

**KINGS TRANSIT AUTHORITY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING-MINUTES
July 2, 2009**

The regular board meeting of Kings Transit Authority was held on the above date at 5:00 p.m. at the Town of Kentville council chambers.

PRESENT

Chairman Mark Pearl, Kentville
Vice Chairman Bill Zimmerman, Wolfville

Councilors
Marianne Woodworth, Berwick
Dale Lloyd, Kings County
Diana Brothers, Kings County
Janet Newton, Kings County
Randy Matheson West Hants Representative
Randall Amero Digby County Representative
Ron Trimper Annapolis County Representative

Manager Ron Mullins,
CAO Keith Robicheau

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

With there being one new item added to the agenda:

Correspondence: Item 8D Letter from Service NS

ON MOTION OF COUNCILORS ZIMMERMAN AND NEWTON FOR APPROVAL OF AGENDA WAS ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED.

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 14, 2009 minutes

Councilor Newton asked about making a decision on the next 8 months (page 3) of the business plan? Councillor Zimmerman responded that it was his motion and that the business case would tell us in which direction to go for our garage

facility. Councillor Newton wanted to make sure that the board would make any decision.

MOVED BY COUNCILOR ZIMMERMAN AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR NEWTON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 14TH.

MOTION CARRIED

MOVED BY COUNCILOR NEWTON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILOR ZIMMERMAN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 12TH.

MOTION CARRIED

4. DEDICATING BUS: TO LESTER VAUGHAN

Manager Mullins stated that Lester's widow had asked if we could dedicate a bus to Lester given his contribution of 23 years to Kings Transit.

The need for a policy on dedicating buses was agreed upon with Councillor Newton suggesting "exceptional service" as one of the criteria.

The board supported dedicating a bus to Lester leaving this to the General Manager as well as coming up with a policy.

5. FINANCIALS/RIDERSHIP/REVENUE REPORTS

Manager Mullins went through monthly ridership and financial reports for May 2009.

ON MOTION OF COUNCILORS ZIMMERMAN AND NEWTON TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL RIDERSHIP REPORTS FOR MAY 2009.

MOTION CARRIED

6. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Community Access Fund: manager Mullins mentioned this new federal program for projects to be spent by March 31st 2011.

Garage Facility – Manager Mullins discussed the lease extension, hiring Kelco Consulting for the business plan and attending the County's first meeting on the shared municipal complex.

June was recreation month with bicyclists getting free rides for the month of June. June 3rd as clean air day was a huge success with 2500 riders that day!!

Retire your Ride (exchanging old cars for bus passes) has just started. Kings Transit will offer 6 months of free passes through Clean NS for anyone turning in their old cars.

Manager Mullins stated that we are asking the Odyssey manufacturer if they could extend the last RFP pricing and was waiting to hear back from them. He also stated that he has to issue an RFP soon for the 40 foot low floor bus as per our capital plan.

Councillor Brothers asked again about the lack of breaks for drivers. The board asked the manager to make sure we are compliant with the labour code. The board also discussed the mandatory retirement policy (if it was enforceable and follows the provincial guidelines).

ON MOTION OF COUNCILORS ZIMMERMAN AND LLOYD THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT WAS ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED.

MOTION CARRIED

7. CANNING, PORT WILLIAMS, CENTREVILLE EXPANSION REQUEST

Manager Mullins we have hired in partnership with the Town of Kentville and Kings CED NSYCC students for the summer who will be surveying the residents for these areas.

Manager Mullins outlined the three options with costs as 1) full service, 2) twice daily (which means 3 hours in the morning and 3 hours in the evening) and 3) twice weekly. It was noted these figures are tentative.

We hope to have results back from the surveys by the end of summer to give us an idea of what support there is for this initiative.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

8 A Email from Grant Brennan (Canada NS Infrastructure Secretariat)

We do have a deadline for spending the federal funds of March 31, 2010. Manager Mullins had written a letter asking Grant Brennan if this could be extended the Federal/Provincial agreement.

This was Grant's email response suggesting we explore options of spending these funds to meet the deadline. He acknowledged that he will proceed with making the request to extend the deadline. Chairman Pearl noted that the "clock is ticking".

Manager Mullins stated if we were to formally issue a purchase order for buses prior to March 31st 2010 we should be okay. He also stated we are not the only transit authority in this predicament (St. John's Transit in the same position with their garage facility).

Manager Mullins also discussed options such as buying two Odysseys if last year's RFP is extended (selling the old MCI's), and using the tender for the 40 foot low floor bus as options. Councillor Zimmerman questioned whether the odysseys were the best fit, mentioning a sprinter as an alternative. Manager Mullins hoped to have recommendations for our next board meeting..

8 B Email from Dwight Bennett, CAO for West Hants

Manager Mullins explained the CAO's email outlining the slight change in percentages for the Municipalities in their cost sharing for the Hants County Route.

8 C June 10th Letter from West Hants

A letter was received from West Hants stating their motion to revise the cost sharing for Kings Transit in Hants Count to 47.53% for West Hants.

Discussion followed on how this was handled with the CAO's from each of the units collaborating to come up with new cost sharing percentages based on the number of houses covered with Kings Transit now going directly into Wolfville versus Just Us Coffee in Hortonville.

ON MOTION BY COUNCILORS LLOYD AND ZIMMERMAN TO ACCEPT ALL CORRESPONDENCE AS RECEIVED.

MOTION CARRIED

9. MISCELLANEOUS NEW BUSINESS

Manager Mullins mentioned the issue with the Eldorados being prone to be blown by the wind and the manufacturer not being able to take the buses back from our Annapolis and Digby partners where there is no market for them (no air conditioning). We don't have any solution to this problem and have to explore options.

Councilor Zimmerman asked that if we leave the bus to turn it off and not let it idle.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE

Next board meetings to be September 3, 2009 at 5:00 pm and October 29, 2009 and held at Town of Kentville Chambers.

11. General Manager Performance Review – In Camera

The board excused manager Mullins and went in-camera.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY