

Seth Boyd called the meeting to order at 5:11 pm. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were as follows:

**Board Members:**

Randy Capitani  
Seth Boyd (Acting President)  
Jason Rasmussen  
Chris Company (arrived at 5:17)  
Joel Bluming

**Members of the Public:** None Present

**Staff Present:**

Keith Johnson, Finance Manager, SEVT  
Christine Howe, General Manager, SEVT  
Randy Schoonmaker, CEO SEVT

**Invited Guests:**

Tim Bradshaw, VTrans  
Elaine Haytko, VPTA ED

**Public Input:** None

**Review August 2022 Minutes:** Reviewed with no changes

**Amendments to the Agenda:** None

**Finance Committee Report:** Randy did a ridership study to show FY22 versus the pre-covid year FY19. The Brattleboro White and Red Lines are ahead of FY19. Overall, Rockingham fixed routes have recovered 91% from FY19. All Rockingham routes in total have recovered 86% from pre covid. Wilmington has a 66% recovery rate for year-round routes. The winter season was off because of poor winter weather, and FY19 was a record year. The company as a whole has recovered from COVID 75%. Tim said the recovery rates across the state are lower, and SEVT is trending much better. Keith added to the Finance Committee Report that we received our second quarter prepaids from VTrans and paid the line of credit to a zero balance. Randy presented the updated budget. We have a grant budget in April, and then this time of year we do an updated budget based on trending costs and actual funding. Any breakthrough in Medicaid income will be considerable help to the budget but we kept as conservative. On costs, we have increases in driver wages and Medicaid volunteers. Fuel and health insurance are much higher, with fuel process double since a year ago and large increase in health insurance premiums. The bottom line is showing a \$78,173 gross surplus including the costs for Mortgage and Capital match. This would be enough to fund our FY23 carryover capital match into FY24.

**Motion 1: To approve the proposed updated budget as presented, Joel motioned, Randy C. seconded, approved 5-0**

**Board Member Update on Medicaid, Elaine Haytko VPTA Executive Director:** Randy reviewed the Medicaid expenses. He explained that we are struggling with the expenses on Medicaid versus the income. Medicaid is not reimbursed on actual costs, but rather a funding formula. The formula was explained and showed the losses due to income not covering the overall actual costs. The significant losses can be problematic for the year if the funding formula is not addressed to cover actual costs better. Elaine Haytko is the Executive Director of the Vermont Public Transportation Association which is the overseeing group of transit providers that provide the Medicaid rides. Elaine explained more detail on the funding formula in the state of Vermont. She

explained it will be difficult to change the current formula model, which is known as the PMPW rate. She said that super users are much higher than they were in 2019, and that is being analyzed by a consultant. SEVT has always been known to have a high number of super users. A super user is defined as a client that takes more than 10 rides per month. Elaine explained the costs are high for all the providers. VPTA will be applying to Medicaid for a significant increase in the reimbursement rate during contract negotiations and ask it to be retroactive. Seth asked the timing of the ask of funding adjustment to Medicaid. Elaine explained she is hopeful it will happen next month but cannot give the time exactly. Elaine noted that the service level and staff commitment from SEVT is extremely high, and stellar service.

**Nominating Committee Report:** Seth and Randy S. reported on the Nominating Committee. Randy S. presented the people that have been asked and declined, with the idea of bringing diversity to the Board. Seth explained he too has been trying to find potential Board candidates. The efforts will continue. Sue Fillion from Brattleboro would be a great fit, and we are waiting to hear back from her. Dave Moulton has recommended to replace his seat with Dan Thoemke who would be a Mount Snow representative. Randy S. explained that Dan has filled out a Board application and it is returned. The Nominating Committee will review his application. **Motion 2: The board approve Dan Thoemke as a board member, pending the Nominating Committees approval Jason motioned, Joel seconded, motion passed 5-0**

**New Business:** There is a route change proposal that needs to be approved by the Board. Randy S. presented the change for Route 57 and Route 61. We are taking existing routes and making them more productive. We have large local match but producing very few rides as is. We are proposing changing Route 57 to go through Chester year-round, from its current travel route, and to cut the second am run that has very low ridership. The extra hours will be used to provide weekend service in the winter season. Route 61 would change from a very low ridership on its winter season schedule from Bellows Falls to Okemo into becoming the Village Route within the town of Ludlow bringing riders to Okemo. We would increase ridership, reduce our costs and reduce route redundancy. Phase Two would be to expand to other Okemo public transit routes. **Motion 3: To propose a route change to the existing routes 57 and 61 to reduce redundancy, costs and increase ridership Jason motioned, Chris seconded, motion passed 5-0.**

Randy presented the logo for the micro transit route, the “MicroMOO”.

Keith reminded the Board VTrans has thanked us for transparency for financials, but we are no longer required to send the disbursement report to VTrans. The Board asked to continue to send it to them. Keith said we did have a bidder on our RFP for a financial consultant.

Randy gave the board an overview of drivers and vehicles for the winter season. He stated that with the higher wage for seasonal drivers we should be fully staffed this winter. Randy S. explained we are still short drivers in Rockingham. He said if the Medicaid funding is worked out, we would come back to the Board for an increase in driver wages, to be able to better recruit and retain candidates for year-round work in Rockingham. Our year-round start rate is \$20 an hour, and the seasonal rate which is attracting new staff is \$25.

Our next Board meeting will be in person at 45 Mill St on November 9<sup>th</sup> and via video.

**Executive Session if Necessary:** None

**Motion to adjourn by Joel motioned to adjourn, seconded by Seth, adjourn at 6:36 pm**