

GUNNISON VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

MEETING MINUTES

March 24, 2023

Crested Butte Town Hall

A. INTRODUCTION

Janet Farmer called the meeting to order at 8:04 am

Board members in attendance: Janet Farmer, Boe Freeburn, Jason MacMillan, Liz Smith, Laura Puckett Daniels, Steve Morris

Also present Scott Truex, Leia Morrison, Bill Tomcich, Jon Galle, Jeff Moffat, Rick Lamport, Danny Bartelli, John Norton (ZOOM), and community members.

CONSENT AGENDA

B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

C. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 17TH MEETING MINUTES

D. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FINANCIAL REPORT

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. OLD BUSINESS

2) Air program reports

3) Bus program reports

Boe Freeburn ***moved to approve the consent agenda*** but to move agenda item #14 under old business to before item 1. Liz Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

F. OLD BUSINESS

3) Airport Update

Rick Lamport reported that the TSA checkpoint is going in after the ski season. JSX has had to wait on the ramp for quite a while before taxiing to the gate. The General Aviation (GA) ramp project continues. Hopefully, by mid-spring, the solar array will be up and running.

4) Tourism and Prosperity Partnership Association - John Norton reported that we are experiencing a slowdown in tourism due to national economic reasons. We are active in preparation for our summer flights. We are seeing very high ticket prices for the summer. All lodging properties have been alerted to the tourism slowdown.

5) Bus service update

Scott Truex reported that we again broke a record last month with a ridership of 38,200, which is up 40% from last year. We continue to improve the reporting of the environmental impact of the RTA bus system. On April 3rd, we will have 28 round trips for the spring schedule. We have been asked to participate in Crested Butte's Transportation planning efforts, and we have been

asked to do a retreat with the Crested Butte group on June 12th from 9-1. Our letters of support for the second Denver bus have been successfully received. Jon Galle said the only concern is the continuing problems with the CNG fueling station. He recommends that Gunnison County work winterize the system better this summer. Jon believes that the driver shortages should be remedied by next fall.

6) Update on Bus Purchase

Scott Truex reported that we have a fully executed grant agreement from CDOT. Those buses should be arriving in mid-April.

7) Update on Housing Purchase

Scott Truex reported that we closed on the two new Lazy K units. Liz Smith suggested that the RTA create a long-term policy for rentals via study and analysis.

8) 2022-23 winter air service update

Bill Tomcich reiterated the fact that we are beginning to experience a slowdown. Counting both the inbound and outbound numbers, January and February were record months since 2009. January had a 63.7% load factor (one point higher than the previous year., For February, the load factor was 77.8% overall load factor. For March, the passenger numbers and load factors will be down, which matches the trend across the industry. JSX is disappointed with its results this winter season. JSX experienced a 60% load factor for Dallas and a 45% load factor for Austin. MRG discussion took place. Rick Lamport reported that they hadn't lost any flights due to runway conditions, so he commended his staff.

9) 2023 Summer Air Service Update

Bill Tomcich reported serious concern over summer bookings because of the cost of tickets. United is committed to flying to Houston for summer weekend-only service. JSX has loaded four flights a week from Dallas. Of the 22 SCASD grants awarded in the first year, only two routes have been activated. There was a discussion regarding American Airlines versus JSX in the winter. The board had a discussion with Bill Tomcich on how the fare breakdowns work.

10) 2023 Airport survey

Bill Tomcich reported that 1,474 surveys had been completed but were light on the JSX flights. By route: 476 surveys from Dallas, 73 JSX, 652 United from Denver, and 374 United from Houston. We may have the final survey results by the June meeting.

11) Bus Storage Facility Construction Update

Scott Truex reported on the progress of the facility construction. We expect the facility to be operational in May or June, but we may want to wait until the fencing is up. Laura Puckett Daniels suggested having an Open House for the community once the facility is complete, and discussion ensued.

12) Gunnison Transit Center Discussion

Leia will be meeting with the Gunnison City Council on April 11th. GVRTA staff met with Gunnison Community Development Director Anton Sinkewich, and issues of parking and loss of the soccer field came up. Leia will also meet with Andie Ruggera before the April City Council Meeting. The RTA hopes to continue the discussion with the Gunnison City Council in May.

13) Capital purchases

Scott shared future capital purchases with the board.

14) Review of the RFQ process

Scott presented to the council how we would issue an RFQ for future contractor agreements.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No one here for public comment

H. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

I. New Business

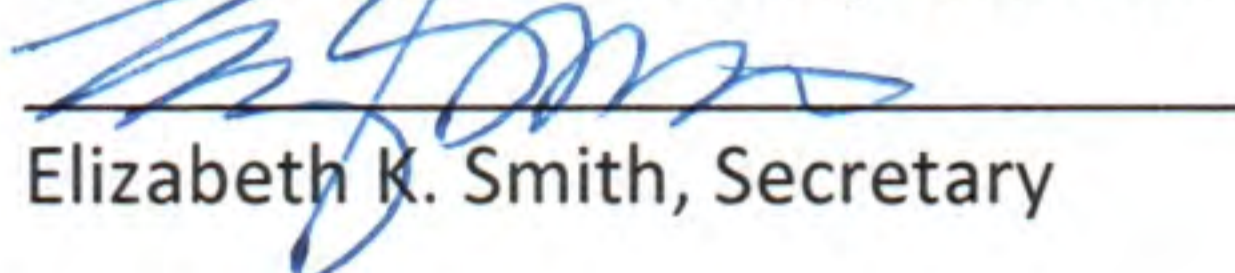
- 1) Authorization of the Board Chair to sign a Master Lease Agreement with AEX, Inc. to allow AEX, Inc. to lease Lazy K. Units 104A and 107A to their employees providing services for the GVRTA

Laura Puckett Daniels ***moved to authorize the Board Chair to sign letters of support.***

Boe Freeburn seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 am

These minutes are the final version approved by the Board of Directors of the Gunnison Valley Transportation Authority at its meeting on May 5, 2023.


Elizabeth K. Smith, Secretary