



NYE COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

March 30, 2022

9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioner Blundo
Commissioner Jabbour
Mr. John Koenig

PUBLIC WORKS STAFF: Mr. Tom Bolling
Ms. Lynnette Atkinson

Commissioner Blundo called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bill Stremmel wanted to voice his concern for the two solar projects on the south end of town. He has copied this Board on an email to the BLM about those projects. He would like to see an easement. He was also wondering if we could use the same kind of construction that we did on Bell Vista to widen the 160. He also thinks that there needs to be a right turn lane on Hwy 160 turning onto Hwy 372.

Mr. Labossiere stated that the State is redoing I-95 and they will be getting a turn lane onto Amargosa Farm Rd. He was wondering when it will be started.

COMMISSIONER/MEMBER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Jabbour welcomed Mr. John Koenig back to the Board.

Commissioner Blundo also welcomed John back. Blundo stated that the widening of the Hwy 160 has been brought to NDOT's attention and it will be a multiyear project. There are several projects happening on the south end of town also. Commissioner Blundo would also like to take a look at Sandy Valley Road. Commissioner Blundo stated that we will get information out to Mr. Labossiere regarding Farm Road.

Mr. Bolling stated that the right turn lane on Hwy 160 onto 372 is actually planned for the future improvements in the next couple fiscal years. There is also a corridor study on SR 160 from Las Vegas Blvd to Road Runner (north end of Pahrump). There is a public workshop at the Nye County Coalition on Monday, April 4th at 4:00 pm to discuss this study. Mr. Bolling updated the status of Farm Road and stated that the overlay, paving bids will be open tomorrow. We will start the work when we have the numbers. The work will go from Powerline to School Lane.

Commissioner Jabbour stated that Valley View is in really bad shape and needs to be looked at if the traffic will be diverted to it. Mr. Bolling stated that its not as bad as Farm but he will see what he can do to address it.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM 1/20/2022 MEETINGS:

Mr. Koenig motion to approve the minutes, Jabbour second. Approved.

UPDATE FROM ERIC WHALEN, PAHRUMP VALLEY TRANSPORTATION

Eric Whalen stated that the Pahrump Valley Public Transportation began operations on February 26, 2018, under the umbrella of the Pahrump Senior Center 501c3 non-profit corporation and has since continued to provide safe, reliable, and affordable transportation for the entire community. They started with 7 vehicles and in the first year of operating they have transported approximately 8,700 passengers.

During the second year of operations, they have seen a major increase in ridership totaling over 16,000 trips and they continue to grow, peaking over 20,000 riders per year.

PVPT continued operating throughout the entire global Covid crisis while many transportation providers ceased services entirely. We have kept pace with the increased demand for our services by updating our fleet, which is now at 13 vehicles. PVPT will be receiving 4-2022 nine passenger transits that are ADA accessible. These vehicles will be used to replace some of the older fleet vehicles and allow for expansion into our outer lying communities such as Beatty and Amargosa. PVPT is currently in discussion with Timaree Kosciak in Tonopah in an effort to create a fixed route connecting Tonopah Beatty and Amargosa with Pahrump.

PVPT also provides Free transportation to local Veterans. This service is provided by Nevada Division of Veterans Services and is ran independently of our public transportation program. All bookkeeping and financials and payroll are separate, ensuring that all funding for the programs is assigned appropriately.

PVPT also provides transportation to the Nye County School District for the Career and Technical programs. Allowing students to perform real life job training. We also provide transportation to Nye County Health & Human Services, No to Abuse, Nevada Outreach and Nye County Coalition.

Beginning October 1, 2021, PVPT began operating independent of the Pahrump Senior Center after having established its own 501c3. We conduct our meetings monthly and discuss all aspects of our organization. These meetings are open to the public. Dates, times, and locations are posted on our website at pahrumpvalleytransit.com

Eric thanked the RTC Board and members for their continued support.

Mr. John Koenig stated for the record that he used to serve on the PVPT Board. Mr. Koenig stated that Vet Trans was cut by 20% and they can not mix the two funds.

Commissioner Blundo stated that the presentation was good but wanted clarification on what businesses were in the operating within the building with PVPT. Eric stated that Vet Trans and PVPT are together but running separately. The Senior Center has their own entity. Blundo asked what they are doing with the old vehicles that were donated from Utah. Eric stated that they still have two of them, but they are old and are very inefficient when it comes to gas mileage. Blundo stated that the Senior Center is asking for support and maybe when the new vans come then PVPT can donate the old busses to the Senior Center or perhaps some local churches that are also in need. Eric stated that they have already donated one bus.

Michelle Caird, PVPT Board President, thanked the RTC Board and the staff at PVPT. Mr. Whalen stated that he has a meeting with Timaree and once the meeting is over, he will be in contact with Commissioner Jabbour.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2022/2023 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION BUDGET:

Mr. Bolling stated that the back-up includes last year's budget because we needed to do some clean-up. We put the Member-at-large funding back in Pavement Preservation.

