

SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN RAIL TRANSIT COMMISSION

28 Jan 2009, at 2:00 p.m. | WisDOT, Rm 701 (Kitty Hawk Conf Rm), 4802 Sheboygan Ave, Madison, WI

- 1) **Harvey Kubly, Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.**
- 2) **Roll Call – Present:** Jim Haefs-Flemming (Dane), Harvey Kubly (Green), Oscar Olson (Green), and Paul Ziehli (Dane); **Absent:** Judy Olson (Dane) and Ron Wolter (Green). **Others present for all or part of the meeting:** Joni Graves and Amy Seeboth (SWWRPC); Eileen Brownlee (Kramer & Brownlee); Frank Huntington, Roger Larson, Vicki Schaefer, and Jim Tracey (WisDOT).
- 3) **Grave’s certification of public notice was accepted by consensus.**
- 4) **Motion approving the Agenda, prepared by Graves / Ziehli / O.Olson / passed unanimously.**
- 5) **Motion approving the 23 July draft Minutes, prepared by Graves / O.Olson / Ziehli / passed unanimously.**
- 6) **Motion approving the 22 Oct. draft Minutes, prepared by Graves / Ziehli / O.Olson / passed unanimously.**

REPORTS & COMMISSION BUSINESS

- 7) **Correspondence & Communications - NA**
- 8) **Financials / Treasurer's Report** – Oscar Olson distributed the report and provided an overview, noting that he had transferred some money from a CD to cover the shortfall, per the Commission’s direction at its last meeting.

- **Motion accepting the Treasurer’s Report, as presented / Ziehli / Haefs-Flemming / passed unanimously.**

Pending Bills – Olson summarized bills received by the Commission, including the invoice from SWWRPC for staff services for the second half of the year. Graves noted that it exceeded the terms of the contract due to extra time spent on trying to resolve issues with the Illinois taxes. She said would leave it to the Commission’s decision to determine whether it should be paid in total. The other invoice was from Eileen Brownlee for 2008 legal services.

- **Motion to pay the bills as presented / Ziehli / Haefs-Flemming / passed unanimously.**

2007 Audit of the Commission’s Finances – Kubly said he had reviewed it and thought it was fine.

- **The final Audit of the Commission’s 2007 financials was approved by consensus.**

2008 Audit of the Commission’s Finances – Kubly said he had spoken with Johnson Block and, despite the terms outlined in their letter, the cost would be \$1000 and they would accept hardcopy documents rather than electronic.

- **Motion authorizing Johnson Block to proceed with the Audit of the Commission’s 2008 financials for a cost not-to-exceed \$1000 / O.Olson / Haefs-Flemming / passed unanimously.**

2009 Draft Budget – Graves distributed copies (see below), noting that there were a great number of holes, since revenue amounts were undetermined and, after discussion, action was deferred.

- **Motion deferring action on the draft Budget until after Item #9 on the Agenda / Ziehli / O.Olson / passed unanimously.**

- 9) **Recommended Memorial for Robert Hoesly** – Kubly said Graves had followed up with Ken Lucht, WSOR, and the railroad has offered to provide pictures of the Hoesly locomotive and proposed to have one or more pictures framed and presented to the family. WSOR has offered to have offered the locomotive present for an event this summer, in conjunction with the Pecatonica Rail Transit Commission. Both Commissions have committed \$100 each towards expenses such as the framing of the picture with text. There was consensus to proceed with this plan.

FOLLOW-UP: Coordinate picture(s) / memorial text / framing / event with PRTC, WSOR, and Hoesly family.

Illinois Tax Issues – Graves summarized Seeboth’s trip to the Stephenson County Land Records Office, multiple follow-up contacts, and creation of maps showing the parcels that comprise the trail, other parcels, and questions about ownership. Brownlee said that “Addendum A,” which has been used as a “master list” was prepared by George Bellovics, IL DNR as part of the earlier PTax3000 effort to get taxes waived. She said she had asked him to verify it and he had attested that it was complete. She also reminded the Commission that the effort was withdrawn after two submissions were apparently not going to be approved. She recommended that a title search be done. Despite efforts, back to Ken Lucht’s time at SWWRPC, to have correspondence sent to the Commission’s Platteville address, the County was still sending mail to the address in Dane County. Additionally, in Nov. 2008, Oscar Olson visited Stephenson County to talk with their Land Record’s Office about SCWRTC parcel ownership and received little information. After further discussion, Schaefer proposed that SCWRTC representatives arrange to go to Illinois for a meeting.

- **Motion authorizing Brownlee and other SWWRPC representatives to go to Illinois to try to resolve the tax issues and Brownlee with initiate the meeting /** Kubly, Graves, Schaefer, and others expressed interest in attending and other attendees were recommended / **Ziehli / O.Olson / passed unanimously.**

In further discussion it was agreed that Brownlee would contact the CN’s legal department about their tax bills.

10) **Staff Report** – Joni Graves, SCWRTC Administrator, presented a draft 2009 Staff Services agreement with the SWWRPC, noting that the approved amount in last year’s contract had been for \$4,000 plus expenses.

- **Motion approving the 2009 contract for continued staff services from SWWRPC for the same terms - \$4,000 plus expenses / Ziehli / O.Olson / passed unanimously.**
- **Motion approving the draft budget, as presented [see right], with several acknowledged unknowns related to the status of the Illinois tax reimbursements / Ziehli / O.Olson / passed unanimously.**

PRELIMINARY 2009 SCWRTC BUDGET FOR DISCUSSION Jan. 2009	
Projected Expenses for 2009	
SWWRPC - Staff Services & Expenses	\$4,400.00
Kraemer & Brownlee - Legal Services	\$1,500.00
Johnson Block - 2008 Audit	\$1,000.00
Illinois Taxes (to be reimbursed by IL DNR)	?
Miscellaneous	\$200.00
Total:	\$7,100.00
Projected Revenue for 2009	
IL DNR Reimbursement for Prior Taxes	
IL DNR Reimbursement for Taxes Paid in 2009	
Total:	?

- 11) **WisDOT Report** – Huntington provided an impromptu update on the state transportation budget, related to rail rehab funding, as forwarded from WisDOT to the Governor.
- 12) **DNR Report** – Dana White-Quam, DNR Regional Park Specialist, had emailed Graves that she would be unable to attend and that she had no update.
- 13) **Comments** – Kubly thanked Seeboth, on behalf of the Commission, for her work on the tax parcel mapping.
 - **Motion adjourning the meeting at 3:21 p.m. / Ziehli / O.Olson / passed unanimously.**

NEXT REGULARLY SCHEDULED QUARTERLY MEETING: 22 April 2009