

**MINUTES OF THE
ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON
TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT COMMISSION**

A regular meeting of the Accomack-Northampton Transportation District Commission was held at the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce Office, Melfa, Virginia, on Tuesday, November 6, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

Present:

Oliver H. Bennett, Chairman
Donald L. Hart, Jr., Secretary-Treasurer
Willie C. Randall
Laurence J. Trala

Absent:

Wanda Thornton, Vice Chairman
Ron Wolff

Ex-Officio member present:

Jeremy Latimer for Kevin Page

Nonmembers present:

Larry LeMond, Bay Coast Railroad
Mark McGregor, Virginia Regional Transit
Maria Ptakowski, Virginia Regional Transit

In Re: Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order and indicated that a quorum was present.

In Re: Invocation

The invocation was given by Mr. Bennett.

In Re: Statements from the Public

There were no statements from the public.

In Re: Account Balances

The monthly Assistant Secretary-Treasurer's report showed an ending balance at October 31st of \$12,158.20.

In Re: Minutes of October 2, 2012

Motion was made by Mr. Randall, seconded by Mr. Hart, that minutes of the meeting of October 2, 2012 be approved. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Wolff and Mrs. Thornton and voted "yes". Motion was unanimously passed.

In Re: Public Transportation Report

Mr. McGregor, Mr. Feasel and Ms. Ptakowski distributed the following Management Report for October 2012:



**Management Report for Star Transit
November 2012**

Operations

- ***STAR Transit New Freedom (Orange/Silver) Route*** – The new route continues to run smoothly. There were a total of 577 passengers for the month of October; this is 150 more passengers than the month of September.
- ***Hurricane Sandy*** - STAR Transit was forced to shut down transit operations on Monday and Tuesday, October 29th and 30th because of Hurricane Sandy. STAR Transit staff notified local radio stations and our customers that service would not be operating.
- ***STAR Transit FY2013 New Freedom Funding*** – VRT Management staff will present an update on the New Freedom funding at the November 6th Board meeting.

Mr. McGregor indicated that, with a re-look at the budget, there was no need to cut services or solicit additional funding from the two counties. It was therefore the consensus of the Commission to withdraw the application to DRPT for supplemental funding. Additionally, in light of the revised budget, Mr. McGregor indicated his intention to return the extra \$3,000 to Accomack County. Board members agreed that this would be a very positive gesture. At the conclusion of the fiscal year, figures, although unaudited at this time, indicate a \$25,000 surplus.

Transit Capital

- ***STAR Transit FY2013 Capital Vehicle Program*** – VRT received approval from DRPT and has awarded the Rural Transit Management Services (RTMS) 19 Passenger BOC Van procurement contract to Rohrer Bus Sales. VRT Management staff will be meeting with Rohrer Bus representatives to begin the ordering process and to schedule a preproduction plant inspection trip. STAR Transit will be replacing vans #21, 22 and 23.
- ***STAR Transit Bus Shelter Program*** – STAR Transit staff continues to work with the Eastern Shore Community College and the Cape Charles Food Lion to install bus stop shelters.
- ***VRT Telephone System*** – VRT has hired a consulting firm to review the new VRT phone system to ensure that the new system is operating at maximum capacity and cost effectively. The consulting firm will also review STAR Transit’s phone system during this review process.

Human Resources

- ***STAR Annual Driver Reviews*** – STAR Transit management staff have completed all driver evaluations for the current fiscal year.

Marketing and Outreach

- ***General Assembly Outreach*** - VRT Management staff continues to meet with Virginia Delegates and Senators to discuss VRT’s view on SJ297, DRPT’s Financial Compliance Process, Dulles Rail and it’s affect on future State Aid Operating Funds and VRT’s rural transit operations.

Transit Maintenance

- ***Preventive Maintenance Program*** - All STAR Transit vehicles have been serviced for the month of October and all vehicle records are up to date.

Ridership Statistics for October 2012

- ***Ridership Statistics*** -STAR Transit carried approximately 7017 passengers in October as compared to 6143 passengers this time last year. This is a 34% increase in ridership.

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In Re: State’s Comments

There were no comments from Mr. Latimer.

In Re: Airport Update

There was no comment from Mr. Hart.

In Re: Railroad Comments

Mr. LeMond reported on the following items:

1. We had the worst derailment in over 10 years on Friday, October 26th at 8:10 am. It happened just north of the state line in Maryland and the cause of the derailment was a broken rail. The 5th through the 9th cars of a 19 car train derailed with 3 of these laid over on their side. These were tank cars loaded with liquid nitrogen fertilizer (non-hazardous material).

Cranemasters out of Richmond was called to clear the derailment. They arrived at 4 pm with 2 side-boom cranes and 2 dozers. They finished at 4:30 am Saturday.

What needs to be done:

- Rebuild 215 feet of our mainline – either by contractor or my track force.
- Because 3 of the tank cars cannot travel on their own wheels – the product will need to be transferred into other tank cars – working with Moran Environmental on this.
- The two other cars hopefully can be repaired on site. Working with Dana Railcar out of Wilmington, DE.
- After the 3 tank cars are empty they will need to be loaded on flat cars and shipped to a rail car repair facility – probably Dana.
- The rail car repair facility will then estimate the repair costs and they will either be repaired or scrapped depending on the value of the cars.

If there is any good news in all of this is that the derailment happened adjacent to a run-around track so we were able to remain in service.

2. We dodged a bullet with Hurricane Sandy. We had about 20 trees down and minor damage to our float bridge at Little Creek. Could have been a whole lot worse.
3. I have furnished a revised cost estimate to Orbital for moving their rocket cores. Have not heard back from them.

In Re: Adjourn

Motion was made by Mr. Randall, seconded by Mr. Trala, that the meeting be adjourned. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Wolff and Mrs. Thornton and voted “yes.” The motion was passed. The meeting was adjourned.