



GMT Board Minutes

Date: April 16, 2019

Time: 4:30 PM

Place: **GMT Conference Room**
6088 Route 12, Berlin, VT

Present:

Tom Chittenden, Chair, South Burlington
Bonnie Waninger, Vice Chair, Washington County
Denis Barton, Secretary, Shelburne
Paul Bohne, Treasurer, Essex
Chapin Kaynor, Commissioner, Williston
Bob Buermann, Commissioner, Grand Isle County
John Sharrow, Commissioner, Milton
Phil Pouech, Commissioner, Hinesburg
Tasha Wallis, Commissioner, Lamoille County
Chapin Spencer, Commissioner, Burlington (via phone)

Mark A. Sousa, General Manager
Cari Whittemore, Executive Assistant
Michelle Daley, Director of Finance and Grants
Jon Moore, Director of Transportation
Jamie Smith, Marketing and Public Affairs Manager
Kimberly Wall, Grants Manager

Members of the Public:

Ross MacDonald, VTrans
Elaine Haney, Essex Select Board
Brian Waters

Open Meeting - Commissioner Waninger opened the meeting at 4:30 PM. A quorum of the Board was present.

Chair Chittenden enters- 4:41 PM
Commissioner Bohne enters- 4:41 PM
Commissioner Pouech enters- 4:41 PM



Adjustment to the Agenda- Mr. Sousa requested that the NextGen presentation be moved and discussed after the Token Transit presentation. The board agreed.

Public Comment – Elaine Haney submitted a letter to the board and read the same letter to the board regarding the Saxon Hill and River Road routes. Brian Waters also submitted a petition to the board regarding the Saxon Hill and Sand Hill routes. Both letters are attached to these minutes.

Approval of the March 2019 Board Meeting Minutes - Commissioner Waninger made a motion to approve all meeting minutes. Commissioner Bohne seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

GM Update- Mr. Sousa stated that the new electric buses are on track to be delivered August/September time frame. On Monday, April 10th GMT had an end of the season party for the season drivers which included feedback from the drivers on how the year went. MR. Sousa explained that GMT has been approached by a solar company about the possibility of bringing solar to the 15 Industrial Parkway building. Mr. Sousa stated that he and Matt Kimball will be meeting with the solar company and will bring the information to the board. Mr. Sousa gave an update on hiring of the new Director of Finance.

Token Transit Memo*- This topic was tabled until the next board meeting.

NextGen Service Plan & Implementation* - Jon Moore and Jamie Smith presented the NextGen power point that they have been showing at the public meetings. There was much discussion regarding the power point. Commissioner Spencer proposed the motion as: moved to approve NextGen service plan as presented for the urban system to take effect June 17, 2019 and direct staff to make best effort to launch the real time bus arrival app and the mobile ticketing app by the NextGen implementation date. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bohne. The motion passed unanimously.

Fare Increase*- Jon Moore presented a slide showing the breakdown of the 2 fare increase options. Mr. Moore stated that staff recommends option 2. A motion to pass the option 2 fare increase was proposed by Commissioner Barton, Commissioner Pouech seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The fare increase will begin June 17, 2019.



Continuous Improvement- Ross MacDonald from VTrans presented a power point regarding continuous improvement. There was discussion regarding the presentation. Commissioner Barton stated that GMT is currently doing something very similar with the Performance Improvement Plan.

Financial Update – Michelle Daley gave a financial update referring to the memo she offered at the previous finance committee meeting. Ms. Daley stated that the NextGen implementation along with the new cutaways will reduce costs. There was discussion regarding the urban grants process.

Committee reports- Committee reports were tabled until the next board meeting.

Other Business - There was no other business.

Executive Session- GM Contract & Personnel Update. Motion to go into executive session for issues related to personnel. Approved on a motion by Commissioner Buermann and seconded by Commissioner Spencer.

Executive session ended with no recommendation for action at 8:25PM.
Motion to adjourn approved at 8:30PM on a motion by Commissioner Kaynor and seconded by Commissioner Barton.

Adjourn – The Executive Session adjourned at approximately 8:30PM

Next GMT meeting date: May 21, 2019 @ 7:30 am at GMT 15 Industrial Parkway, Burlington, VT

Respectfully Submitted,

Denis Barton, Secretary

KEEP ROUTE NUMBER 4 INTACT!

GMT is proposing changes to routes that it claims will make things more efficient. Unfortunately, they want to cut service on Route Number 4, taking away service from Sand Hill Road and River Road. This would leave working people and school children without needed transportation! Please sign this petition below asking the GMT Board to keep Route Number 4 as is!

