

Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 11, 2024
GMT | 101 Queen City Park Road | Burlington, VT 05401

Present at GMT:

Nick Foss, Director of Finance

Present via ZOOM:

Clayton Clark, General Manager
Commissioner Paul Bohne
Commissioner Austin Davis
Commissioner Michael Scanlan
Commissioner Chapin Spencer
Commissioner Susan Grasso
Dan Currier, VTrans

Alternate Commissioner Will Anderson
Matt Kimball, Director of Grants & Project
Development
Tammy Masse, Controller
Kim Smith, Staff Accountant
Mike Bensel, Grants Manager

Meeting Called to Order:

Commissioner Bohne called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM.

Adjustment to the Agenda:

None.

Public Comment:

None.

Approval of the Minutes from December:

Commissioner Spencer moved to approve the December Minutes; Commissioner Grasso seconded; the motion passed.

Welcome New Finance Committee Members:

Commissioner Bohne extended a welcome to new finance committee members: Commissioner Grasso, Commissioner Scanlan, and Alternate Commissioner Anderson.

Director of Finance Update:

Director Foss highlighted the shift in reporting frequency. Comprehensive finance reports and presentations will now be quarterly instead of monthly.

GM Clark noted that finance reports will no longer be part of the monthly consent agenda at board meetings. The full board will review quarterly reports.

Director Foss will continue to provide monthly updates and essential information during finance committee meetings and upon request.

January Updates from Finance Director Foss:

Director Foss reported that the Authority is showing an operating deficit of roughly \$456K as of the end of October. The urban division represented a smaller portion of the total deficit at roughly \$24,000, whereas the rural division was much larger at roughly \$432K.

Director Foss expressed his concern about the losses in the rural division, where costs from rehabbing the Berlin facility from flood damage over and above what is covered by flood insurance are partially the cause of the deficit. The other more significant cause of the deficit is the Authority's increased reliance on taxi providers in Franklin County to service GMT's Medicaid population. This increased reliance on a higher cost mode of transportation is resulting in large losses in the program.

GM Clark noted that additional steps are being taken to increase GMT's service capacity in St Albans, which will reduce the Authority's reliance on costly contractors. This sparked a discussion among commissioners and staff on how to best address the vital health needs of communities served by GMT, what strategies to employ to meet supply, and ways to reduce costs by increased service coordination and volunteer recruitment.

Director Foss reported that a recent workers compensation audit resulted in a sizable additional premium requested by the insurance company, however staff disputed the audit based on several position categorizations, which resulted in a roughly \$65,000 decrease in additional premium required.

Grants and Projects Update:

Director Kimball reported that VTrans has granted additional funding for capital in the mid-year amendment. The current plan is to program the \$166,000 toward the gap in underfunded capital preventative maintenance budget lines. The additional funds will be used for facility upgrade needs and to purchase three (3) drop-in remanufactured engines for buses.

Director Kimball highlighted staff's proposal to add a new line in the amount of \$26,225 to cover consulting expenses associated with the preparation of application materials for the upcoming 5339 grant funding opportunity. Consulting expenses include A&E design of facility and system improvements and replacements, as well as cost estimating services for upgrades at GMT's 101 Queen City Park headquarters.

Director Kimball reported that the total cumulative increase in local capital match to support the above changes is \$33,245. Additional local capital match is programmed from the prior year local capital match fund for this adjustment.

Commissioner Spencer moved to approve the capital budget adjustment; Commissioner Scanlan seconded; the motion passed.

College Street Shuttle Assessment Discussion:

Director Foss led a discussion about Burlington's College Street Shuttle assessment and plans to work with Burlington to true-up assessments paid during the period of GMT's fare-free service. The discussion led to a charge for GMT to collaborate with the city of Burlington to find mutually beneficial solutions.

Other Business:

None.

Commissioner Spencer moved to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Davis seconded; all others were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

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