

Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 13th, 2023
GMT | 101 Queen City Park Road | Burlington, VT 05401

Present at GMT

Tammy Masse, Controller
Nick Foss, Director of Finance
Ed Adrian, Monaghan Safar PLLC

Present via ZOOM:

Commissioner Paul Bohne
Clayton Clark, General Manager
Commissioner Austin Davis
Mike Bensel, Grants Manager
Commissioner Catherine Dimitruk
Kim Smith, Staff Accountant

Commissioner Amy Brewer
Matt Kimball, Director of Grants & Project
Development
Stephen Falbel, Steadman Hill
Commissioner Chapin Spencer

Absent:

None.

Meeting Called to Order:

Commissioner Bohne called the meeting to order at 8:16 AM.

Adjustment to the Agenda:

The committee decided to move the "ADA Assessment Reform" agenda item ahead of Director Foss's Finance Report.

Public Comment:

None

Approval of the Minutes from June:

Record of Commissioner Spencer's approval of May Minutes was changed to Commissioner Davis' approval. Commissioner Bohne added "Minutes" after "May" in the May Minutes.

Commissioner Brewer moved to approve the June Minutes; Commissioner Spencer seconded; all others were in favor and the minutes were approved.

ADA Assessment Reform:

Mr. Falbel reviewed parts of his presentation titled "ADA Assessment Stabilization and Fixed Route Assessment" and answered any questions from committee members.

Mr. Falbel highlighted the projected changes to FY24 and FY25 fixed route and ADA assessments resulting from the new recommended methodology. The new methodology involved two updates: (1) updating urban fixed route assessments to the current level of service provided in each member community (based on driver payroll hours) and (2) switching ADA assessments to reflect both an access fee (average ratio of FR to ADA assessments over past five (5) years) and a trip fee (number of trips that ends in each town and the cost of those trips).

Mr. Falbel and staff shared their opinion that switching to this new methodology would make the assessment more equitable and reduce volatility, which has been high since inception.

Mr. Falbel presented proposed changes to language to section 7(c).

Commissioner Dimitruk asked if ADA Assessment changes could be implemented for FY25.

Director Foss stated that it could be done if the proposed change was approved by member communities in time for the FY25 Operating Budget process.

Legal counsel indicates the language change is a change of policy and not a charter change.

Commissioner Spencer moved to recommend that the board approve the concept of changes to the ADA Assessment; Commissioner Dimitruk seconded; all others in favor and the motion was passed.

Commissioner Brewer stated that she has had initial conversations with the Town of Williston about the possibility of GMT switching to this model.

Commissioner Spencer left the meeting at 8:52 a.m.

Commissioner Davis left the meeting at 8:58 a.m.

Commissioner Dimitruk left the meeting at 8:59 a.m. and the Finance Committee lost quorum.

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