

## **Item 23-0581: Authorization to enter into a second option year with Lamers Bus Lines Inc. to provide the Downtown Appleton Trolley Services**

**Fox Cities Transit Commission**

Tues, May 23, 2023, 3:00PM

**Note: the audio was glitchy in parts so the parts that were not recorded properly I've indicated with brackets and ellipses [...]**

**George Dearborn (Chairman) 08:02**

And then the next item is authorization to enter into second option year with Lamers Bus Lines to provide for downtown Appleton trolley service. I need a motion to approve.

**Alderperson Vaya Jones (District 10) 08:19**

Motion to approve.

**George Dearborn (Chairman) 08:20**

Second?

**Greg VandeHey (Commissioner) 08:21**

Second.

**George Dearborn (Chairman) 08:23**

Opens up for discussion. Ron?

**General Manager Ron McDonald (Valley Transit) 08:24**

Thank you, Chair. So, I just want to give a little bit of background because I suspect there's some questions. Last year when we went through the discussion of the trolley, there was some concern, and it was asked if we could pursue our own trolley at that time. Since that, I've talked to the manufacturers of trolleys. There's been technological problems with electric trolleys, and that has not come into fruition yet. So, we made a decision to move forward with the trolley service again this year. Had a very good conversation with Lamers and their service.

**General Manager Ron McDonald (Valley Transit) 09:01**

They're anticipating starting service on June 1. This will actually get to Council final—for final approval if approved [...] on June 7. So, they've agreed to start the contract before it could even be voted on, whether [...] rate increase.

**General Manager Ron McDonald (Valley Transit) 09:17**

During our discussions for the service, Mr. Lamers had indicated, and I verified by research, that the rate of inflation for transportation sector in the previous 12 months was 14%. And our discussion was well if we can split that 14 just have a 7% increase [...] previous contract rate, that would be workable for Mr. Lamers and Lamers Bus Lines.

**General Manager Ron McDonald (Valley Transit) 09:46**

With that I would make a recommendation that we accept that proposal, and the proposed rate would be \$97.60 per hour for the 2023 trolley season. And that rate is within our budget. We can handle that in the budget [...] service. So, it's my recommendation to proceed with a contract.

**George Dearborn (Chairman) 10:09**

Any questions from anyone? Certainly a good service with the downtown.

**General Manager Ron McDonald (Valley Transit) 10:15**

Let me just. [...] Ron, your hand is still raised. I don't know if that's a new one. If it's not, take it down. I think you have to click on it again. Otherwise, there we go. Thank you, sir.

**George Dearborn (Chairman) 10:36**

So, I guess there are no other questions. All those in favor, please say aye. Aye. Thank you motion carries.