

**KINGS TRANSIT AUTHORITY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING-MINUTES
March 22, 2010**

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

Vice Chairman: William Zimmerman, Wolfville

Councillors

Mayor John Prall for Anna Ashton-Morton, Berwick
Tony Bentley for Mark Pearl, Kentville
Jim Taylor for Basil Hall, Kings County
Janet Newton, Kings County
Randy Matheson, West Hants Representative
Randall Amero, Digby County Representative
Ron Trimper Annapolis County Representative
Liz Galbraith, Windsor

Staff

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

ABSENT

Chairman Mark Pearl, Kentville
Anna Ashton-Morton, Berwick
Chris Parker, Kings County

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3a adding business arising from the minutes

ON MOTION OF COUNCILORS NEWTON AND PRALL FOR APPROVAL OF AGENDA AS AMENDED.

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FEBRUARY 4,2010

MOVED BY COUNCILLORS NEWTON AND BENTLEY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBURARY 4, 2010

MOTION CARRIED

3A. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Councilor Newton asked what the status is on the Acadian Lines application before the N.S. Utility Review Board. General Manager Mullins indicated that the board has 90 days to rule on this application and has not heard anything yet. Manager Mullins repeated that Kings Transit is a totally different service and there is no intent to fill this void should Acadian Lines succeed in pulling out of Kentville to Digby.

4. RIDERSHIP AND REVENUE REPORTS: JANUARY 2010

Manager Mullins went over the current results noting the ridership declines for **the core** as well as the current deficit of \$110,000. Ridership being lower than budget as well as repairs and maintenance being over budget are contributing to this deficit (underscoring the need for a new garage facility). Councilor Bentley indicated that we definitely need a mechanic. Manager Mullins explained the various expenditure items highlighting fuel, repairs and maintenance, printing, etc... It was noted that current ridership numbers reflect that routes have been combined into one Greenwood to Wolfville and Wolfville to Greenwood; eliminating the previous transfers that were included. Our declines are therefore bigger as a result.

Hants County is experiencing a ridership decline of 1% with a revenue increase of but Kings Transit has asked to improve service by covering Kings Edgehill, Gladys Manning and Kendall Lane retirement homes given there is capacity in the route. Manager Mullins went through the expenditures and commented on the fact that with our high mileage we are running through warranties faster than anticipated costing the service sooner. Vice Chair Zimmerman asked what the per kilometer repair cost Kings Transit compares to other transit authorities which would help us in the budgeting process.

Digby County is experiencing ridership and revenue declines of 7 and 8% respectively. Manager Mullins stated there is no definitive answer for this citing Convergys' home employment program, the economy, and current price of fuel as possible contributors.

Annapolis County West (Cornwallis) has a negative 7% decline in ridership overall for the year and Manager Mullins highlighted the repairs and maintenance being over budget and noted the surplus of \$9,208.

Annapolis County East (Bridgetown) currently has a surplus of \$25,301 and Manager Mullins noted the 10% decline in ridership for the year. Revenue is

lower by 12%; fuel is under budget and repairs and maintenance has essentially been spent.

Vice Chair Zimmerman suggested using any free advertising through our Municipal units to promote Kings Transit. Manager Mullins cited initiatives such as our ride free in June with bike racks, Clean Air day and our recreation program (offering discounts to recreation departments, organizations). Discussion around U-Passes and what was needed as part of promoting Kings Transit ensued.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR BENTLEY AND NEWTON TO RECEIVE THE RIDERSHIP AND REVENUE REPORTS
MOTION CARRIED

5. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Mullins noted:

- That the cost of fuel is still climbing and our volume is on par with last year.
- Nothing new with the garage facility at this point and we are still waiting to hear from Kings County on their Tri-complex study.
- NS Trip – we are working on two projects.
- Received our two Odysseys
- Ordered our 40 foot Novabus expecting delivery in December.

Vice-Chair Zimmerman asked that to add the U-Passes to the General Manager's outstanding action items

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR AND NEWTON TO ACCEPT THE GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT
MOTION CARRIED

6. BUDGET EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2011

General Manager Mullins indicated that this budget is per the direction given at our March 3 joint presentation to municipal units asking for the garage savings (1/4 of the year) to be factored in based on our study by Kelco consulting.

Manager Mullins highlighted the following:

- Ridership growth is flat and pegged lower than the original budget at 248,602 riders.
- 2% budget increase vs. the original 8%
- 8% increase to Municipal units vs. the original 19%
- Capital funding reduced to \$80K from 110K
- Wages is up \$1,000 thank to savings
- Fuel up slightly
- Repairs and Maintenance adjusted with the moth-balling of an MCI and the garage savings.
- Overall increase of \$25k with the introduction of the garage savings as wells as the reduced capital contributions.

Discussion was held on our fare structure and the decrease in ridership following the fare increase in 2008 was debated and the need to review this moving forward.

Manager Mullins also showed the 3 year budget projections as asked for at the March 3 firehall meeting based on expenditures increasing at 4% per year.

Vice-Chair Zimmerman asked if municipal units were depreciating their assets and maybe Kings Transit should follow suit to see what the actual capital contributions should be.

Manager Mullins outlined the capital budget with the lower municipal contributions and the same expenditures.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR NEWTON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR TAYLOR TO APPROVED THE AMENDED BUDGET AS PRESENTED.

MOTION CARRIED.

7. FEDERAL TRANSIT FUND: REQUEST FROM ANNAPOLIS AND DIGBY

Nothing new to report as we are waiting to hear from Kings County on their Tri-Complex study.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Lunenburg is asking for Kings Transit board members to present at their next Joint Transit meeting and is willing to pay for our expenses. Any board members interested should inform the General Manager.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

Next board meeting to be held in April tentatively for the 21st.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY COUNCILLORS NEWTON AND TAYLOR TO ADJOURN THE MEETING HAVING NO FURTHER BUSINESS.

MOTION CARRIED

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY