

**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, Melfa, Virginia, on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

Present:

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

Absent:

Ron Wolff

Ex-Officio member present:

Jeremy Latimer for Kevin Page

Nonmembers present:

Dave Morgan, Virginia Regional Transit
Kirk Miles, STAR Transit
Larry LeMond, Bay Coast Railroad
Vincent Miller, citizen

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

Mr. Vincent Miller, a resident of New Church, urged the Commission to reinstate STAR Transit bus service to the northern portion of the County.

In Re: Account Balances

The monthly Assistant Secretary-Treasurer's report showed an ending balance at September 30th of \$5,862.49.

In Re: Minutes of September 6, 2011

Motion was made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Randall, that minutes of the meeting of September 6, 2011 be approved. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Wolff and voted "yes". Motion was passed.

In Re: Public Transportation Report

Representatives from Virginia Regional Transit distributed the following Management Report for September 2011:



Management Report for Star Transit

October 4, 2011

Operations:

- ***New Freedom Route*** - The new route which was planned to start on October 3rd will be delayed until the spring (April 1st) because of the lack of a vehicle and the desire to operate the service more than 6 hours per day. DRPT did not fund the service at the 8 hours per day as requested, so starting the route in the spring will allow STAR Transit to operate the route possibly 10 hours per day which will give the new service a better opportunity to be successful.

Ms. Thornton recommended that the new route commence in April. She indicated that she believed that starting the route early would offer a good opportunity to fail with the winter hours and less service hours per day. Mr. Randall and Ms. Thornton both questioned the possibility of another on-call route in the northern part of Accomack, even on a very limited basis, to serve the special-needs

community represented by Mr. Miller. STAR representatives indicated that they would re-look this suggestion. Ms. Thornton also suggested that it was possible that Accomack County would consider an additional appropriation to serve this very specific need.

- ***Townhouse Lease*** – Management has renewed the lease for the town house in Chincoteague at a reduced price and savings of \$700 per month. Management will continue to monitor the use and need of leasing this townhouse, but as of today it is much cheaper than hotel lodging expenses.
- ***Bus Stop Shelters*** – The previously approved bus stop shelter design is no longer available. Management will provide alternative bus stop shelter designs for review.

It was the consensus of the Commission to approve the generic design originally offered. Mr. Randall also suggested that VRT may wish to coordinate the installation of bus shelters at the new hospital location.

- ***STAR Transit Building Signs*** – Outdoor signs were installed on the STAR Transit facility on Thursday, September 29th.

Maintenance

- ***Preventive Maintenance Program*** - All public transit vehicles have been serviced for the month. However, we are beginning to have problems with our current maintenance contractor with timely service, management will continue to monitor this problem and take appropriate action.

Ridership Statistics for September 2011

- ***Ridership Statistics*** - STAR Transit carried approximately 6300 passengers this September as compared to 4,270 passengers this time last year. This is a 50% increase in ridership.

Financials

- ***DRPT Financial Compliance Review*** - Management is still waiting on DRPT to provide management with a “Final Compliance Review Report” and the amount of funds that may need to be reimbursed to DRPT for any overpayments made to STAR Transit. It should be noted that the VRT Fiscal staff has spent a significant amount of time dealing with this Compliance Review.
- ***FY2012 Capital Replacement Program*** -Two BOC Vans and one Mini-Van with a Ramp have been ordered for STAR Transit.

In Re: State’s Comments

Mr. Latimer reported that the St. Julian yard construction has commenced. Mr. LeMond also noted that no easement has been provided as yet but he did provide an indemnity agreement

for Canonie's consideration.

In Re: Airport Update

There was no report.

In Re: Railroad Comments

Mr. LeMond reported that the hurricane damage sustained by the float bridge has been repaired. He also noted that the State of Maryland is preparing to offer for scrap bid its barge currently docked at Little Creek and a liability on our property. The first float trip was made on August 12th – 3 cars – propane and scrap metal, and several additional quotations have been supplied to vendors. One of the most interesting shipments to note is one of the 135-ton guns (67 ft.) from the Battleship Missouri to be floated to Lewes, Delaware.

Mr. Bennett asked Mr. LeMond to provide him with information relative to Parallel Road and the amount of railroad right-of-way in that vicinity.

NEW BUSINESS

In Re: Adjourn

Noting that the Commission was not comfortable yet with reverting back to the bi-monthly meeting schedule, motion was made by Mr. Randall, seconded by Mr. Trala, that the meeting be adjourned until 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at the Eastern Shore Chamber of Commerce, Melfa, Virginia. All members were present with the exception of Mr. Wolff and voted "yes." The motion was passed.

The meeting was adjourned.