This fiscal budget for 22/23 is \$3.35 million for 10208 and the budget for 10207 is \$3.2 million.

Commissioner Blundo asked what we are doing to better utilize and manage those funds. Mr. Bolling stated that the Pavement Preservation Projects will be using a lot more oil and other materials. We are looking at spending about a million just for crack sealing materials. The Pavement Preservation List has already been approved and that's what we will be working on. The only project that has not been funded is the widening of Winery Road. Commissioner Blundo asked where the \$500K went for the Chipseal Projects. Mr. Bolling stated that the list rolled into the Pavement Preservation List and those costs are included in the million for crack sealing materials. The fuel prices have increased by 27% so of course everything will be increasing and impacting our budget.

Commissioner Jabbour stated that we will eventually get the roads done by continuing a steady pace. Mr. Koenig stated that they need to be done correctly.

Mr. Labossiere stated that some states have a Gas Tax Holiday and wondered if we are going to freeze the Gas Tax this year or next. Blundo stated that those Holiday Funds are Federal

Mr. Koenig motioned to approve the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Budget as presented.

Commissioner Jabbour second.

Ms. Liz Enriquez stated that the Gas Tax projections are higher for this year than last so that will give us some wiggle room.

Commissioner Blundo asked that staff update the Budget and distribute it so that the BOCC can also approve it.

FOR POSSIBLE ACTION DISCUSSION AND DELIBERATION: 1). TO ALLOW PVT TO UTILIZE THE FUNDS GRANTED TO THEM BY THE RTC FOR FY 22/23 FOR THE MATCH AMOUNT REQUIRED TO PURCHASE A FACILITY LOCATED AT 601 EAST STREET AND 2). TO AUTHORIZE THE COMPTROLLER TO ISSUE A CHECK TP PVT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000.00 FOR THIS PURCHASE WHEN REQUESTED.

Mr. Eric Whalen stated that they are wanting to purchase the facility in which they are currently operating out of. The rent is \$2,500.00 a month and \$30,000.00 annually and those funds could be better spent for administration costs or fuel costs.

Commissioner Blundo asked how much he would need out of the \$50k and is there match money? Mr. Whalen stated that they are applying for a 5339 Grant through NDOT. It is 90% Federal and 10% local. The asking price for the building is \$440,000.00 but we will go with the appraisal price. We would have to pay for the appraisal and the down payment. Mr. Whalen stated that the grant application for purchasing a new building is new to NDOT and to us and needs to be submitted by April 22nd but won't be determined until sometime in September.

Mr. Bolling stated that it would be wise to check with Building & Safety for the codes and for the transfer of ownership. He advises that they get ahold of someone in Planning. Mr. Bolling also stated that he is not 100% positive that these Road funds can be used for the purchase of a building and that it is something we need to check into.

Mr. Koenig stated that PVPT has been coming to this board for many years now and receiving \$40-50K each year and by getting this loan it frees up those funds so that they won't have to come to this board and ask for money.

Commissioner Jabbour asked if they have looked at any other properties in the area. Mr. Whalen stated that they have not because they are already operating out of this facility, and it has everything they need and is also centrally located. Commissioner Jabbour stated that other options should be researched.

Mr. Koenig motioned to approve the item as read. Jabbour second.

Commissioner Blundo stated that he would like to see the Transportation Funds in the future be utilized as a grant process for other entities to use.

Michelle Caird stated that PVPT has and always will work closely with other transportation services in the county.

Mr. Bolling stated they are checking to make sure these funds can be used in this capacity and if it comes back that they can not then we will have to call a special meeting to rescind the action taken here today.

ACTION: set time and Date for next Meeting:

Commissioner Blundo motioned for June 23rd at 10:00 am. Mr. Koenig second. (This meeting was later changed to start at 9:00 am due to conflicting schedules)

COMMISSIONERS' MEMBERS COMMENTS: (second)

Mr. Koenig thanked the Board for rescheduling this last meeting to accommodate his procedure and looks forward to serving on this Board.

Mr. Bolling announced that we have currently completed 112 miles of PCI's and the cost is roughly \$13,000.00 so far. To finish up the entire county we are looking at approximately \$60,000.00. He also stated that he will bring an updated Pavement Preservation List to the June meeting as an item. Commissioner Blundo stated that he would also like to see a Chipseal List.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT: (second)

Mr. Stremmel stated that there is gross disparity in Nye County compared to Clark County. He was wondering if we have been in contact with Congressman Horsford.

Mr. Bolling stated that we have worked with lobbyist in the past to get road funds but no, we have not worked directly with Congressman Horford's office and that is something we will look into.

ADJOURN:

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynnette Atkinson