

SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

2 pm, Wednesday, 22 October 2008 ▪ DNR Office, 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd, Fitchburg, WI

- 1) Chair, Harvey Kubly, called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm.
- 2) **Roll Call:** Dane Co. – Jim Haefs-Flemming, Judy Olson, and Paul Ziehli; Green Co. – Harvey Kubly, Oscar Olson, and Ron Wolter. **Others present for all or part of the meeting:** Joni Graves (SWWRPC / SCWRPC Admin.); Amy Seeboth (SWWRPC); Frank Huntington, Vicki Schaefer, and Jim Tracey (WisDOT); Dana White-Quam (WI DNR).
- 3) **Acceptance of Graves' certification of public notice was made by consensus.**
- 4) **Motion approving the Agenda, prepared by Graves, with the correction that Oscar Olson is the new Treasurer / Kubly / O.Olson / passed unanimously.**
- 5) Action on approval of the *draft* Minutes from the July 2008 meeting was deferred.

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

- 6) **Correspondence & Communications:** The Chair welcomed Ron Wolter (Green County appointee); others were asked to make introductions and Amy Seeboth, SWWRPC planner, introduced herself.
- 7) **Financials / Treasurer's Report** – Oscar Olson distributed copies of the report and said the beginning cash balance in the checking account was \$5,346.12 (as of June 30th) with a current balance of \$176.01 after payments to Stephenson County and a \$10 charge for dropping below the required minimum balance.
 - **Motion approving the Treasurer's Report, as presented, and authorizing Kubly and O.Olson to sign a withdrawal of up to \$5000 from one of the Commission's CDs / Ziehli / Wolter / passed unanimously.**

Bills received by the Commission were from Johnson Block for \$1000 for the Audit and \$195 from Kubly for reimbursement of miscellaneous expenses (postage, etc from 2000 on). O.Olson said that for the type of checking account that the Commission uses, the bank balance should be above \$1000.

- **Motion authorizing payment of the bills as presented / Ziehli / Wolter / passed unanimously.**

Graves said that the \$3230.44 paid to the SWWRPC was for staff services for Q1 and Q2 and that the invoice for Q3 and Q4 would be presented in January 2009 and would not exceed the \$4000 of the contract, without special authorization, and that it would also include expenses for Q3 and Q4.

- **Motion approving the Audit of the Commission's 2007 Finances / O.Olson / Ziehli / passed unanimously.**

- 8) **Memorial for Robert Hoesly** – Kubly said that Green County Clerk Mike Doyle had told him that there are boxes of plaques and nowhere to put them in the Courthouse. Kubly said that the Wisconsin & Southern Railroad (WSOR) locomotive honoring Bob has been painted and is in use. Kubly summarized other initiatives and suggested that, if there is a plaque, it should be given to the family – rather than something that would wind up in a box in the Courthouse. He also said he would discuss the possible joint memorial with Jed Gant, prior to the PRTC meeting (24 October). After several other options were discussed, Kubly concluded that he would talk with Mr. Gant. As to the cost, he said they would need to keep it reasonable, noting that money that comes from the Commission is taxpayer's money and that in Green County it would never come from County funds but would come from money contributed by individual Commissioners.

- 9) **Illinois Tax Issues** – Graves provided an update and summarized the recent difficulties in determining whether all of the parcels were accounted for without a map and the lack of response from Stephenson County, IL, to requests for a map with parcel IDs. After some discussion and an over view for new Commissioner Wolter, the Commission took action.
 - **Motion authorizing the Commission's attorney, Eileen Brownlee, to request verified map from county staff for verification of the status of taxes for parcels owned by the Commission / Ziehli / Wolter / passed unanimously.**

- **Motion authorizing the Commission’s attorney, Eileen Brownlee, to verify the amount paid to-date by the Commission for taxes in Stephenson County, IL, and to invoice the Illinois DNR / Ziehli / O.Olson / passed unanimously.**

FOLLOW-UP: Graves will notify Commissioners if and when the tax reimbursement from the Illinois DNR is received.

10) SCWRTC Staff Report – Joni Graves, SCWRTC Administrator, said she had nothing to report that wasn’t covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

11) WisDOT Report – Staff had no formal report.

12) DNR Report – Dana White-Quam, DNR Regional Park Specialist, said they did receive the transportation enhancements grant, with the City of Fitchburg, and said she believes it was ranked number one and that it was amazing to hear the review committee’s positive comments on the trail when last year the grant application hadn’t made the top 20 with the committee. Construction on the funded work is expected to begin in Spring 2009 from Purcell Rd to Lovell Lane and this will complete the trail.

On another issue, she said that the crossing over Highway 11 at Monroe is at-grade across a 4-lane divided highway. A study had deemed that an overpass was not needed and WisDOT staff had recommended routing riders to roadways, although technically the DNR cannot route traffic to adjacent roads. Although there have been no documented incidents, as trail use increases the DNR thinks that this crossing will be inappropriate as-is. White-Quam asked about the DNR’s rights, given the rights accorded to the corridor under the federal rails-to-trails program. Vicki Schaefer (WisDOT) spoke to the history and said that she would try to follow-up.

13) Motion adjourning the meeting at 3:35 pm / O.Olson / Wolter / passed unanimously.

The next quarterly meeting of the Commission will be on the 4th Wednesday of January 2009.