

Minutes of the Emergency
Southeast Vermont Transit Board of Directors
March 19, 2020 Meeting
45 Mill Street, Wilmington, Vermont
706 Rockingham Road, Rockingham, Vermont

President Chip Stearns called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm. Those in attendance and constituting a quorum were as follows:

Board Members: Chip Stearns, Joel Bluming, Seth Boyd, Matt Mann, Jamie Storrs, and Randy Capitani, Scott Tucker, Wendy Harrison entered late

Invited Guest: Tim Bradshaw

Staff Present: Randy Schoonmaker, Rebecca Gagnon, Christine Howe and Keith Johnson

New Business:

Update on Operations during Coronavirus:

Chip talked about SEVT having some drivers leaving due to coronavirus concerns, for their well-being. This has happened at other transit companies as well. Rebecca, Randy and Christine have been in constant communication and we are running low on drivers on the Current side. We need to ask the Board to give Chip, Rebecca, Christine and Randy authority to make daily changes on services we provide based on staffing levels. Randy gave an update on the changes based on route priorities. Keith will also be a part of the decisions. The MOOVer is not really affected at this time. It was discussed that critical care, medical trips, demand response are the priorities, then the fixed routes based on staff and needs. Suggestions included running a Saturday schedule in Brattleboro Monday-Saturday to allow for coverage but matching the amount of drivers needed. Other routes were discussed. Randy showed the number of drivers lost which is the equivalent of three Brattleboro drivers, thus prompting the two-bus system. The 70 routes were also discussed. No staff that are currently out are exhibiting symptoms, or being tested, everyone is self-quarantining based on personal decision.

Motion 1: Seth motioned that Chip, Randy, Keith and the team have the authority to make daily operational decisions until further notice. Joel seconded the motion. Matt asked about our cleaning and sanitizing procedures. Randy explained that we spray or fog the air and we are wiping down surfaces. We are getting close to running out of supplies. Rebecca and staff have made their own sanitizer. We have asked VTrans for help with supplies. Wendy asked if there are limitations and Chip said the extreme would be if we ran out of drivers to run the routes. Wendy would like recruiting for drivers to remain a focus, which Christine and Rebecca are already doing. Motion passed 7-0, Chip abstained since he is being granted authority.

Board Member Comments: Randy C asked for clarification on why drivers were leaving. Keith explained that it is based on personal underlying health issues. Joel asked if there is anything further

that we can do to protect the driver. Seth said this a very daunting process with a lot of training involved and therefore not something that is not an option, as we have done as much as we can with PPE. Scott asked what we will do when things settle down and drivers would like to come back to work. Keith is looking up all the FMLA and EMLA regulations. We would like everyone to come back, but there are question about. This is still TBD but yes we would have them back. Seth encouraged everyone to think ahead, and let the Board know if they can help wherever they can. Matt reiterated what Scott brought up and would we have drivers come back at the same level as when they left. Randy C asked if we could classify drivers that left on sabbatical instead of termination? Keith explained we are in flux right now and the emergency relief package that was just signed will change things, but as of now some drivers are on FMLA which protects them and allows them to use accrued sick time etc. A motion by the Board at a future meeting to bring the people back at the same level would be all that's needed. Randy C asked for a future standing agenda item regarding employees and bringing them back at the same level they left with the same benefits etc. Tim said VTrans supports everything you spoke about. We are sending daily updates from VDH and other transit providers. We are seeking to add public transit add to Vermont's essential employees. We are also asking that VTrans get some priority for cleaning supplies. We support everything SEVT is doing.

Adjourn: Joel motioned to adjourn; seconded by Randy C, meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm