

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING
LANE COUNTY MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT
ADJOURNED MEETING
November 27, 1979

Pursuant to notice given to the Register Guard for publication on November 19, 1979, to the Springfield News and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the district, an adjourned meeting of the board of directors of Lane County Mass Transit District was held November 27, 1979 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall, Eugene, Oregon.

Present:

Richard A. Booth, Secretary
Daniel M. Herbert, Vice President
Kenneth H. Kohnen, President, presiding
Ted J. Langton, Treasurer
Glenn E. Randall
Carolyn Roemer
Phyllis P. Loobey, General Manager
Richard Bryson, Legal Counsel
Mavis Skipworth, Recording Secretary

News media representatives:
Marvin Tims, Register Guard
Marian Green, Oregon Daily Emerald

Absent:

Robert C. Loomis

Mr. Randall asked that an indication of excused absences be included in the written recording of roll call.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY BOARD PRESIDENT: The chairman announced that Paul Shinn has been appointed to the position of Director of Administrative Services.

Mr. Kohnen said he wished to clarify two points. 1) At the November 21 meeting, Mr. Davis of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce Transit Committee said he had not received notice of the meeting. Upon inquiry, the chairman said he was advised that an agenda packet was mailed to the Springfield Chamber postoffice box on November 16 and should have been received in time for that meeting. 2) To correct a misunderstanding that the Twin Coaches would be mothballed when new coaches are received, the 100 series buses would be put in a reserve where they could be used for trippers and temporary replacement.

Mr. Kohnen reviewed previous discussions on accelerating acquisition of buses and said the purpose of this meeting was to continue efforts to improve the district's revenue base. He spoke of the dramatic increase in ridership, of the inflating cost of new vehicles, the limited number of buses being manufactured, and of the delay in delivery time. He referred to an article in the Oregonian that indicated transit districts throughout the country are experiencing the same problems.

Clark Cox, 1085 Patterson Street, encouraged acquisition of additional buses for replacement of old vehicles and to alleviate overcrowding. He expressed his preference for an income tax to increase revenues and, if necessary, a five cent fare increase.

Emerson Hamilton, 2159 Escalante, expressed interest in an immediate fare increase to 50¢ and said it was his understanding from board discussion that a fare increase would occur concurrent with the income tax.

Mary Sherriff, 137 W. 37th, said she was speaking for 339 members of the League of Women Voters in supporting the purchase of additional buses and the levying of an income tax. She assured the board that the League would work for passage of the income tax.

Paul Bonney, 587 Antelope Way, said he was a long time rider and was pleased with the publicity the district has been receiving, the new signs downtown, and the expanded Sunday Service. He encouraged the board to find a way to finance additional buses.

MOTION
VOTE

MINUTES: Minutes of the October 17, 1979 regular board meeting and the November 14, 1979 special meeting were unanimously approved as presented.

GMA BENCHMARK SURVEY: Bill Young and Bob Judsen of GMA Research Corporation presented the results of a Benchmark survey which indicated there is an improved attitude toward the transit district. They concluded the presentation with eleven recommendations representing judgments of GMA Research resulting from the survey.

Mr. Langton commented that the local taxpayer does not financially support the service and if they were taxed directly they might view it differently. Mr. Herbert asked if, in their opinion, there was a possibility of getting people to ride the system at the least used times and places to avoid increasing ridership during the peak hours. Mr. Judsen replied that the survey indicated increased ridership has already occurred in the non-peak areas of recreation and school, and that further gains could be made in shopping usage.

The chairman thanked Messrs. Young and Judsen for their presentations and assured them the survey will be of value to the staff and board in the future.

MOTION
VOTE

Mr. Herbert moved to accept the Market Research report as presented in the agenda packet. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

MOTION
VOTE

ORDINANCE NO. 17: Mr. Randall moved for the board to consider Ordinance No. 17. The motion was seconded by Mr. Langton and carried unanimously.

MOTION
VOTE

Mr. Langton moved that Ordinance No. 17 be read by title only. Upon second by Ms. Roemer, the motion was unanimously passed. Mr. Kohlen read, "Ordinance No. 17. An ordinance altering the territorial boundaries of Lane County Mass Transit District." The chairman advised that copies of the ordinance were available for any persons interested.

