

MINUTES OF BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

LANE COUNTY MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT

April 27, 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 April 27, 1976, at 7:30 P.M., pursuant to adjournment from its meeting of March 23, 1976.

Present:

Board members

Richard Booth, Treasurer  
Jack J. Craig  
W. Gene Davis, Secretary  
Daniel M. Herbert, President  
Annabel Kitzhaber  
Kenneth Kohnen, Vice President  
Glenn E. Randall

Appointed members

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

Absent:

Jim Martin

MOTION  
VOTE

MINUTES: Reading of the minutes of the meeting of March 23, 1976 was dispensed with as copies had been distributed to all members of the board. On duly seconded, the budget committee voted to approve the minutes of said meeting as written.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: The budget committee members received copies of the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Non-Contractual Salary Schedule, comprised of Richard Booth, chairman, Kenneth Kohnen, and Daniel Herbert. Mr. Booth advised that the proposed salary schedule equaled the same total amount of the budget presented at the meeting of March 23, 1976.

Mrs. Kitzhaber commended the subcommittee for the detailed breakdown of comparative salaries which was distributed for the committee's information and said that she believed the proposed salary scale was consistent, although the planning department salaries appeared lower.

Mr. Davis said he believed it was a false comparison, unnecessary, and a clear case of empire building. He believed it was out of line with the city of Springfield, too heavy in administrative positions, and appeared to propose salaries for four general managers. He expressed the opinion that there had been excessive raises for the executive secretary in the past two years and that the clerk typist salary was not comparable to other governmental units. Mr. Dyer said that the executive secretary had received additional responsibilities and assignments, including recording secretary of board meetings, Citizens Advisory Committee and other meetings. He advised that the salary for clerk typist

was adjusted in parity with the contract scale for information clerks. Mr. Davis said this indicated that the negotiated contract was excessive. Mr. Dunning commented that he felt fortunate that, in private business, he does not have to compete with this level of wage scale. Mr. Craig believed it to be comparative with cities, counties and the state in Oregon, and asked the advisability of further study by another subcommittee.

Mr. Kohnen advised that the factors considered by the subcommittee were: comparison with similar jobs in public and private sector; change in organizational structure of the district deemed advisable; parity with contract salaries; merit, and the cost of living factor.

Mr. Booth said he believed it did not compare with the private sector and it was self-perpetuating to compare governmental units with each other. He acknowledged that when comparing each salary based on the criteria mentioned, a logical case could be made for any one of them, but he believed the overall results were not acceptable and a lower salary schedule could be set.

MOTION

Mr. Randall moved that the board accept the subcommittee report as submitted. The motion was duly seconded.

Mrs. Van Devender expressed concern that the budget presented by the budget officer at the meeting of March 23, 1976, had been rewritten rather than adjusted. Mr. Kohnen pointed out that there were not substantive changes, but that administrative salaries reflected the organizational changes.

VOTE

The question was put and carried. Voting in favor were Baker, Craig, Herbert, Kaehn, Kitzhaber, Kohnen and Randall. Opposed were Van Devender, Denning, Davis, Tom and Booth.

RURAL SERVICE: Mr. Craig told the committee he had been receiving comments about the low ridership on the rural routes and proposed that the district conduct a demonstration program with a small vehicle, such as a Mercedes Benz diesel bus, when load factors are lowest. Mr. Dyer noted that the operating cost is comparable to the larger buses which are designed for over the road travel, and advised that the district is considering retrofitting the Twin Coaches for zone service. It was the consensus of the committee that this should be referred to the board of directors for further discussion.

PUBLIC HEARING: Mr. Moulton then opened the public hearing portion of the meeting and invited public comment.

Clark Cox, 1085 Patterson, #9, Eugene, Oregon, expressed understanding of the concern of higher salary adjustments and said that some governmental agencies were eliminating positions to meet higher salaries of those remaining. He emphasized, however, the necessity of public transportation and of his reliance upon it.

Edward Rubey, Certified Public Accountant, 2730 Laurelwood Lane, said the district is again budgeting for a deficit operation and relying upon subsidy from the business sector. He acknowledged the necessity of subsidizing service for persons unable to afford transportation, but said the district cannot justify the proposed deficit in operating the dial-a-bus service. He asked how the figures were derived for the projected ridership and revenue, and asserted that the transit

district was created for the sole purpose of mass transit service. He said there is presently a service offered for elderly and handicapped, and believed the owners could rightfully make a claim against the district for taking away their business. He noted that dial-a-ride systems in other parts of the country had become so popular and expensive, they met financial ruin. He believed that employers could make a test of withholding their tax payments for a service that is not self-sustaining.

Jean Johnson, representing League of Women Voters, asked that thirty minute frequency on the routes be carried into the early evening hours.

There being no further public comment, the committee then gave consideration to the public testimony. Responding to Mr. Rubey's comments, Mr. Dyer explained that the certification program designed for dial-a-bus will allow service only to people with a handicap meeting the criteria of being unable to use the fixed-route system. He further stated that the board had approved including the elderly population, the number of destinations had been lessened, and that higher fares would discourage general usage by the elderly. He advised that the projected ridership was derived from a 1973 study of the clientele of social services and people surveyed for riding the system with difficulty, and assuming a 50% increase in transit from people not now using the system.


MOTION

Mr. Booth said he did not believe there should be salary review by another subcommittee and the committee should have an opportunity to reach a decision on the proposed budget. He then moved the committee approve 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. The motion was duly seconded and carried with favorable vote by Baker, Craig, Herbert, Kaehn, Kitzhaber, Kohnen and Randall, and opposed by Van Devender, Booth, Tom, Denning and Davis.

VOTE

Mr. Moulton thanked the subcommittee and the board for their study and contribution.

The meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary