

Regular Meeting

July 20, 2020

4:30 PM

Springfield Mass Transit District

Monday

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The Board of Trustees of the Springfield Mass Transit District met in a regular session in the office of the Springfield Mass Transit District located at 928 South Ninth Street, Springfield, Illinois. The Meeting was called to order at 4:32 PM by Brian Brewer, Chairperson.

**I. Roll Call Present:**

Brian Brewer	Chairperson
Leslie McCarthy	Secretary
Jerry Doss	Trustee
Susan Davsko	Trustee
Wynne Coplea	Trustee
Sandra Douglas	Trustee
Frank Squires	Managing Director

Absent:

Karen Hasara	Treasurer
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**II. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Bush assured Chairman Brewer minutes of Regular and Closed meeting for June 29, 2020 were being completed, and will be pending until the August board meeting.

**III. Managing Director's Report**

Frank Squires, Managing Director, reported that since the previous month's board meeting ridership has been up. The increase in ridership is due to Governor Pritzker's motion into Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan, which allowed SMTD to reinstate regular, higher frequency, schedules in early July.

**IV. Reports**

**A. Approval of Financial Statements & Cash Disbursements**

Director Bush explained that due to July being the start of the fiscal year, and the end of the prior fiscal year, interactions with independent auditors inhibited providing the current month financials. As in prior years, these will be provided for review with the August Agenda.

**B. Board Committee Reports: Finance-Operations-Administration**

**Finance:** Erik Bush, Director of Administration and Finance, explained cash continues to be of utmost importance during the pandemic, and that currently SMTD is in reasonable standing. Trustee Doss inquired of Erik Bush and Tim Wenthe to explain further investment financials. Controller Wenthe discussed historical interest rates and the change over time which has resulted in lower investment earnings.

**Operations:** Melissa Ashford, Director of Operations, reported that ridership has been up since the previous board meeting. She explained ridership has been down 38% between both Mainline and Paratransit ridership. Ms. Ashford went on to further explain that Mainline ridership is down 13% since this time last year. She commented the fall run bid coming together nicely, with a few route changes going into effect as well. Ms. Ashford also explained the ballistic Polymer barriers being installed on the Mainline and Access busses for driver & rider protection. All trustees were invited to see a bus with the barrier installed, which was on display in the maintenance garage. Director Ashford stated she hoped all barriers would be installed within the following 2-3 weeks.

**Administration:** Trustee McCarthy said there is nothing new to report on from the administration committee.

**C. Planning Commission Report:** No report.

**D. Disabled Persons Advisory Committee Report/Access Springfield:** No report.

**V. New Business**

**A. Authorizing Resolution for the FY 2021 Downstate Operating Assistance Grant:** Director Bush stated that SMTD has filed the proper Downstate Operating Assistance (DOAP) Grant Application and it is being returned to SMTD from the Illinois Department of Transportation for further action. Director Bush went on to explain SMTD agrees to provide public transportation services described in the application to qualify for \$11,929,742.00 in downstate operating assistance resources. Director Bush also explained the district had received notice of the State award (NOSA) being sent out this week. Next steps include Managing Director Squires executing the award notice, and SMTD would then be in line to be paid. Trustee Coplea asked if the Federal Government would allow money to be used for further Personal Protective Gear. Director Bush affirmed federal money is available, and informed the board that DOAP funds can also be used to purchase additional PPE. SMTD maintenance supply clerk Brett Cole has done an excellent job of acquiring a variety of PPE from several sources, not an easy task during a pandemic for a non-medical organization. Deputy Director Schoeffel also stated the district has stocked up on essential PPE in case of a new surge of Covid-19. Trustee McCarthy made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Coplea. The board voted to unanimously approve.

**B. Adopt Calendar Year 2020 Property Tax Levy:** Director Bush explained the growth in the tax levy was due to an increase in the property

tax base, not a rise in the individual property tax amounts. Trustee Coplea made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee McCarthy.

**VI. Public Comments**

Jane Ford, co-founder of Friends of Transit, asked if fare collection would begin. Deputy Director Schoeffel said there will be no fare collection until further notice.

**VII. Adjournment**

Seeing no further business to come before the board, Brian Brewer looked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Douglas made a motion to adjourn the open meeting and the motion was seconded by Trustee Coplea. Brian Brewer closed the meeting at 5:00pm.



Leslie McCarthy, Secretary

Approved:

  
Brian Brewer, Chairperson