ORDINANCE NO. 18: The chairman said he would recommend that Ordinance No. 18, an ordinance for increasing the payroll tax, not be considered at this meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 19: Mr. Randall said he believed it would be to the advantage of the district if it could refer an income tax to the voters rather than to arbitrarily impose the tax. He said he had discussed the issue with legislative counsel and believed there could be a method whereby the district could refer it

to the voters. Mr. Booth commented that it would be appropriate if a payroll tax ordinance could be submitted for a vote to the employers who are paying it.

Mr. Bryson reported that the 1979 legislature repealed the statute which allowed districts to refer measures to the voters.

MOTION

Mr. Langton moved the board consider Ordinance No. 19 for an income tax and the motion was seconded by Mr. Booth. The motion passed with favorable vote by Booth, Herbert, Kohnen, Langton, and Roemer, and was opposed by Randall.

VOTE

MOTION

Mr. Herbert moved that Ordinance No. 19 be read by title only. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously. Mr. Kohnen advised that copies of the ordinance were available, and read, "Ordinance No. 19. An ordinance imposing an income tax and providing for administration, enforcement and collection of the tax." Mr. Randall encouraged the board to limit the amount of the tax to \$20 per \$10,000 income. In discussion of setting the rate of tax, Mr. Kohnen advised that amendments can be made to the ordinance following the second reading and prior to adoption.

Emerson Hamilton suggested the board should determine the revenues that will be needed and establish the rate accordingly. He asked that all information to be considered by the board should be disseminated in advance so the chamber could give input.

Mr. Kohnen summarized the discussion, noting that further consideration will be given to the rate to be used and that legal counsel will search out revisions in the statutes to determine if the district has the legal right to referral.

MOTION

VOTE

BANK SIGNATURES: Upon motion by Mr. Langton, duly seconded, the board unanimously approved the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the funds of Lane County Mass Transit District on deposit at Citizens Bank of Oregon, may be withdrawn in amounts not exceeding \$10,000 on any one instrument on checks, drafts, receipts or advises of debt given or signed in the District's name by any two of the following:

Kenneth H. Kohnen, President
Ted J. Langton, Treasurer
Phyllis P. Loobey, General Manager
Paul L. Shinn, Director of Administrative Services
Michael M. Merrell, Accountant

and that the funds of Lane County Mass Transit District on deposit at Citizens Bank of Oregon may be withdrawn in amounts exceeding \$10,000 on any one instrument of checks, drafts, receipts or advises of debt given or signed in the District's name by any two of the following:

Kenneth H. Kohnen, President
Ted J. Langton, Treasurer
Phyllis P. Loobey, General Manager

SECTION 18 GRANT APPLICATION: Upon motion by Mr. Langton, duly seconded, the board unanimously approved that staff submit to the Oregon Public Transit Division applications for Section 18 funding on behalf of Junction City and Lane Transit District, that staff request that Junction City's application receive

priority for discretionary funding and that staff request that the Public Transit Division release capital funds to fund the remainder of Lane Transit District's Section 18 program.

CONTRACTING SERVICES IN ENERGY EMERGENCY: The board received copies of a draft agreement that would allow the district to contract for bus service with School Districts 4J and 19 and with Dorsey Bus Company in an energy emergency.

MOTION

Mr. Randall moved that staff be authorized to negotiate contracts with school bus operators for bus service in an energy emergency and submit to the board for approval. Mr. Langton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VOTE

PROGRESS REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL PROCEDURES: Ms. Loobey reported on steps being taken to implement recommendations for internal control which were included in the 1978-79 audit report. She advised that a final report will be presented later.

REPORTING: Regular monthly reporting was presented for board review in finance and budget, marketing, ridership and operations.

Ms. Loobey reported that ridership has increased dramatically and there is concern of inadequate capacity to meet the higher ridership period of January and February.


Mr. Booth said he sees an opportunity for riders to pay their fair share in attempting to approach a 25% farebox/operating cost ratio and he would like for the board to consider it. Mr. Kohlen assured that the issue would be included in the December board meeting agenda. Ms. Loobey reminded that if an income tax is enacted, riders will be paying not only a fare but also an income tax.

Ms. Loobey advised that the staff will report to the board on the results of meeting with the bankers and will present a projection of revenues from the payroll tax, the income tax, and farebox.

MOTION

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Roemer moved to adjourn the meeting to Monday, December 3, 1979 at 7:30 p.m. in City Hall. Mr. Randall seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

VOTE


Secretary