

**Utilities Committee**

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

1

1 The Meeting of the Utilities Committee was called to order at 7:02 p.m. on Wednesday, April 4,  
2 2018. It was noted that the meeting had been announced and a notice posted at City Hall.

3  
4 Roll call was taken, with the following members present: Ald. Jim Olson, Ald. Harvey Bertrand,  
5 Ald. Bob Muth, Village of Holmen Trustee Dawn Kulcinski. Village of West Salem Trustee  
6 Leroy Brown arrived with the meeting in progress.

7  
8 Also Present: Financial Services Director/Treasurer Fred Buehler  
9

10 **Item 2 – Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

11  
12 Motion by Dawn, second by Ald. Bertrand, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as  
13 printed and on file in the City Clerk’s Office.

14  
15 On voice vote, motion carried.  
16

17 **Item 3 – Public Input (limited to 3 minutes/individual)**

18  
19 Ald. Olson called three times for anyone wishing to provide public input and closed that portion  
20 of the meeting.  
21

22 **Consideration and possible action on the following items:**

23  
24 **Item 4 – MASS TRANSIT**

25  
26 a. MTU Transit financials (Jim Krueger)

27  
28 No report.  
29

30 b. Shared Ride Transit:  
31 1. Financials (Justin Running or Jeff Burckhardt/Fred Buehler)

32  
33 The February 2018 statistics are as follows:  
34

- 35 • **West Salem Trips:** 522 (an increase of 111 from February 2017)
- 36 • **Holmen Trips:** 1,139 (an increase of 134 from February 2017)
- 37 • **Onalaska Trips:** 2,805 (a decrease of 578 from February 2017)
- 38 • **Total Trips:** 4,466 (a decrease of 333, or 6.94 percent, from February 2017)
- 39 • **MTU Passes:** 578 (a decrease of 121 from February 2017)
- 40 • **Agency Trips:** 806 (an increase of 138 from February 2017)
- 41 • **Year-to-Date Trips:** 9,315 (a decrease of 529 from February 2017)

## Utilities Committee

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

2

- 42 • **Revenue:** \$32,363 (a decrease of \$1,168, or 3.48 percent, from February 2017)

43  
44 Fred said, "I want to make a follow-up in reference to last month. There were some discussions  
45 as to why the revenue was close to, but there was a fair amount of differential in the ridership.  
46 These are your following answers. The agency fare ridership was up, but the difference in cost  
47 between agency fare is \$5 versus \$3 per trip. [Also], fewer people are riding at a reduced rate."

48  
49 Motion by Ald. Muth, second by Dawn, to accept the Shared Ride Transit Financials for  
50 February 2018.

51  
52 On voice vote, motion carried.

- 53 2. Update regarding any issues with the Shared Ride program
- 54 a. Draft on Public System Cost Efficiency Report

55  
56  
57 Fred said much of the information included in committee members' packets is more comparison  
58 between the City of Onalaska and other Shared Ride programs. Fred noted that Ben Vondra of  
59 the Wisconsin Department of Transportation had stated the City of Onalaska's performance "was  
60 outside the levels." Fred said he asked Ben if that was to be interpreted as a positive or a  
61 negative statement, and Ben responded, "*Thanks for your question. Based on the data,*  
62 *Onalaska's service is considered out of compliance with the performance measures. This is not*  
63 *necessarily bad because transits across the state have very different operations. It is simply a*  
64 *way for the WisDOT and the transit system to measure performance against a statewide peer*  
65 *group. Specifically for the period "farebox recovery," more than one standard deviation below*  
66 *the peer group. Operating expenditures per passenger, more than one standard deviation above*  
67 *the peer group. Passenger revenue per hour, more than one standard deviation above the peer*  
68 *group. Please feel free to pass this and any other questions about the report and provide*  
69 *comments for consideration.*"

70  
71 Ald. Olson asked Fred to simplify what he had just explained.

72  
73 Fred said it does not mean the City of Onalaska is doing things improperly even though it is out  
74 of compliance.

75  
76 Ald. Muth referred to page 7 of the report and read the following: "*The City of Onalaska does*  
77 *not appear to have any obvious operating practices that would indicate performance issues.*  
78 *However, the MPR tentatively scheduled for 2019 or 2020 may reveal opportunities to enhance*  
79 *efficiencies. Due to the aforementioned reasons, WisDOT is considering the City of Onalaska in*  
80 *compliance with Step Four Analysis.*"

81  
82 Fred noted that MPR stands for Milestone Progress Report.

83  
Reviewed 4/6/18 by Fred Buehler

**Utilities Committee**

Wednesday, April 4, 2018

3

84 Motion by Ald. Muth, second by Ald. Bertrand, to accept the Draft on Public System Cost  
85 Efficiency Report.

86

87 c. Holmen Transit Input (Holmen Rep.)

88

89 No report.

90

91 d. West Salem Transit Input (West Salem Rep.)

92

93 No report.

94

95 e. Onalaska Transit Input (Onalaska Rep.)

96

97 Ald. Muth, who did not run for reelection, noted this is his final Utilities Committee meeting and  
98 thanked Dawn, Leroy, Ald. Bertrand and Ald. Olson. Ald. Muth said it has been a pleasure to  
99 serve on the committee and stated he believes it is an important committee as it keeps track of  
100 the Shared Ride Program, which he believes is necessary for citizens.

101

102 Ald. Olson said it has been a pleasure to serve with both Ald. Muth and Ald. Bertrand.

103

104 **Item 5 – UTILITIES**

105

106 No report.

107

108 **Adjournment**

109

110 Motion by Ald. Olson, second by Leroy, to adjourn at 7:09 p.m.

111

112 On voice vote, motion carried.

113

114

115 Recorded by:

116

117 Kirk Bey