October 22, 2015

In Attendance:
Jerre Van Hoose, City of Springdale, Chairman of the Board
Alan Ley, City of Bentonville
Don Marr, City of Fayetteville
John Reeve, Madison County

Mike Lanier, Proxy to Jerre Van Hoose
Shawn Shrum, Proxy to Jerre Van Hoose

Tom Kieklak, Attorney

From ORT:
Joel Gardner
Kendall Luallen
Karen Eccles

From NW Arkansas Regional Planning Committee:
Tim Conklin
Celia Scott-Silkwood

From NW Arkansas Democrat Gazette:
Ron Wood

Meeting was called to order by Jerre Van Hoose. Proxies from Mike Lanier and Shawn Shrum were acknowledged. John Reeve made the motion to adopt the agenda for the meeting; Don Marr made a second motion; all approved.

No public comment was made.

Minutes from the last meeting, August 27, 2015, were reviewed and approved, as distributed, by a motion from Don Marr and a second motion by John Reeve. All others approved.

An application for the 2016 5311 Grant was reviewed and approved by the Board. ORT will submit the grant application.

Joel informed the Board of ORT’s need to update financial authorizations at its banking institutions. Don Marr made the following motion:

The Board of Directors gives banking authority for all financial decisions to be made on behalf of Ozark Regional Transit to the Executive Director and the Chief Financial Officer.
John Reeve made a second to this motion and all were in favor.

The financial reports were reviewed, as presented and available, for August and September. All information was not as complete as is usual for Board Meetings due to the recent loss of Jim McCulloch and absence of Mindy Campbell, who has been out on leave. Revenue is showing a positive variance with the addition of funds from OMP and George’s, support the work force routes until the end of December. Revenue also shows positively due to the Charter revenue from the Razorback games. Fare box revenue continues to show a negative variance. This is due partially to the purchase of passes costing less than the cost of a daily fare purchase. Payroll expenses have continue to exceed budget due partially to insufficient staffing creating the demand for overtime.

Ridership data was presented by Kendall Luallen and supported by graphs on pages 11-19. September 2015 was an overall record month in ridership. Paratransit continues to rise in statistics of ridership over the year. The report shows a breakdown of details by route as well as by city and county. This report shows the trends for both the month of September 2015 as well as the full year since January.

The Executive Director’s report was presented by Joel Gardner, E/D. The items reviewed and available in his report included:

- The Tiger 2015 grant application having not yet been awarded.

- 2016/17 STP-A Grant: ORT and Razorback Transit will split $700,000+ in 2016 and $200,000 in 2017.

- Technology updates and difficulties have been occurring in tandem at ORT. The buses are being installed with tablets which will help track all trip manifests for each vehicle. There have been some firmware difficulties in this installation and initiation processing, but it is being addressed around the clock. There have been technical difficulties with the payroll program at ORT, which have been in a state of constant support and review the last two months.

- Springdale Route 65 is the workforce route being funded by George’s. This has been running successfully for two months and continues to increase in ridership weekly.

- Rogers Route 53 is the workforce route being funded by Ozark Mountain Poultry (OMP).

- The FTA is still resolving its Highway Trust Fund issues and ORT anticipates receiving the final FY2015 2/12’s allocation for daily operations at any time. These funds are necessary for the budget allocations for 2015.

- Auto X Training is being performed by the Springdale Fire Department with the assistance of ORT at the bus facility on the dates of October 25, 26 and 27. ORT is providing two of the retired (due to totaling) vehicles for the Fire Department to train it’s firemen to
successfully extract victims from vehicles involved in accidents. Volunteers from ORT’s staff are role playing the victims; two local moulage artists are contributing real life injury makeup free of charge.

- The 2016 Budget Meeting was set for November 17th at 10:00 a.m. at the NWARPC. This is a work session for the budget.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors was set for December 15, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

John Reeve made a motion to adjourn the meeting; all agreed in favor.