NAME:

Heather Riemer
Sara White
Emily Reynolds
Ryan Gyukeri
Walter Keady
James Richmond
Cristy Devrow
Brad McLaughan
Ian Talbot
DAN DOOLAN
ROD VERGARA
KIM GROWER
Susan Mower
Patricia Lomb
Saswatee Choud
Tahira Moyhan
Atheer Hasek
James Barickman
Kalitha Player
BRIAN WATERS

EMAIL (IF YOU WANT TO GET UPDATES):

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Bradle15@gmail.com
talbotlynx@yahoo.com

SMOWER@UVA.EDU
lmg30@jchoo.com

atheer.hasek@gmail.com

brian@brianmwaters.net

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NAME:This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

EMAIL (IF YOU WANT TO GET UPDATES):

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines, typical of notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.



TOWN OF ESSEX VERMONT

81 MAIN STREET, ESSEX JUNCTION, VERMONT 05452
Fax: 878-1353 • **E-mail:** manager@essex.org • **Website:** www.essex.org

Board of Commissioners
Green Mountain Transit
15 Industrial Parkway
Burlington, VT 05401

April 16, 2019

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you very much for your recent outreach regarding changes GMT is making to its bus routes. I attended your outreach session in Essex Junction in early April along with many residents of both the Village of Essex Junction and the Town of Essex, and appreciated your staff's receptiveness to the attendees' concerns and suggestions.

I am here today representing the entire Town of Essex and submit this testimony to emphasize the importance of Route 4 as it currently exists to our residents. As audience members at the outreach meeting so eloquently explained, the portion of Route 4 east of the Essex Outlets is an essential service that allows them to travel to work, doctor appointments, grocery stores, and more on a daily basis—without this route many of them will not have any other form of transportation. It is a quality of life issue for these residents, many of whom moved to Essex expressly because of the existence of this bus route. The Town of Essex Selectboard respectfully asks that you maintain this portion of the route so that these residents can travel to work and access essential services affordably and conveniently.

Town and Village Unified Manager Evan Teich submitted a letter to General Manager Mark Sousa on April 8th including data regarding the number of businesses located in the Saxon Hill area near Sand Hill Road and the River Road area. These areas are projected to grow significantly in the near future, and not having a predictable bus route for workers to travel there will be a detriment to the economic development of one of the only remaining industrial areas in Chittenden County with room to grow. The Town of Essex Selectboard respectfully requests that this route continue to allow for the future growth of these areas and to provide essential transportation for our workforce.

Our greatest concern with the proposed modifications to Route 4 is how our students and families will be impacted. GMT's current contract with the Essex Westford School District to bus students from school along the Sand Hill Road and River Road route is absolutely essential. We must maintain this transportation resource while the school district continues to develop its own busing plan—without this part of the route, scores of Essex children will simply not have a ride to or home from school. Eliminating the route along Sand Hill Road and River Road will negatively impact dozens of families who are

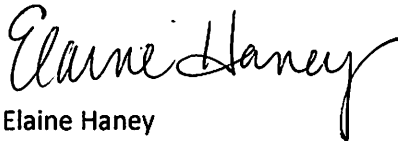
TOWN MANAGER	PARKS AND RECREATION	COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	PUBLIC WORKS	ASSESSOR	FINANCE	TOWN CLERK	LIBRARY	POLICE
878-1341	878-1342	878-1343	878-1344	878-1345	878-1359	879-0413	879-0313	878-8331

currently using GMT to get their kids to and from school, allowing them to maintain their afterschool activities and preventing parents from sacrificing hours off of work. The school district predicts that ridership along this part of the route will increase in the next school year as they adjust their own busing plan. Eliminating this part of the route will make getting to and from school simply unworkable for many Essex families. The Town of Essex Selectboard respectfully requests that GMT maintain the Sand Hill Road and River Road portion of Route 4 to allow our students to get to and from school.

Finally, as you know, some of GMT's routes with the highest ridership run through the Town of Essex and the Village of Essex Junction. Town of Essex taxpayers contribute more than \$250,000 a year to maintain that bus service. Town of Essex taxpayers also provide funding for the Essex Westford School District's separate contract to bus our students to and from school. The Town of Essex Selectboard respectfully requests that GMT give appropriate weight to both our financial contribution to its operations and our high ridership numbers by choosing to maintain Route 4's current path, including the Sand Hill Road and River Road areas.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elaine Haney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elaine" and last name "Haney" clearly distinguishable.

Elaine Haney

Chair, Town of Essex Selectboard