

**KINGS TRANSIT AUTHORITY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING-MINUTES
February 4, 2010**

The regular board meeting of Kings Transit Authority was held on the above date at 5:04 p.m. at the Town of Kentville council chambers.

PRESENT

Chairman Mark Pearl, Kentville
Vice Chairman: William Zimmerman, Wolfville

Councillors

Anna Morton, Berwick
Basil Hall, Kings County
Janet Newton, Kings County
Chris Parker, Kings County
Randy Matheson, West Hants Representative
Randall Amero, Digby County Representative
Ron Trimper Annapolis County Representative
Liz Galbraith, Windsor
Warden Peter Newton, Annapolis County

Staff

General Manager Ron Mullins
CAO Keith Robicheau, Kentville
CAO Brenda Orchard, Annapolis County

ABSENT

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ON MOTION OF COUNCILORS HALL AND MORTON FOR APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS PRESENTED.

MOTION CARRIED

5. RFP: 40' BUS (moved up in the agenda)

MOVED BY COUNCILLORS ZIMMERMAN AND MORTON TO GO IN-CAMERA TO DISCUSS THE 40' BUS RFP

MOVED BY COUNCILLORS HALL AND ZIMMERMAN TO ENDORSE THE GENERAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION TO PURCHASE A 40' BUS FROM NOVABUS.

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 7, 2010

MOVED BY COUNCILOR ZIMMERMAN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR MORTON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 7TH, 2010.

MOTION CARRIED

6. FEDERAL TRANSIT FUND (moved up in the agenda)

Manager Mullins presented a calculation showing the total amount of funds received including a base amount of \$592,942 regardless of ridership. Based on ridership, Annapolis and Digby's portions would be (less the security camera systems of \$5000 per bus) \$259,248 and \$70,115 respectively.

Manager Mullins showed what the savings would be if a garage facility were constructed for Kings Transit and a mechanic hired. Mullins explained the repair savings per year of \$7500, \$8500, and \$8500 for Annapolis East, West and Digby respectively. Another key savings would be the ability of refurbishing our own buses by doing this in house. Approximately \$75,000 savings would be realized per bus in extending the life of our buses.

The repairs and maintenance savings is based on current rates paid for an outside shop versus hiring our own mechanic in house. We expect repairs and maintenance to rise in the future as our buses age. Kings Transit is also experiencing bottlenecks with mechanical shop given how busy they are.

The board is still trying to reach consensus on the garage facility where there are a couple of issues to resolve such as Kings County studying a Tri-Municipal complex in New Minas and hopefully within the next couple of months they will know where they stand.

Councillor Trimper stated that everyone supports Kings Transit but would like to see a voice given to the service partners where such funds are received by Kings Transit.

Councillor Zimmerman asked what the service partners would do with the federal funds when there is deadline to spend within the year. CAO Orchard responded that Annapolis didn't have an answer for that but wanted to see at this point what value would be to Annapolis in having the garage built. If necessary they would top up the funds to buy a bus now.

Chairman Pearl stated that this issue can't be resolved just yet and the board has to decide on what it wants to do and reiterated the board wants what's fair and equitable. Councillor Zimmerman asked whether the service partners want to expand their agreement beyond just a service agreement. Chairman Pearl iterated that at the end of the day the board's intention is to come to an agreement that everyone would be satisfied with.

Councillor Amero questioned the savings and wanted some further evidence of this. It was agreed to provide the repair invoices as well as the business case study.

Acadian Lines Hearing

Chairman Pearl quickly updated the board indicating that we don't compete with Acadian Lines and although he will be away, Manager Mullins will be attending the Public Utility Hearing to make the point if Acadian Lines leaves that market, it's a void we can't fill.

NS Transit Research Incentive Program (TRIP)

This a program recently announced by the province for one project to a maximum of \$50,000 with 25% coming from the proponent. We were successful in both our applications with Kings Para (exploring the merger)and the second studying the feasibility of transit through the Mount Uniacke corridor in East Hants. The cost for the Kings Para's study would be \$5000 and \$2500 for Kings Transit (which is currently not budgeted for) and Kings Para respectively, whereas the East Hants study is solely their cost.

4. Budget Executive Summary 2010-2011

Manager Mullins went over the six page budget summary for 2010-2011 highlighting the rising average fuel costs, the current repairs and maintenance with high mileages as well as body work showing our need for a new garage facility and mechanic. Councillor Parker asked how this compared to previous buses and if we had records of this. Chairman Pear asked that we research the mileage versus repairs on previous buses. Councillor Morton questioned the repairs as well given the mileage and suggested we compare ourselves to CBRM rather than Metro.

Ridership and Revenue for December 2009 is down 12% and up 3% (thanks to the fare increase) respectively. Councillor Parker had discussed this with some of drivers who commented on the lack of convenience and suggested adding more service such as a half hour service. Chairman Pearl questioned how we go about doing this. Does this mean more resources?

Manager Mullins presented the budget in the yellow column for \$1,456,907 highlighting the following expenditures:

- Fuel – average price per litre has been increasing. Currently around \$.69/litre and is budgeting for \$.79 up \$7,259
- Repairs and Maintenance is up \$52,100
- Insurance is up \$6,800 due to two more new busses added to the fleet.
- Rent and Utilities \$17,760 for new office space as well as lease with Perry Rand
- Telecommunications: asking \$4,800 more due to radios
- Licensing fees have doubled and now represents \$4,630

Manager Mullins stated that the total increase for the budget is 8% or \$112,003 of which \$73,000 or 19% is being asked of the municipal units with Kings County being \$43,935, Kentville \$14,645, Wolfville \$10,984, and Berwick \$3,661. Discussion was had on the wages and the current CPI.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILILORS PARKER AND NEWTON TO FORWARD THE DRAFT BUDGET TO JOINT COUNCILS
MOTION CARRIED

7. NEXT MEETING DATE

Next board meeting to be held in March tentatively for the 25th.

8. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY