

**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 Building, Melfa, Virginia, on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

Present:

Oliver H. Bennett, Chairman
Donald L. Hart, Jr., Vice Chairman
C. Reneta Major, Secretary-Treasurer (late)
Laurence J. Trala
Granville F. Hogg, Jr. (unqualified at this time)

Ex-Officio member present:

Jeremy Latimer

Absent:

Ron Wolff

Nonmembers present:

J. T. Holland, Bay Coast Railroad
Larry LeMond, Bay Coast Railroad

In Re: Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order and indicated that a quorum was present. He welcomed Northampton's newest appointee, Mr. Granville F. Hogg, Jr., but indicated that Mr. Hogg had not received his oath of office at this time and was therefore unable to participate.

In Re: Invocation

The invocation was given by Mr. Hart.

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 January 31st of \$39,419.43.

In Re: Minutes of January 7, 2014

Motion was made by Mr. Hart, seconded by Mr. Trala, that minutes of the meeting of January 7, 2014 be approved. All members were present and voted "yes", with the exception of Mr. Hogg who was not qualified at this time, and Mrs. Major (who arrived later). Motion was unanimously passed.

In Re: Public Transportation Report

The following Management Report was distributed:



**STAR Transit Management Report
February 4, 2014**

Operations

Star Transit Operating Adjustments – STAR Transit staff has made a change to the Green Line Demand Response call-in reservation system. In the past the staff has handled these calls by opening the office at 6 AM, receiving reservation requests and then frantically scheduling requests for the same day as the request. However, with the increase in ridership over the past couple of years, it has become necessary to make a change to the call-in reservation system. As of Monday, February 3rd all Green Line passengers will be required to call in and make a reservation for a demand response trip by 4 PM the day before the requested trip. Passengers will be allowed to schedule trips up to 2 weeks in advance. To assist in this process STAR Transit staff will begin utilizing a computerized reservation system called Shah Transportation Manager. STAR Transit staff will continue to provide same day requests for emergency trips when the schedule permits.

Snow Day- STAR Transit and VRT management staff made a decision to shut down all transit services on January 22nd and 29th because of winter weather conditions. STAR Transit management staff notified all media outlets and answered telephones during the day.

Transit Capital

Bus Capital Program – VRT Management staff met with Rohrer Bus on January 7th and Rohrer bus officials indicated that Star Transit’s BOC Vans should be delivered late May 2014.

Human Resources

Driver Training – STAR Transit management staff hosted a Driver Training meeting on February 4th. The driver meeting covered accident and incident reporting procedures.

Marketing and Outreach

Management Outreach – The STAR Transit Manager continues to meet and discuss transit issues with local shore agencies including the Eastern Shore Rural Health System.

Transit Maintenance

Preventive Maintenance Program - All Star Transit vehicles have been serviced for the month of January and all vehicle maintenance records are up to date.

Ridership Statistics

Ridership Statistics – January 2014 STAR Transit passenger statistics were not available in time for this management report.

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In Re: State’s Comments

Mr. Latimer stated that a new Director of Rail and Public Transportation has been appointed and that he believes the current emphasis will be transit initiatives. As will be reported later in the evening, the rail preservation application on behalf of Bayshore Concrete Products was approved. The FY 2015 application deadline was yesterday.

Ms. Major arrived at 5:40 p.m.

In Re: Airport Update

Mr. Hart had no report.

In Re: Railroad Comments

Mr. LeMond distributed the following report:

1. In January, we handled 108 cars which brings our 10-month total to 1,515 cars which is a 425 carload increase Y-O-Y. FYI – 30 of these cars contained LP Gas which are high revenue cars.
2. The Commonwealth Transportation Board approved Bayshore Concrete’s \$412,000 application for Industrial Rail Access Funds for additional trackage at their plant. When they get the agreement from the Commonwealth, I will work with them in putting together a bid package to be sent out to various track construction companies.
3. As I mentioned last month, since 75% of my carloads are being handled on our Little Creek Division, I want to concentrate our track improvement efforts on this area.

Therefore, I am asking the Commission to consider a “Resolution of Support” for my 2015 application for Rail Preservation Funding for the installation of 1,400 crossties and 3-sets of switch timbers at Little Creek at an estimated cost of \$200,000. (\$140,000 RPF + \$60,000 BCR)

Motion was made by Hart, seconded by Mr. Trala, that the following resolution be adopted. All members were present and voted “yes,” with the exception of Mr. Hogg who was unqualified at this time. The motion was unanimously passed.

ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT COMMISSION

***RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RAIL PRESERVATION APPLICATION
FOR
BAY COAST RAILROAD***

WHEREAS, the Bay Coast Railroad desires to file an application with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation for funding assistance for a Crosstie Renewal Project – Little Creek Division which will entail the replacement of 1,400 crossties and 3 sets of switch timber; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly, through enactment of the Rail Preservation Program, provides for funding for certain improvements and procurement of railways in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Bay Coast Railroad is an important element of the transportation system in both Accomack and Northampton counties and the cities of Virginia Beach and Norfolk; and

WHEREAS; the Bay Coast Railroad is instrumental in the economic development of these areas, and provides relief to the highway system by transporting freight, and provides an alternative means of transportation of commodities; and

WHEREAS, the ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT COMMISSION supports the project and the retention of the rail service; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth Transportation Board has established procedures for all allocation and distribution of the funds provided.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ACCOMACK-NORTHAMPTON TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT COMMISSION does hereby request the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation to give priority consideration to the Crosstie Renewal Project on the Little Creek Division proposed by the Bay Coast Railroad for inclusion in the projects funded in the Rail Preservation Program.

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In Re: Adjourn

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