

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 4:34 PM by Brian Brewer, Chairman.

I. ROLL CALL Present:

Brian Brewer	Chairperson
Susan Davsko	Vice-Chairperson
Leslie McCarthy	Secretary
Karen Hasara	Treasurer
Sandra Douglas	Trustee
Wynne Coplea	Trustee
Ed Gower	Counsel
Frank Squires	Managing Director
Earl Amos	Superintendent of Maintenance
Melissa Ashford	Superintendent of Access
Ruth Bellm	HR Manager
Steve Schoeffel	Service Planning & Marketing Specialist
Jason Sass	Associate Planner, SSCRPC

Absent:

Jerry Doss	Trustee
Diane Townsend	AMD for Finance and Administration Earl
Angela Brooks	Superintendent of Transportation
Shoun Reese	Grants & Procurements Manager
Pete Roberts	ADA Advisory Committee

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no comments or questions. Karen Hasara made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2016 Regular Meeting, seconded by Sandra Douglas. The motion unanimously passed.

III. DIRECTOR REPORTS

Frank Squires, Managing Director, reported bad weather caused cancellation of night service on Saturday night. Service was so far behind due to the weather on Saturday, it was difficult to tell passengers when to expect a bus. Many snow routes were not entirely passable. So the decision was made to cancel. Sharon, road supervisor, did a great job on Saturday. Access passengers were notified, and notification in general was sent out around noon Saturday. Angie Brooks should be back in about a week-and-a-half.

Frank reported final audit comments are being completed. NTD database work is ongoing. We are still waiting for our state payment. We hope to have a payment before the end of the year.

IV. REPORTS

A. Approval of November Cash Disbursements and Financial Statement

There were no comments or questions. Sandra Douglas made a motion to approve the November Cash Disbursements and Financial Statement, seconded by Sue Davsko. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Board Committee Reports: Finance-Operations-Administration

Finance: Frank Squires reported we met with Craig Metz to go over our portfolio. Everything is running well. We are preparing for OPEB retirement insurance meeting next month. Spencer Sidwell will still be the employee representative. Brewer indicated he saw the investment reports. Frank Squires said OPEB liability is still new to us, so we're still learning the process, as we are some of the first in the state to enter this process.

Operations:

Earl Amos reported weather caused three accidents, one of which was our fault. Two vehicles are back on the road. We have seen that we do need makeup air units. Things went well for what we had.

Melissa Ashford reported Sharon Bynum and Melony Viola did a great job dealing with difficult circumstances. We are currently running six regular routes. Six are on snow routes and some are on deviated routes. We have been in contact with public works to get remaining routes salted.

Frank noted ridership is down nationally, and we are down as well.

Administration: There was no administration activity to report.

- C. Planning Commission Report:** Jason Sass reported the planning commission will start some 2017 mandatory reports. They are working with other stakeholders like SMTD on Intelligent Transportation implementation.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Award of Group Health Broker Agreement. Frank Squires explained we will be going with a health broker this year. Three vendors that bid on the award were interviewed. The committee scored proposals, and Troxell received the highest score. American Central was second, and Nicoud was third. Based on the scores, staff recommends to the board Troxell Insurance to be the group health broker of record for next year.

Karen Hasara asked what period this was for. Ruth Bellm indicated it was a new three-year period, but it is revisited each year. Chairman Brewer noted the broker of record does not necessarily change the insurance.

Wynne Coplea made a motion to approve the award of the Group Health Broker Agreement to Troxell, which was seconded by Sue Davsko. The motion passed unanimously.

- b. SMTD Name Change.

Brian Brewer explained why he proposed we change the name from Springfield Mass Transit District to Sangamon Mass Transit District. He explained the district's creation since 1968, and changes have occurred over time that we have become more than the "city bus" service.

He spoke about the districts outside of Springfield that we do regional maintenance for, as well as SMTD involvement in Sangamon Menard Area Regional Transit and the multimodal project.

He noted the sanitary district changed their name from Springfield to Sangamon recently. He indicated the recent budget problems highlighted the need for future expansion to ease reliance on state funding, and he believes changing the name would be a mindset change internally and in the community. He explained he has been considering this for about twelve months.

Karen Hasara commented that things are tending to "go regional" rather than single entities. She supported the idea that we need to be regional and that it is a national trend. Leslie McCarthy agreed that we need to make ourselves bigger and more clearly regional than just Springfield.

Wynne Coplea likes the idea of the name more accurately illustrating what SMTD currently does. She indicated the cost should be minimal. Brian indicated he does not want to cost the district thousands of dollars. He does not believe the cost will be exorbitant. Earl indicated the bus changes would cost around \$ 5,000.

Sandra Douglas asked about how it came about twelve months ago, because this is new to her. He explained that attending events with other business people and community leaders he has discussed this type of change.

Sue Davsko said she thought it made sense, and that the city gets calls about bus service. So, it might be a good idea.

Ed Gower explained that this should be a Doing Business As (DBA) change. Frank Squires added that this happens in the transit industry. He pointed out Connect Transit in Bloomington, Rock Island and others have changed.

Brian Brewer made a motion to authorize the district to do business as the Sangamon Mass Transit District, which was seconded by Karen Hasara. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ronald Walker just moved back to Springfield from St. Louis, where he was on their transit advisory committee. He has problems with the schedules. It is confusing. System maps are fine, but the schedules have not changed much, and there aren't many time points. Time points don't make sense. Google Maps times are not accurate. He rides the Rt .14 a lot. It says it is supposed to be there at a certain time, but it is always late.

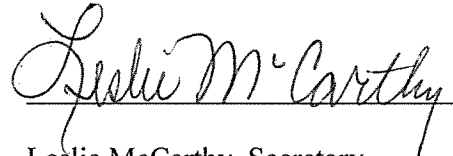
One driver has lights off at night, so it's difficult to see when boarding buses. He indicated the district could be better at informing the public about changes on the website - specifically passenger alerts. Snow routes are not available. Cooperation with the city should be done to make sure routes are salted and clear. He took Uber today, because of weather. He has been pleased with some other things. He moved back to Springfield because of violence and how it was not safe to ride there anymore. He encouraged more cooperation to move away from state funding.

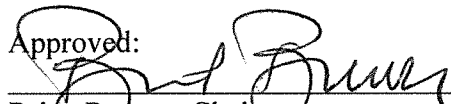
He is concerned about the name change causing confusing. He believes people will expect county service. He also said that the district should expand to include areas of Springfield not in the district. Transit riders do not like change.

Karen Hasara asked what were some of the good things. He said drivers are polite, and he doesn't want to get drivers in trouble. He said a driver went to an ATM machine with a load of passengers on board. He also suggested focus groups to find out where routes should go.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Wynne Coplea made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Leslie McCarthy seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:14 PM.


Leslie McCarthy, Secretary

Approved:

Brian Brewer, Chairperson