



Green Mountain Transit Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2023 – 7:30 a.m.
101 Queen City Road, Burlington VT 05401

The mission of GMT is to promote and operate safe, convenient, accessible, innovative, and sustainable public transportation services in northwest and central Vermont that reduce congestion and pollution, encourage transit-oriented development, and enhance the quality of life for all.

Present:

Alternate Commissioner Tom Derenthal, Burlington
Jamie Smith, Director of Planning and Marketing
Clayton Clark, General Manager
Commissioner Bob Buermann, Grand Isle County
Commissioner Paul Bohne, Essex
Commissioner Amy Brewer, Williston
Tammy Masse, Controller
Ross MacDonald, VTrans
Nick Foss, Director of Finance
Alternate Commissioner Alice Peal, Washington County
Tim Bradshaw, Director of Rural Transportation
Commissioner Chapin Spencer, Burlington
Commissioner Henry Bonges, Milton
Commissioner Tasha Wallis, Lamoille County
Alternate Commissioner Chapin Kaynor, Williston
Dan Currier, VTrans
Commissioner Christian Meyer, Washington County
Alternate Commissioner Kyle Grenier, Franklin County
Stephanie Reid, Director of Human Resources
Alternate Commissioner Eric Covey, Winooski
Alternate Commissioner Marcie Gallagher, Burlington
Matt Kimball, Director of Grants and Project Development
Commissioner Phil Pouech, Hinesburg
Commissioner Matt Cota, South Burlington
Jon Moore, Assistant General Manager
Commissioner Susan Grasso, Shelburne
Alternate Commissioner Judy Rosenstreich, Shelburne
Jesse Rosado, Member of the public



41 **Open Meeting**

42 Vice Chair Brewer opened the meeting at 7:31AM.

44 **Adjustment of the Agenda**

45 None

47 **Public Comment**

48 Jesse Rosado from Barre City spoke about the service restoration and the
49 disappointment as a result of not reversing permanent service reductions
50 from 2020. Jesse spoke of the importance of the bookend bus trips as a
51 crucial way for Barre City residents to participate in the bus system.

53 **Consent Agenda (Action Item)**

54 Commissioner Bohne made a motion to approve the consent agenda,
55 Commissioner Spencer seconded. Commissioner Grasso was interested in
56 learning more about GMT's role in providing amenities at shelters and how
57 we work with communities on park and ride locations. Commissioner Wallis
58 asked why the finance information is in the consent agenda and asked for a
59 full presentation on the financial position. All were in favor and the motion
60 carried.

62 **VTrans Update**

63 Ross MacDonald gave an update on FY24 grant processing. This year VTrans
64 is starting with a \$950k deficit in state dollars, with some internal processes
65 Ross is hoping that they are able to get the needed funding in place to meet
66 the requests. VTrans is seeing increases annually and is reminding agencies
67 that the budget cannot sustain the increases moving forward. Ross
68 recommended that the Board be given the same presentations that GMT
69 staff gave during the legislative session.

71 **General Manager's Report**

72 Due to time, GM Clark didn't review the GM Report in detail. There were no
73 questions for GM Clark.

75 Commissioner Brewer noted that there may be a need for a special meeting
76 to keep the lift construction project moving forward. Commissioner Buermann
77 made a motion to grant authority to the Leadership Committee to approve
78 the lift construction RPF award and report back on the decision at the next
79 Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Bohne seconded. All were in
80 favor and the motion carried.



Commissioner Brewer also noted that the internal RFP committee is open to a board member or two joining in on the interviews to the two firms who submitted proposals.

Committee Reports

Strategy: Met to discuss the Board retreat.

Operations: Did not meet

Finance: Commissioner Bohne gave an update on some of the specific items on the finance report, including Medicaid funding and the impacts of salaries on the long-term budget.

JEDI: Did not meet

Commissioner Spencer noted that the Financing study should be an item on the Board retreat agenda.

Action: Approval of 12 Month Fuel Contract

Matt Kimball presented the fuel contract. Commissioner Spencer motion to issue an award to Sprague Operating Resources with the lowest responsive bid price of \$2.9509, for a total 12-month contract value of \$988,551.50.

Commissioner Pouech seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Action: Approval for Line of Credit

Nick Foss presented the line of credit memo noting that there could be a delay in the State budget approval, and this line of credit would allow GMT a path forward. Ross MacDonald noted that the Transportation Bill has been approved, and those funds will not be held up.

Commissioner Spencer noted that Nick and the Finance Committee should work together to bring a proposal to the Board with terms. The Board was supportive of Director Foss researching line of credit.

Action: Approval of FY24 Meeting Schedule

GM Clark presented the open meeting law resolution and FY24 meeting schedule.

Commissioner Buermann made a motion to approve the FY24 Meeting schedule, Commissioner Meyer seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.



Action: Approval of Genfare Link Procurement

GM Clark reviewed the Genfare quote, including the additional \$100k that we were not expecting. Commissioner Derenthal asked if this affects the external IT group and will that be another line item elsewhere.

Commissioner Bohne made a motion to approve the Genfare link procurement as presented, authorizing GM Clark to enter into an agreement, Commissioner Derenthal seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Executive Session to Discuss Labor Contracts

Commissioner Buermann to enter executive session to discuss labor contracts inviting in the GM and the Leadership team present on the meeting, Commissioner Spencer seconded. All were in favor and the Board of Commissioner entered executive session at 8:59AM.

Commissioner Bohne made a motion to exit executive session, Commissioner Meyer seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

The Board exited Executive Session at 9:39AM with no action taken.

Action: Approval of Adjustments to Maintenance and Urban Operator Wages

Commissioner Spencer made a motion to amend the contracts, with union concurrence, to include the following changes in the urban operator contract:

- Eliminate the current reduced rate of \$21.75 for operators who are under one year of service
- Increase the FY24 operator rate to \$28.00 per hour
- and provide a bonus to operators that have already completed their one year of service (\$2,500 full-time, \$750 part-time)

And to include the following changes in the Maintenance contract:

- Increase Master Mechanic from \$30.18 to \$34.50
- Increase Journeyman Mechanic from \$26.74 to \$30.
- Increase Head Custodian and Wash Rack Crew Chief from \$21.06 to \$24.00
- Increase Wash Rack from \$17.48 to \$20.00
- Increase Custodians from Range up to \$20.00 (from \$15.97)



With the context that the Board is working to address a couple major challenges; staffing has become a constant constraint to GMT providing reliable public transit service, including staffing shortages in drivers and mechanics. There are competing challenges, a labor challenge and a long-term funding challenge. The Board has discussed and will continue to discuss at the upcoming retreat in September the long-term funding challenge. There are acute short-term needs that need addressing now and this motion is meant to address those. Commissioner Buermann seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Commissioner Comments

Commissioners thanked Commissioner Brewer for filling in as chair.

Commissioner Brewer made note about comments from earlier in the meeting about the bus being crucial in getting people to work. This includes GMT staff and the need to nurture them.

Adjourn

Commissioner Buermann made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Spencer seconded. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 9:48AM.