

**River Valley Metro September 24, 2024**  
**Metro Centre, 1137 E 5000 North Road, Bourbonnais IL 60914**  
**Board of Director Meeting Minutes**

Chairman Argyelan called the regular monthly River Valley Metro Board of Directors meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

**Attending Board Members:** Chairman Mark Argyelan, Vice-Chairman Jerry Pearce, Treasurer Nick Allen, Board Members: Ron Jackson, David Hinderliter. Absent: Secretary Kelly St. Aubin.

**Staff Members Present:** Managing Director Siron Sims, Director of Administration Mandy Taylor, Director of Operations Michelle Brutlag, Facilities Director Tim Goodman, Project Manager Cortney Koning, COO Ken Munjoy, Transit Officer Tobe Fulford

**Others Present:** Aroma Park Trustee Kenny Blake, National Express G.M. Lashanda Brown Smith

**Pledge of Allegiance led by:** Ken Blake

**Public with Business to Come Before the Board:** None

**Consent Agenda:** Nick Allen made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Jerry Pearce seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken of those in attendance, with all in favor. Consent agenda approved.

**Communications:**

**Chairman's Report:** Mark Argyelan

Received two more compliments regarding our service to Midway Airport.

**Managing Director's Report:** Siron Sims

Mr. Sims will be at the APTA Transform Conference later this week. Next year, the conference and expo will be held in Chicago, making it convenient for us to attend.

We just received the report regarding 1805's fire. We will forward it to IDOT and start working with IDOT to get a replacement.

Jeff Waxman, from IDOT, stated that the buses that we have on order will start shipping when they contract with someone to perform final inspections.

One of our buses was rear-ended on the way to Midway Airport. There were no injuries, and the bus was able to complete its route before being removed from service for repairs.

**Operations Report:** Lashanda Brown Smith

We have 61 operators, but several are out for sick leave, etc. We will continue to have one class per month.

Ken Munjoy reported that August ridership this year was 56,350, compared to 54,492 last year. Year-to-date ridership is 3.4% up from last year.

**Complaints/Comments:** Michelle Brutlag

There were 12 complaints in the last month. CCS and Transit Officers provided 100 rides. We received 1 compliment.

**Board Report:**

Mark Argyelan appreciated the newspaper ads featuring our employees.

**New Business**

**Board Member Oath**

Ken Blake took the board member oath and now represents Aroma Park on our board.

**Planning Study**

We did not receive any responses to our RFP for someone to conduct a study to help determine the feasibility of merging Kankakee County's rural transportation system into River Valley Metro. Input from others indicated that our RFP may have made the project look more like a Comprehensive Operations Analysis. We will rewrite the RFP and repost it.

In a newer development, McLean County, which has been managing rural transportation for multiple counties (including Kankakee County), will no longer be doing so. Kankakee County is considering taking over this role.

**Old Business**

Maintenance Facility

Brickwork is done and interior walls are being built. IDOT is aware of what we need for the bus lifts, and the lift frames must be installed next week. IDOT's Deputy Director is working on this for us.

**Questions from the news media:** None

**Other Business to come Before the Board:** None

**Executive Session:**

None

**Adjournment**

Jerry Pearce made a motion to adjourn at 8:38 AM. Motion was seconded by Nick Allen and passed unanimously in a voice vote.