

**MEETING MINUTES
SPOT**



**SELKIRK PEND OREILLE TRANSIT
February 17, 2022**

NANCY LEWIS CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 11:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Colleen Culwell, David Sims, Gary Kunzeman, Nancy Lewis, Ron Smith, Shannon Pittman, Zale Palmer

Absent: Clif Warren, Wally Cossairt

Public Comment Period: No public present.

MINUTES: Approve minutes of the January 20, 2022 regular meeting as presented.

Motion to Approve: Ron Smith/ Gary Kunzeman. All in favor. Approved

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

A. Accept Financial Reports for January.

Motion to approve financial reports: Nancy Lewis/ Zale Palmer. All in favor. Approved

B. Approve payment of prepaid bills and outstanding bills.

Motion to approve payment of prepaid bills and outstanding bills: Zale Palmer/ Ron Smith. All in favor. Approved

STAFF REPORTS:

Ridership: David Sims reported that ridership for January increased across the board, except for Boundary County. Total ridership was 25,137, compared to 13,015 for January 2021 and 24,322 for January 2020. This was our highest ridership ever (even pre-Covid), with the bulk of the riders on the Mountain Route. Boundary County had a significant decrease for the month. Hopefully a one-time dip. The federal mask mandate is scheduled to expire in March 2022.

Operations: David was notified at the end of January that the company we ordered the new route buses from will no longer be making the buses. The bus purchase process will need to start over. The driver status has improved and getting more interest. We will be losing one driver due to shoulder issues. We will need to transition from DoubleMap this summer/fall 2022. Bonner General will no longer be performing drug tests. There are a couple of other local testing companies that we will try to work with. We can also use Boundary Hospital for testing. The Mountain Route challenges continue. One bus is still down waiting for parts. Bus #32 was taken to Brown's Northside five times in the last two weeks. We have been using one of the Schweitzer buses, which is not in the greatest of condition. Might take the part needed from bus #32 to get the other bus back into operation, so we won't have to use the Schweitzer bus. The new mountain buses might arrive at the end of March.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Boundary County Service Development Committee:** Nothing to report.
- B. Finance Committee Update:** The Finance Committee reviewed the financial reports. Expenses are under budget, even with higher fuel and repair costs. Also discussed the rent options.

ACTION & DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. Consider office rent options.** David asked the property manager last fall to let us know if the warehouse space becomes available. They notified David the warehouses will be available. Our current rent is \$505, including utilities and snow removal. There was discussion about the layout and size of the warehouses and the proposed rent, utilities, and snow removal costs. It was proposed that we look into buying property and building our own structure. There has been sporadic vandalism at our current location. If we decide to build, we might consider shifting funding requests from the 5311 grant to the CARES Fund grant to preserve match funds. Need more information from the property manager on the total costs involved in the warehouse spaces.
Motion to not consider moving into the back part of the building and warehouse spaces. Ron Smith/ Gary Kunzeman. Approved.
- B. Consider mountain route operations.** This route is a struggle. It would still be a struggle even with the new buses. There are not enough resources to handle the operations. It was discussed a couple of years ago to switch to an alternate model where we contract out the operations to another operator, which could be Schweitzer. Schweitzer would still pay their match if they were the operator. This would go out to bid to other operators. We would pay the operator a fixed cost per mile. They would use our buses. This is the same model used by other ski resorts. David would like to pursue discussions to switch to this model.
Motion that David continue to discuss the alternate model with Schweitzer and to take the mountain route out to bid with other contractors. Nancy Lewis/ Gary Kunzeman. Approved.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBERS: Gary Kunzeman asked if we should switch the type of buses used for mountain route. Buses have fan and height issues. The passengers and drivers do prefer the rear engine type buses. David also mentioned that we are getting set up to train drivers to obtain passenger endorsements.

Meeting adjourned 11:50 a.m.