



KINGS TRANSIT AUTHORITY 2016/17 BUDGET MEETING-MINUTES December 16, 2015

The 2016/17 budget meeting of Kings Transit Authority was held on the above date at 5:30 pm at Kings Transit Authority – New Minas.

PRESENT

Board Chair, Mercedes Brian, Town of Wolfville
Vice Chair, Anna Ashford-Morton, Town of Berwick
Patricia Bishop, Municipality of Kings County
Brian Hirtle, Municipality of Kings County
Mark Pearl, Town of Kentville
Greg Towne, Finance Director, Town of Berwick

KTA STAFF

Stephen Foster, General Manager
Tanya Morrison, Office Coordinator

REGRETS

Pauline Raven, Municipality of Kings County

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mercedes Brian called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS CIRCULATED.

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED AND SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 25, 2015.

MOTION CARRIED

4. BOARD CHAIR UPDATE

Ms. Brian attended the staff Christmas dinner on Sunday December 6th. She and Mr. Foster met with the Municipality of Kings, where Mr. Foster did a presentation for Council on Kings Transit and plans to make KT more efficient moving forward. The information was well received and the Chair would like to extend the presentation to all of the KT partners.

5. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

K-Rock broadcasting live from the bus was well received and there will be opportunity for more promotions in the future.

The main floor of the office building has been repaired from the water damage; the upstairs repairs will get underway after the new year.

New LED lighting has been installed on all buses to facilitate night driving. The previous interior lights were too bright and distracting to drivers, which was brought up as a safety concern.

Mr. Foster informed the Board that he has successfully completed his accounting course through Dalhousie University.

MOVED AND SECONDED TO RECEIVE THE GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT.

MOTION CARRIED

6. RIDERSHIP/REVENUE REPORT

Mr. Foster presented Ridership Reports to the board.

Ridership continued to decrease for the month of November.

Mr. Foster contacted the Department of Community Services but had not received a call back as of the meeting date. Discussion took place amongst the members and Mr. Foster made note of questions being asked by the board.

MOVED AND SECONDED TO RECEIVE THE RIDERSHIP/REVENUE REPORT.

MOTION CARRIED

7. OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss.

8. NEW BUSINESS

2016/17 Budget

Mr. Towne presented the 2016/17 operating budget for Kings County.

The consumer price index had an increase of 0.3% other changes noted to the base budget were as follows:

Fuel (diesel) decrease of (18.4%)
Insurance increase 5.0%
Electricity increase 3.8%
Wages increase 0.3%
Other increases 1.0% to 3.0%

Overall administrative expenses for the 2016/17 budget have a decrease of (12.6%). This decrease results from lower wages and benefits due to the restructuring of the Authority.

Revenues are budgeted to have a slight decrease of (4.9%) the decrease is mainly due to the slightly lower fare revenue and scaled back management fees (loss of the Hants West route). Bus rental from the service partners has also decreased as they now have their own spare buses.

The budget for the facility expenses has an increase of 11.9% for the year. Most of this increase is due to the projected snow clearing budget. Snow clearing has increased by \$3,400 over the previous year, the previous 2015/16 budgeted amount was not sufficient.

Operations expenses had a decrease of (4.1%) this decrease is made up of a decrease in wage expense, lower budgeted fuel, and reduced repairs and maintenance costs.

In addition to the regular budget Mr. Towne provided a budget with the addition of a new proposed North Kentville route. The new route would speed up travel times between Greenwood and Wolfville and also service a part of the county that isn't currently being serviced. The increase in efficiency could attract new ridership to Kings Transit and make it more appealing for people to take the bus in lieu of taking their vehicles. The benefits of the proposed route would be:

- Provide public transit service to the 1050 residents of Port Williams
- Provide an express service between Kentville and Wolfville via Belcher Street
- Reduce travel time of the core routes by 25 minutes
- Speed up the core buses and create a buffer against delays

The addition of the new route would change the municipal contributions from a 4.1% reduction to an increase of 7.3% for the 2016/17 budget.

After some discussion board members agreed that the new route would be beneficial to the Authority as well as the tax payers of Kings County. The Board voted to approve the budget with the addition of the North Kentville route. In their discussion it was felt that it would be beneficial to have a start date of September 1, 2016 which would line up with back to school and attract new passengers to the service.

New route proposal numbers will have an amended increase of approximately 2% due to a September 1st start date vs an October date.

MOVED AND SECONDED TO ACCEPT THE BUDGET PROPOSED WITH THE AMMENDMENT OF A 2% INCREASE NOTED ABOVE.

MOTION CARRIED

The possibility of adding more shelters along parts of the route and the possibility of finding sponsors to erect the shelters was discussed briefly amongst those present. Due to time constraints a discussion on bus shelters will be added to the agenda for the January 27th board meeting.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

None to report

NEXT MEETING DATE

Next meeting will be held January 27, 2016 at 5:30 pm

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm.

CHAIRPERSON

SECRETARY