



GMT Board Minutes

Date: June 18, 2019

Time: 7:30AM

Place: **15 Industrial Parkway
Burlington, VT 05401**

Present:

Tom Chittenden, Chair, South Burlington

Bonnie Waninger, Vice Chair, Washington County

Denis Barton, Secretary, Shelburne

Paul Bohne, Treasurer, Essex

Chapin Kaynor, Commissioner, Williston (phone)

John Sharrow, Commissioner, Milton

Phil Pouech, Commissioner, Hinesburg (phone)

Tasha Wallis, Commissioner, Lamoille County (phone)

Chapin Spencer, Commissioner, Burlington

Catherine Dimitruk, Commissioner, Franklin County (phone)

Bob Buermann, Commissioner, Grand Isle County

Commissioner Kirkland, Williston

Mark A. Sousa, General Manager

Cari Whittemore, Executive Assistant

Jamie Smith, Marketing and Public Affairs Manager

Kimberly Wall, Grants Manager

Nicholas Foss, Director of Finance

Deb Coppola, Senior Accountant

Jon Moore, Director of Transportation

Matthew Kimball, Capital Projects Manager

Members of the Public:

Erin Starr-Hughes

Open Meeting –Chair Chittenden opened the meeting at 7:32 AM. A quorum of the Board was present.



Adjustment to the Agenda- None

Public Comment – Erin Starr-Hughes- Stated that she is a parent in the community and that she does not allow her children to ride the Burlington transit. She stated that she has known of issues with Burlington transit. Mrs. Starr-Hughes commented that children are vulnerable and that this was a good opportunity for the community to come together.

Approval of the May 2019 Board Meeting Minutes – There were questions regarding the May minutes. It was decided that Cari Whittemore would listen to the recording and report back to the board.

Check register Discussion- There was a question regarding a paid amount to VOSHA. Mr. Sousa described the charge.

May 23 Incident – Mr. Sousa offered a printed copy of the passenger Code of Conduct and showed the “School district’s expectations” on the screens. Mr. Sousa spoke about a conversation he had with Captain Gary Scott. A few times a year GMT offers training to their drivers. VSP has offered to have a 3rd party come in to train operators on Diversity and De-escalation trainings. Mr. Sousa also stated that GMT plans to meet with the school and offer a code of conduct training using one of GMTs buses. Commissioner Sharrow asked what GMT’s policy was to remove a child permanently from the bus. Mr. Sousa gave an overview of that process. He also added that the school district has in the past contacted GMT to let them know of issues concerning their students. Commissioner Spencer complimented Mr. Sousa for his conversations at the Burlington City Council meeting discussing this incident.

Jamie Smith enters 7:55 am

GM Update - Mr. Sousa stated that the NextGen and Swiftly apps rolled out a soft pilot yesterday, there were a couple of issues but he felt the roll out went smoothly. Mr. Sousa stated that GMT’s workers compensation numbers are down from .93 to .84, this will lower GMT’s premiums and costs. Commissioner Sharrow commented the drop may have to do with employee morale. Mr. Sousa agreed.

Commissioner Coffey enters via phone: 8:10am

Commissioner Kirkland enters 8:10 am



Financial Update – Nick Foss/Kimberly Wall/Debbie Coppola- Mr. Foss gave an introduction of himself. He stated that March ended in a surplus position in both the Urban and Rural sides. Mr. Foss discussed the useful life of GMT's fleet, which effects the maintenance budget. He discussed the marketing budget and the transit rate. The transit rate historically peaks in December due to seasonal service and recruiting. He stated that he is hopeful that GMT will end the year in the black. Mr. Foss stated that updating the budging software is paramount for GMT. There was further discussion regarding documenting processes.

Humanizing the Transit Experience – Commissioner Kirkland gave an overview of her perception of being a new board member as an often negative experience. She also played a rider interview that she created from her phone. The audience could only hear audio and not see the video being played. Due to her concerns, Commissioner Kirkland verbally stepped down from her Commissioner position.

NextGen Update - Jamie Smith gave an overview of day one with the new NextGen implementations. Mrs. Smith stated that GMT employees have been out on the DTC platform to talk with the public and answer any questions. Mrs. Smith feels that one of the biggest hurdles will be riders getting into a new routine. Next is rural implementation and GMT will be scheduling public meetings. There was further discussion regarding the roll out and how to best address the riders.

Mr. Sousa thanked staff for doing an "incredible job" with the roll out. Chair Chittenden also stated that he was impressed with how GMT rolled out the new apps.

GMT Board Elections- After receiving feedback from the board, Chair Chittenden suggested the following:

Tom Chittenden would continue as Chair for 6 months

Bonnie Waninger -Vice-Chair

Paul Bohne-Treasurer

Chapin Kaynor-Secretary

Commissioner Barton proposed a motion that the slate of commissioners listed above go into effect July 1, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sharrow. The motion passed unanimously.



Commissioner Buermann left the meeting at 9:33 am

Committee reports-

- *Strategy Committee: Nothing new was added from the Strategy Committee. Next meeting TBD.*
- *Operations Committee: There was discussion regarding the trending charts and PIP trend lines. Discussion on how to track ADA metrics, on time performance and development of a GMT energy efficiency plan. Vermont electric audit in the works. Next meeting TBD.*
- *Leadership Committee: Nothing updated from Leadership. Next scheduled meeting is July 8th @ 10:30 am.*
- *Finance Committee: Nothing new to add to finance. Next scheduled meeting is July 9th @ 8:30 am.*

The board discussed a full day retreat in August 2019.

Adjourn – Commissioner Waninger moved to adjourn; Commission Bohne seconded. Motion carried at 9:43 am.

Next GMT meeting date: July 16 @ 7:30 am. Location TBD.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denis Barton, Secretary