

Transit Meeting
November 17, 2014

Present; Mr. Rick Blake – Chairman, Mr. Steve Willis, Mr. Gordon Geiger, Ms. Susan Kunkel, Tony Kusserow and Rich Grenfell – Transit Administrator.

Guest(s); Julie & Gary Engebretsen – 2502 Rio Grande Drive, Merrill.

No Public Comment

The Engebretsens' spoke of their concern that the bus does not serve Rio Grande Drive. A service area map was provided for discussion. Administrator Grenfell explained the necessity of the service area reduction (activated in 2012), the efficiency standards and the budget formula(s) under which we operate. Though seemingly disappointed, the discussion concluded with a full understanding of the Commission's decision to reduce the service area and most recently, change to 1-hour service levels.

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2014 Commission meeting was made by Ms. Kunkel and seconded by Mr. Geiger. C.U.

The Commission reviewed the 2014 third quarter stats; Ridership decreased slightly relative to a 2750+ passenger (students) spike in the same quarter last year, revenue decreased as well. To transit's success, overall mileage decreased 25%. A motion to place the report on file was made by Mr. Willis and seconded by Mr. Kusserow. C.U.

A motion to approve the 2015 80/20 Capital Grant for the \$130,000 purchase of an Assisted Dispatch System was made by Ms. Kunkel and seconded by Mr. Geiger. C.U.

After continued discussion, a motion to approve the WisDOT 2007-2013 Merrill Transit Efficiency Study was made Mr. Willis and seconded by Ms. Kunkel. C.U.

Administrator's Report;

Mr. Adam Berreth has successfully trained and hired as a new part time bus operator. Three more applicants will be interviewed in the coming weeks for the second available position. Mr. Jeff DeJarlais has stayed on staff to help out through the duration of the new hire process.

A final City Budget was distributed 11/17/14 (-\$880.00) for employee health insurance adjustment.

Both 2014 "Special Service Saturdays" were a great success; Airport Day / NTC Open House (Sept. 6) had 222 passengers; and the 7th Annual Lincoln Lagerfest (Oct 4) had 233 passengers.

Pat Weber Home, Our Way, Inc. (Ninth St. & Center Ave) had to be vacated for anticipated demolition due to mold infestation. All residents have been placed in assisted living or private care for the time being. The majority of the residents are still receiving transit services as per service agreement.

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Kunkel and seconded by Mr. Blake.

Next Transit Commission meeting: December 15, 2014.