



WOTA – WESTERN OAKLAND TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

250 W. LIVINGSTON RD., HIGHLAND, MI 48357

MINUTES: BOARD MEETING – November 19, 2024, at 9:01 am – *Highland Township Auditorium, 205 N. John St., Highland*

AGENDA

PRESENTER

ACTION

1. Call to Order – 9:04
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll – RHamill, RKowall, EAsdell, KPlafchan, GKullis, GWall, KViener, MKoerner
 - a. Absent: DLWhitt
 - b. Also Present: Anthony Bartalotta, AGrzymkowski
4. Approval of Agenda *“Motion to Approve Agenda” RKowall, GWall*
5. Approval of Consent Agenda *“Motion to Approve Consent Agenda” GKullis, RKowall*
 - a. Oct Board Meetings Minutes
 - b. Oct Bank Statements Summary Pages & Reconciliations
 - c. Oct MI Class Reconciliation
 - d. Oct RWP Reconciliation
 - e. Oct P&L & Receivables Report
6. Public Comment (Agenda items): None
7. Director Report- KViener
 - a. Update on training meeting on Veteran’s Day, revised options for health care as well as sensitivity training, reviews, etc. SMART \$619,000 thank you to GWall for reaching out to his commissioners to catch up on payments. Attended MDOT training last Tuesday and scheduled a meeting with MDOT, SMART, WOTA, NOTA, OPC, RTA on Dec 2nd. Determined all WOTA vehicles can be part of TAM plan. MIO TAC grant has been applied for this week. Rider issues reviewed – please suggest they contact the Director.
 - b. Legal Update – MKoerner – Review of revised IGA and parking contracts (see 9a). IGA: modifying based on funding from general funds to the millage. Mechanism for removal for members and to foster a harmonious relationship between the communities. Housekeeping changes. Q: Disputes? Bring to the Board and escalate it that way.
 - c. HR/Marketing Update – AGrzymkowski – 2 new employees, marketing updates.
 - d. Financial Update – KJohns-Littleton – N/A
 - e. Operations/Maintenance Update – \$67,000 from MMRMA for 507. 18 new transits wrapped and cameras upfitted. Looking to hire another 19 drivers to meet the demand. As of 2025 all communities will be open for Sunday service.
8. New Business
9. Old Business

- a. Vehicle parking contracts – MKoerner (included in packet). provides for the terms of parking their vehicles at different locations, times to move the vehicles, snow removal, insurance/damage obligations, etc.
- b. Waterford turned in approved and signed Parking Contract.

10. Public *Comment* (non-Agenda items)

11. Board Member *Commentary/Discussion*

- a. RKowall: Need to provide transportation services for specific activities: Dublin senior center requesting use. Would like a vehicle available to use for each township for little events. This could cause potential liability issues. Limited on what we can and can't do, such as remaining within travel area, during our hours, we can do the trip as a pickup/drop off, not able to wait. MKoerner – careful to not conflict with Charter Service rules. RKowall returned with it may be an option outside of WOTA between communities and warrants further conversations to not include WOTA.
- b. KPlafchan: Happy about sensitivity training, for the drivers to feel what it's like to have some of the special needs, it will only expand the kindness and compassion. Very appreciative of extra steps WOTA takes to serve its clients, especially as a parent of a special needs adult.
- c. GKullis Questions: Does the 8,200 rides include cancels? No. These were completed rides. WOTA has a 20-30% cancellation rate; and booked over 10,000 rides for October. We have a waiting list for fill-ins. Comments: is there any way to provide accompanying people to surgery? WOTA doesn't have the staff nor the liability. Please don't park in grocery store because it's noticeable and residents see a vehicle there for a period of time, but don't realize it is multiple vehicles coming and going, they just think it is a WOTA vehicle that's not in use, yet they cannot get a ride because told there are no openings.
- d. Welcome to the board Anthony Bartalotta, new Waterford supervisor, as Gary Wall is moving from supervisor to trustee on the Waterford Board.
- e. KViener informed the board of upcoming BOC vote for budget.

12. Next Meeting Date

- a. December 17, 2024

Adjournment - *"Motion to Adjourn at 9:55 am" RKowall, GWall,*