

MINUTES OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

LANE COUNTY MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT

March 23, 1976

A meeting of the budget committee of Lane County Mass Transit District and public hearing on the proposed 1976-77 budget was held at the City Hall in Eugene, Oregon, on March 23, 1976, at 7:30 P.M.

Present:

Board members

Richard Booth, Treasurer  
Jack J. Craig  
W. Gene Davis, Secretary  
Daniel M. Herbert, President  
Kenneth Kohmen, Vice President

Appointed members

George Baker  
Tom Denning  
Donna Kaehn  
Jim Martin  
Robert Moulton, Chairman, presiding  
Agnes Van Devender

Absent:

Annabel Kitzhaber  
Glenn E. Randall

Robert Tom

Robert Moulton was elected chairman and Agnes Van Devender was elected secretary of the budget committee.

Fred C. Dyer, general manager of the district, gave the budget message and presented the proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1976, providing \$3,085,580.00 for personal services, \$764,633.00 for materials and services, \$260,050.00 for contractual supplies, \$1,787,933.00 for capital outlay, and \$60,000.00 for general contingency, making a total budget of \$5,958,196.00.

Mr. Booth said he believed the amount proposed for personal services was excessive and should receive in-depth review by the budget committee. He suggested that a subcommittee be appointed and charged with making a thorough review of the salaries and report its recommendations to the committee. Mr. Craig observed that the salaries were lower than those for comparable county positions, and suggested that the staff obtain salary schedules from other transit districts for comparison.

MOTION Mr. Dyer advised that an evaluation and organization committee of the board of directors is completing a study of the operations of the district and their recommendations could include changes in duty and responsibility assignments. Following discussion, Mr. Herbert moved that the budget committee request the president of the board of directors to continue the appointment of the board subcommittee for the review of salaries of all non-contract personnel.  
VOTE The motion was seconded by Mr. Booth and carried unanimously. The chairman advised that the subcommittee will act as a fact-finding committee and report to the budget committee at its next meeting.

Mr. Booth asked to be excused and left the meeting.

Mr. Moulton then asked the staff to answer any questions pertaining to the budget line items and further discussion followed between the general manager and committee members.

In discussion of the dial-a-bus service, Mr. Martin expressed concern that the special buses will constitute a special service which, if expanded, would have the effect of creating two separate transit systems. He spoke in favor of the district using those funds toward modifying the entire fleet for accessibility.

Mr. Dyer spoke of a need for establishing a reserve fund, and noted that if the inflation factor does not deplete the proposed contingency fund included in the budget, a capital working fund could be established from it in the next fiscal year. Further discussion was held on the need for a working fund and for a capital fund to replace obsolete vehicles. Mr. Baker commented that the committee could consider allocating more from the budget for these purposes.

Mr. Craig asked if the projected revenues were realistic, and Mr. Dyer said that the increased marketing and information services, and the introduction of dial-a-bus service and new equipment, will encourage increased ridership and revenues.

Mr. Martin said that the board will soon be forced to seek different revenue sources and Mr. Herbert advised that the board is pursuing an income tax and will also receive consideration in the funding element of general purpose government transportation planning.

Mr. Martin commented that the district needs improved Sunday service to get people out of their cars. Mr. Moulton noted that the proposed budget did not include additional Sunday or evening service but provides for only the existing level of service and committed programs. He said there is a need for the community to seek additional sources of funding to provide for the projected needs of capital improvements and support services, but that the proposed budget was a balanced budget within the available resources.

Mrs. Van Devender commended the staff on its budget presentation and said it was well explained.

The chairman thanked the audience members for their interest in attending and opened the public hearing portion of the meeting.


C. Winston Cox said he had previously registered his desire for better evening and Sunday service, and asked that this be considered in the future. He said it would be a meaningful improvement for those dependent on the buses.

There being no other members of the audience desiring to speak, the chairman declared the public hearing closed.

Mr. Dyer expressed appreciation to the staff for preparation of the budget, with particular commendation to Ms. Loobey.

MOTION  
VOTE

Mr. Martin moved to adjourn the meeting to April 27, 1976 at 7:30 P.M., in Eugene City Hall. The motion was seconded and carried.

  
Secretary