

Minutes 9 Town Transit Special Board of Directors Meeting  
Essex Town Hall Meeting Room A  
March 13, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 AM by the chair, Leslie Strauss.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Leslie Strauss led the pledge.

ROLL CALL

A quorum was established by the Secretary Susan Tyler with the following board members present: Peter Bierrie, John Forbis, Joan Gay, Susan Tyler, Angus McDonald Jr. (left the meeting at 11:00 AM), Charlie Norz and Leslie Strauss.

Absent: Noel Bishop, Virginia Zawoy

Also in attendance: Joseph Comerford, Executive Director

HADDAM MEMBERSHIP

Joe informed the board that he had been approached by Haddam's First Selectman, Robert McGarry, who expressed Haddam's interest in becoming a full member of the Estuary Transit District. Discussion included determining the weighted vote of approximately 3.46, a net neutral dollar local contribution and the allotment of the town's municipal grant money. We have two existing routes through Haddam, and it is geographically a logical adjunct. The discussion was quite positive.

John Forbis made a motion to invite Haddam as a full voting member of 9 Town Transit subject to satisfactory assessment of dues by 9 Town Transit. Joan Gay seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Joe will inform Mr. McGarry so that Haddam may move forward at their town meeting with their request to be accepted for full membership.

BUS DISPOSAL RESOLUTION

Susan Tyler read the resolution to dispose of buses 1201, 1501, 1502 and 1504, as said vehicles are beyond their useful lives. Peter Bierrie made the motion, seconded by Charlie Norz. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Transit Study Presentation discussion

Leslie Strauss read her notes resulting from the previous meeting's Lower CT River Valley Transit Study Presentation. Susan Tyler then paraphrased her notes. Both of these were distributed by email to the board prior to this meeting. Joan Gay questioned how the DOT intended to provide funding for the consolidation project when it hasn't yet paid the significantly smaller amount it currently owes us.

The consensus was that we have no choice but to honor the DOT's request to consolidate with Middletown Area Transit. The great concern is that any agreement with the DOT and Middletown is made with very tight contractual language. John Forbis outlined requirements of an acceptable contract including but not limited to 1. A detailed 3 year operating model 2. Legal enforceability 3. Completed audited financials for MAT and a combined financial audit provided and paid for by DOT 4. Evaluation of MAT's rolling stock 5. Outstanding

contingencies 6. Collective bargaining agreement 7. Triennial review 8. Funding for Route 81 for 2 more years. A complete list of John's suggested terms has been given to Joe.

Joan Gay suggested that we prioritize our concerns and demands. Joe will compile a complete master list of suggestions from this meeting and send out a survey so that the board members can prioritize their consolidation terms.

Additionally the board authorized Joe Comerford to inform the study consultants that the 9 Town Transit Board will consider the Regional Service Delivery option #3 (one board, one budget, one payroll); shared O&M facility in Middletown, shared O&M facility along the shoreline (preferably Old Saybrook or Westbrook). The term "satellite storage in Old Saybrook" to be eliminated. The Board's consideration is contingent upon satisfactory resolution of operational, governance, capital and financial concerns.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Susan Tyler made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Peter Bierrie. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Strauss, Chair 9TT