

TRANSIT COMMISSION MINUTES

Date and Time: The Transit Commission met on Thursday January 25th at 4:45 P.M. at Wausau City Hall, 407 Grant St., Wausau, WI.

Members Present: Becky McElhaney, Gary Gisselman, Kathi Zoern, Carol Lukens

Members Excused: N/A

Also Present: Megan Newman (Metro Ride) Yvonne Scheffler (Metro Ride)

In accordance with Chapter 19 of the Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and sent to the Wausau Daily Herald in the proper manner. The meeting was called to order at 4:45 pm by Becky McElhaney after noting a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Gisselman moved to approve the minutes of the September 21st, 2023 meeting. Lukens seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Update on CAD AVL Consultant Services Contract and visit from SRF Dec 13th, 2023

Newman talked of Mark and Jackie from SRF visiting on site Dec. 13th. They did an overview of an existing conditions report of our operations. They met with Yvonne regarding data entry/reporting systems, Darin from IT re: reporting that goes to MaryAnne, Management staff to understand their needs and then ended talking with drivers. Newman talked to them on 1/25/24 to confirm they are finishing that paperwork soon for the condition report and expect to have an RFP complete by August.

MetroRides Involvement in Community On Call

This initiative was a collaboration between Catholic Charities and the Wausau Police Department. They partnered for a solution to the unhoused for day and night transportation to and from the warming shelters. From Sun Jan 14th through Saturday morning of Jan 20th they ran to and from an off site location. The program had 70 passengers that took the ride (150 round trip) during this week. A decision was made to extend 30 extra buss passes to Tracey at the Police Department to hand out for transportation to warming facilities during the day when the temperatures deem it necessary to activate. Bridge Street Mission is the most active location when these passes are issued.

Update on Federal Grant Awarded for Facility Feasibility Study

In July, Matthew Rosenbloom-Jones applied for this Federal Grant. This grant will be used to determine if our location is in a position and capable to receive upgrades for future hybrid vehicles and the necessary charging stations that would come with those. \$100,000 was awarded in December to secure a consultant. Dave and Lance from the Marathon County Planning Organization will head up that project. It is in the very beginning stages of being put together.

Zoern questioned if this was Covid grant dollars and Newman confirmed it is separate monies with a 20% match on the \$100,000 from the local share. The money left in the Covid grant is being extended and put toward the IT upgrade.

Update on Delivery of Utility Vehicle

In 2022 we had gone out to bid for a utility truck and supervisor vehicle with no interest thought to be because of requirements in the state contract. In 2023 it was set for bid again with 1 bidder, Kunes Country Ford out of Antioch, IL, for procurement for a salt truck. Just last month a 2023 Ford F150 Chassis truck equipped with four wheel drive, a snowplow and salt bed has arrived. This replaced a two wheel drive 1997 truck MetroRide had acquired used from DPW and the upgrade is greatly appreciated by all on our maintenance crew.

Update on VW Settlement Funds – 3rd round of funds available

There is a very recent update on there being new funds available through this settlement. Newman states that the VW settlement is the way we were able to receive our last seven transit buses. We currently have fourteen vehicles that have been deemed outside of useful life and should be replaced. She is working closely with MaryAnne in finance regarding these monies and how to utilize them as there is a 20% match over a 10 year span.

Discussion and Possible Action: Transit Equity Day

McElhaney states that this event has been done every year. There will be a press release regarding the goings on of this day. This is a day traditionally celebrated that coincides with the birthday of Rosa Parks. This year it will be celebrated on Mon. Feb 5th. MetroRide will be honoring transit riders and drivers in Parks' memory by placing a sign on one seat of each bus along with a rose.

Action Motion by Gisselman, Lukens seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

McElhaney made mention of duties and updates needing to be made within the Transit Commission that have been addressed at council meetings. She will prepare what is printed now so it can be discussed at the next meeting and outdated material can be made into proper procedure guidelines. Gisselman questioned what is currently on the website versus what language is in printed form suggesting that they should be in agreement with each other. McElhaney is working with Anne Jacobson to get the clarification needed as well.

At 4:59 p.m. Zoern moved to adjourn the meeting. Lukens seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky McElhaney, Chairperson



TO: TRANSIT COMMISSION
FROM: MARYANNE GROAT
DATE: February 8, 2024
RE: VW Bus Funding

The State of Wisconsin has released Round 3 of the VW Mitigation Program for the replacement of transit buses that are powered with a 1992-2009 diesel engine.

The city has 10 qualifying buses: 2 are 2008 models, 8 are 2009 models. Discussions with Transit agencies across the state revealed that we are one of the few agencies with buses qualifying for replacement. In addition, the 2023 capital budget included the purchase of 9 buses with local share of \$1,601,344 and federal grant funding of \$6,405,379. The city was unsuccessful in securing these funds.

Bus prices have increased approximately 40% since our 2022 application. Staff is seeking the opportunity to apply for 10 buses. The VW Program withdraws the local share from shared revenues over a 10 year period. Attached is the resolution adopted in 2022 when we participated in the project.

Staff is compiling expected costs per bus and will provide updated information at the meeting.

We would like a similar resolution to go to Finance and Council on 2/28/2024 to meet the March application deadline.

RESOLUTION OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Approving the Budget Modification for the Purchase of Seven Buses through the VW State of Wisconsin Grant Assistance Program and Transit Reserves

Committee Action: Approved 5-0

Fiscal Impact: \$3,053,963

File Number: 21-1109

Date Introduced: March 22, 2022

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY			
COSTS	Budget Neutral	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Included in Budget:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Budget Source: Re-establishing bus purchase
	One-time Costs:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Amount: \$3,053,963.29
	Recurring Costs:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amount:
SOURCE	Fee Financed:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amount:
	Grant Financed:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Amount: \$2,891,985 VW funding
	Debt Financed:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amount Annual Retirement
	TID Financed:	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Amount:
	TID Source: Increment Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Debt <input type="checkbox"/> Funds on Hand <input type="checkbox"/> Interfund Loan <input type="checkbox"/>		

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Common Council approved Resolution 18-0915 which authorized the application for Transit Grant Capital Assistance funds under the VW Mitigation Program to purchase 7 buses on September 25, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 18-0915 also authorized funding the local share from the municipal revenue program reduction proposed by the State of Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS, on July 9, 2019 the Common Council authorized a budget adjustment Resolution 18-1109 to fund optional equipment not included in the bus base price and for the application of the producer price index; and

WHEREAS, on October 13, 2020 the Common Council authorized a budget adjustment Resolution 19-1109 to increase an additional \$93,813.69 of the local share from Transit reserves to fund the final budget gap; and

WHEREAS, during the 2022 budget deliberations the Transit Director outlined the use of the Cares Funding for the local share; and

WHEREAS, the seven buses were delivered in 2022 and invoices totaling \$3,053,963.29 are due for payment; and

WHEREAS, the City Council annually re-establishes multi-year capital budgets known as a carryover budget in April and

WHEREAS, your Finance Committee has considered and recommends a budget modification so that the bills can be paid timely as follows:

150-237598300	TRANSIT CAPITAL BUDGET	\$3,053,963.29
150-237588416	GRANT PROCEEDS – VW Capital Grant	\$2,891,985.00
164-30009	TRANSIT RESERVES	\$ 161,978.29