need to have further discussion and have it as an agenda topic for a future meeting.

A telephone presentation of the final FY19 audited financial statements with Auditor Bruce Norling, CPA was scheduled for 9:40am. Ms. Butler stated that ridership could be revisited after the call.

#### **Financial Update:**

#### **Audit:**

Ms. Grant and Ms. Thomas left the room for the audit presentation, which began at 9:41am. Mr. Norling reported that the audit went well; there were no exceptions in testing of financials, vehicles and procurement. He stated he feels everything is in really good order, solid in management. He stated he did not find any exceptions to the Federal Awards as well. Ms. Grant and Ms. Thomas re-entered the meeting at 9:51 am. Mr. Jason made a motion to accept the auditor's report, Ms. Manning 2<sup>nd</sup>. m/s/c

**Financial:** Ms. Grant stated that the revenue is up due to fare increases; however, the amount is not enough to cover projected costs. Ms. Grant discussed the revenue and cost reimbursement to the board. The board engaged in questions that were answered by Ms. Grant. Ms. Grant stated the reimbursable cost is directly related to our revenues and expenses. Ms. Grant advised the board to look at the Audit page 29 as it lists all of the expenses and revenues and as of June 30, 2019 the reimbursable cost is balanced. Ms. Grant stated the VTA collects 60% of our revenue in the first three months of the fiscal year. She will continue to monitor monthly, as we close our monthly financial statements.

**Audit and Finance Subcommittee:** Mr. Jason stated they meet a couple weeks ago and accepted the audit. He stated Ms. Miller was elected as Chairman. Ms. Miller discussed that they will be going to the towns to increase contribution to run the full service and did a cost analysis and distribution for each town for town warrant. Ms. Miller suggested each town representative to go to their individual towns for the increased funding. The board asked questions and Ms. Grant provided answers regarding what it would cost individual towns contribution.

Mr. Alley made a motion to have a formalized letter from the VTA addressed to each town explaining the percentages. Mr. Jason 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Vote 6-1. Mr. Snider stated he voted no because he represents the interest of the tax payers in Edgartown and the Town. He stated his concern is that as a board they made a decision in August for a one time period to next spring to get finances to cut back routes that were costing money and not meeting state requirements making fiscal sense to cuts back. He feels the VTA should see the results of what was implemented before asking the towns to spend another \$700,000. He feels the VTA has ways to increase revenue before going back to taxpayers to ask more. He stated he feels it is a worthy exercise but is being done a year early. A conversation ensued with the board and Ms. Grant. Mr. Jason stated the board voted to restore service and go to the towns seeking more funds in an August meeting.

#### **Old/New Business:**

**Operations Report:** The board met Acting Manager David Zeilinger.

**Airport Lease:** Ms. Grant stated the rent increase is potentially going from \$.39 per square foot approximately \$70,000 per year to more than doubling to \$.85 per square foot and if that increase happens the Registry of Motor Vehicles will not be staying. Mr. Alley gave a historical overview of airport leases during his tenure on Airport Commission Board. The board and Ms. Grant had a discussion.

**Winter Service Update:** The board commended Mr. Grant for the winter schedule and his efforts for the winter schedule. Mr. Grant stated this current schedule does an excellent job in making connections for the Steamship Authority (SSA). Mr. Grant informed the board that after the schedule was implemented that the schedule continued being changed for passenger's needs that reached out.

**Capitol Updates:** Ms. Grant stated she is going to Edgartown Historic District Commission on December 19 and the Edgartown Board of Selectmen on December 30, 2019 for the Church Street Project involving the inductive charging and project will be starting.

**Term Limits for Board Members:** Ms. Grant stated there is a legal synopsis regarding term limits and this board does not have the authority to set term limits.

11:34 am Mr. Jason made a motion to end open session and go into Executive Session advised will not be reconvening in open session and Ms. Manning 2<sup>nd</sup>. m/s/c