MEETING OF RMTD GOVERNING BOARD

October 29, 2024, | 4:30 PM

210 E Progress Drive, Dixon, IL

**Roll Call** @ 4:30 PM Ermir Ramadani, Board Chair

Greg Sparrow, Vice-Chair

Aaqil Khan, Treasurer, arrived at 4:46 pm

Larry Callant, Board Member arrived at 4:46 pm

Jeremy Englund, Board Member

Greg Gates, Executive Director, RMTD

Kendra Hull, Secretary

**Guests** - Kristy Jones

Steve Davis

Public Comment - None

Budget Session

$130,782.49 loss currently. Week and a half ago it was -$450,000. Went over the handouts.

Greg and Kristy did refinements of the budget. They made a comparison as to what the last fiscal year was like with expenses. Last year there was $22,000 in legal fees. That was a one-time expense. Possibly $8,000 in legal fees this year. The marketing budget was cut, and it may cut more. Personnel expenses are more realistic now. Took out the Administrative Assistant position. Saved $50,000 wages, $20,000 for insurance / benefits and taxes by doing this. The Custodian was in the budget twice, once with administration and on a separate line. This also saved money.

Transit Desert kick off meeting is next week with NIU. $50,000 will be going to them for contract employee services. We have put in the full amount of budget, state, and federal funds.

Hydrogen – was put in. We can expect to be able to use administration funds for this study.

State unemployment - We are categorized as a reimbursable employer. Kristy recommends building something into the budget every year for this. We do not know who will file, or how long they will be on unemployment. Currently, we do not believe we will have any expenses regarding this. We do not pay in. We pay the actual claims.

Purchase Operators - Dropped amounts for providers. Could possibly have savings in this area.

Continuing to review audits for last year. There is potential for cost savings here.

We must go out for Bids for Greyhound again. Kendra is reviewing a procurement that we can use for this. There may be an opportunity with the renegotiation.

Greg has had conversations with larger companies regarding advertisements on the buses. This would create additional revenue.

IMRF is 7.27%.

Spoke to Sauk Valley Bank. Want to sit down with them to see what our options are to maximize as much as we can. Once we get the information on our options, we will bring it to the Board before investing.

Kristy has also done some research on creating a Foundation.

Winnebago is not included in this current budget. That is the potential for more revenue, at some point.

Once we receive new buses, this will help lower our expenses. Some of the buses currently have single digit MPH.

CIRMA is something we may want to research as a cost savings. Greg Sparrow was Chairman of CIRMA. You don’t need to be sponsored. They have counties, which include Lee and Ogle. CIRMA is property / liability. Jeff Billeter is the Chairman of Finance. Mike Zema is in Lee County. The agreement we have right now states that we must be in the policy for one year.

Meeting with Ryan Harrison tomorrow. He covers one of our providers, who is paying significantly less than we are paying.

Work Comp - may be able to get a slightly better rate. Probably won’t find much savings on this.

Winnebago should begin heavier with administration expenses first then adding operator expenses later.

Oregon property – IDOT cannot sign off on the property if there will be permanent changes to the property that was not us. This is due to the federal funds that were used to purchase the property.

Plan to cover the deficit –

* Letters are ready to go to target businesses to see what we can generate as donations.
* Fundraising and netting something back to the system.
* Grants – keep applying.
* Service contracts – meeting scheduled for next week at Rochelle Community Hospital. OSF has something scheduled for November 12th. Plan to reach out to Mercy Health, once they are open.
* Bus advertising – we have a plan that will be functional and a good starting plan.

We have $63,000 that will be recognized this year, since it was not recognized last year.

Other Business

Christmas bonuses – hold over until next month.

Close to auditing and IT contracts.

Closed Session, if necessary

* 1. Personnel - NA

Adjournment – Motioned - Greg Sparrow

Second Motion - Aaqil Khan

Next Regular Board Meeting: November 14, 2024 @ 4:30 PM