

Exeter Local Transportation Committee

Wheelwright Room of Town Office building

July 27, 2015

Chairman Don Woodward convened the meeting at 4:13 PM in the Wheelwright Room of the Town Office building. Members present were: Sherry Mastromarino and Transportation Assistance for Seacoast Citizens (TASC) representative Carol Gulla.

Mr. Woodward noted because there was not a quorum of members present, no action requiring a vote of the Committee would occur.

1. Review of 2nd quarter motor vehicle registration data

Mr. Woodward, reviewing the printout from the Town Clerk for the Revenue and Expenses of the Transportation Fund noted the revenue from the Transportation fee for \$31, 065 combined with the \$2930.00 in revenue from the Senior Taxi Ticket program totaled \$33,995.00.

Reviewing the printout with the figures from Lamprey Healthcare, COAST, the Senior Taxi ticket program, TASC and Rockingham Nutrition and Meals on Wheels transportation (RNMOW) posted a total of \$15,801 in expenditures; Ms. Gulla noted TASC was submitting a quarter invoice for \$4000.00 so not reflected in report. Mr. Woodward noted he felt the fund was in good shape; his goal is to keep at least one quarter of the funds in reserve.

Referring to the report from Town Clerk noting the number of registrations to date (also listing figures from same time period in 2014) noted a decrease of 141 vehicles although the value increased. But with 9,207 vehicles being registered the decrease was not significant. The transportation fund receives its revenues from the number of vehicles registered and not the valuation.

From the RNMOW report, the number of Exeter clients served for the year is 686; number of clients served 3,092. Ms. Gulla questioned if the number of rides listed were those trips bringing seniors to the Center for the group meal as well as the “outside” trips for various other functions. Mr. Woodward did not have that number nor did he know if it was broken down. Ms. Gulla noted TASC works closely with Rockingham on the scheduling of needed rides to fit the constraints of the rider and those of the Senior Center for transportation to and from the meal service.

Ms. Gull distributed a summary of the activity of TASC during 2015 for Exeter; 732 rides completed for a total of 3318.46 in Driver time hours/minutes. The number one destination in Exeter is for medical appointments, followed by Portsmouth, Hampton and Epping. She noted the DVA (Disabled Veterans Administration) also runs a van service with volunteer drivers to the VA hospital in Manchester and the VA clinics at Pease with another clinic in Somersworth. It is very limited service as there is the need to coordinate with appointment schedules and the qualifying percentage of service related medical issues. TASC drivers have even gone into Boston for medical appointments; because drivers are volunteers can do the longer distance runs.

Draft Minutes

There is no charge for the rides; are town supported. Donations/grants gladly accepted but grant monies are difficult to obtain for operating expenses.

2. **New Coast bus route 7 first impressions.**

With the comment the Exeter Economic Development Commission (EEDC) plans to take a “group” ride on the Route 7 bus, complete with possible balloons to highlight the bus stops, as a means to create awareness of this service. It was re-iterated that some sort of community transit system is of economic value to the town: would like to see a member of the EEDC be part of the Transportation Committee.

Asking if any feedback was received from previous riders of the Route 7, Mr. Woodward offered they have not used it because they haven’t figured out how. Ms. Gulla said she has been working with one regular passenger going into Portsmouth and they determined it would be four stops before he got to downtown Portsmouth but then he might not be able to get back to Newmarket to get bus back to Exeter.

Ms. Gulla said she would welcome the opportunity to provide more education on the community transit system; several venues for her to speak were suggested.

With no further business meeting ended at 5:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Raub
Recording Secretary