CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the North Central Regional Transit District Board was called to order on the above date by Commissioner Dan Barrone, Chair, at 9:16 a.m. at the Jim West Transit Center, 1327 Riverside Drive, Española, New Mexico.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Moment of Silence

3. Roll Call

Ms. Lucero called the roll and it indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

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<th>Members Present:</th>
<th>Elected Members</th>
<th>Alternate Designees</th>
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<tr>
<td>Los Alamos County</td>
<td>Councilor Geoff Rodgers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rio Arriba County</td>
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<td>Mr. Tomás Campos [later]</td>
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<td>Taos County</td>
<td>Commissioner Daniel Barrone</td>
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<td>Santa Fé County</td>
<td>Commissioner Miguel Chávez [later]</td>
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<td>Nambé Pueblo</td>
<td>Mr. Lonnie Montoya</td>
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<td>Pojoaque Pueblo</td>
<td>Mr. Tim Vigil [by phone later]</td>
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<td>Ohkay Owingeh</td>
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<td>Ms. Christy Memejo</td>
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<td>San Ildefonso Pueblo</td>
<td>Ms. Lillian Garcia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Santa Clara Pueblo</td>
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<td>Ms. Mary Lou Valerio</td>
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Staff Members Present
Mr. Anthony J. Mortillaro, Executive Director
Ms. Glenda Aragon, Financial Manager
Mr. Jim Nagle, Public Information Officer
Ms. Dalene Lucero, Executive Assistant
Mr. Mike Kelly, Transit Operations Manager
Ms. Stacey McGuire, Projects and Grants Specialist

Others Present
Mr. Peter Dwyer, Legal Counsel
Ms. Elizabeth Martin, Stenographer
Mr. Antonio Sierra, Rio Grande Sun
Mr. Greg White, NMDOT
Mr. Gary Forrest, Sipapu Ski and Summer Resort
Mr. Andrew Martínez, Rio Arriba County
Ms. Linda Montoya Roseborough, New Mexico State Treasurers Office
Ms. Kierné Bargas, New Mexico State Treasurer's Office
Ms. Victoria Hanges, New Mexico State Treasurer's Office
Mr. George Brooks, Ski Santa Fe
Mr. Ben Abruzzo, Jr., Ski Santa Fe
Ms. Kiera Hay, Albuquerque Journal North
Mr. Jim Luttjohann, Santa Fe Convention and Visitors' Bureau

4. INTRODUCTIONS

All present introduced themselves to the Board.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Ring moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Valério seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous (9-0) voice vote. Mr. Campos, Mr. Vigil, Commissioner Chávez and Councilor Bushee were not present for the vote.
6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 4, 2013

Councilor Rodgers moved to approve the minutes of October 4, 2013 as presented. Ms. Valério seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous (9-0) voice vote.

[Stenographer's Note: At the end of the meeting, Commissioner Chávez asked that the October 4, 2013 minutes reflect him as the primary representative. The Board requested that the October minutes be amended and then approved at the December meeting.]

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

Mr. Campos, Councilor Bushee and Commissioner Chávez joined the meeting at this time.

ACTION ITEMS FOR APPROVAL/DISCUSSION:

A. Discussion and Adoption of Resolution 2013-26 Providing Authorization to Invest District Monies in the Local Short-Term Investment Fund in the State of New Mexico Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP)

Ms. Aragon gave background information, noting that the NCRTD had adopted an investment policy. But the funds for investment had been placed in an interest-bearing checking account at Los Alamos National Bank. Now District staff were seeking Board authorization as required by LGIP to participate in the Short Term Investment Fund which was a permitted investment option noted in the NCRTD investment policy. Ms. Montoya-Roseborough was present from the State Treasurer's Office to provide a presentation on the LGIP.

Ms. Montoya-Roseborough gave an overview of the LGIP using a power point presentation. The LGIP was established under Section 6-10-10.1, NMSA 1978 as a short-term investment fund consisting of deposits from governmental and quasi-governmental entities. The statute offered eligible participants a voluntary investment option intended to safely generate market returns by utilizing the purchasing power of a large pooled fund. The goals were to provide safety and liquidity as well as a positive yield but not at the expense of the first two goals. All investments grouped together had an average term of 60 days. She indicated that currently $3.8 billion was being managed in the LGIP. At the end of her presentation, she introduced Ms. Hanges who gave a market overview of the fund.

Mr. Vigil joined the meeting by telephone at this time.
Ms. Hanges invited Ms. Bargas to give further information about the LGIP. Ms. Bargas explained more fully the various options that were available in allocation and described the returns being experienced. Currently, there were 300 accounts among 130 entity members of the LGIP. She gave a disclaimer and explained that the LGIP was not a registered Money Market Fund and was not regulated by the Securities Exchange Commission. The LGIP was created in the statute to provide an effective investment alternative for municipal entities and was not available to the public. She gave further details about the fund and clarified that a board resolution was required in order to participate in the LGIP.

Mr. Campos indicated that several entities had participated and during the downturn had to take a hit.

Ms. Hanges said what happened was that the largest Money Market Fund had crashed. When Lehman Brothers failed in 2008, what happened was that everybody started taking money out and that caused the loss. So now the LGIP managers manage the money in house. In response to the loss, they now managed themselves. They worked with S&P and the NM Board of Finance. The set up the “Good LGIP and the “Not Good LGIP” with the bad in the midst of litigation and the Good was continuing to grow. Whatever remained after litigation and after attorney and court fees would be distributed to the member organizations. 99.67% was refunded originally. Over time, they have written down those assets. And they communicate regularly with the participants regarding the status of court cases and help participants work with their auditors. They no longer had investments in those funds. On their website one could see what was in the portfolios and what they were doing with the investment.

Councilor Bushee thanked them for their presentation. It was well done. She asked who their rater was.

Ms. Montoya-Roseborough said it was Standard and Poor’s.

Councilor Bushee asked if they had any strategies on getting the yield up.

Ms. Montoya-Roseborough said it was always a tradeoff of Risk vs. Reward. LGIP requirements were safety and liquidity. When rates were up they would do better. Their administrative fees were low for this conservative pool and they were proud of maintaining minimal risk.

Ms. Mermejo asked how much the District was planning to invest.

Ms. Aragon said she would make a presentation next on that topic.

Chair Barrone thanked the Treasurer’s Office staff for their presentation and asked Ms. Aragon to make her presentation.

Ms. Aragon said they were asked to look at alternative investments that might have a higher yield. The research was completed. Alternatives for 12 months such as Certificates of Deposits were compared. The results in the packet were brought to the Finance Subcommittee including diversification options. She went through the alternatives as shown on page 47 of the packet.

Mr. Mortillaro said they discussed this with the Finance Subcommittee and they recommended the Board’s consideration of this.
Councilor Rodgers asked if he could talk a bit about the logic used to come up with this strategy.

Mr. Mortillaro explained that in terms of savings and checking they looked at how much cash would be needed on a daily basis to cover expenses. He reasoned that 12% was a little over 1½ months of the expenditure budget. It could be exceeded on a monthly basis. In terms of LGIP it is safe and secure and highly liquid and provides a 24 hour turn around. We should look at short term CDs for a higher yield and look at maturity dates to have them turning around when the funds were needed.

Councilor Rodgers noted that between savings, checking, etc., they would have four months of operating resources.

Mr. Mortillaro agreed. Reserves would be talked about later and that represented over nine months of operating costs. He would like to look at a better return for them.

Commissioner Chávez appreciated this discussion. He had participated in some of the Finance Subcommittee discussions. They were looking at a 2 or 3 pronged approach based on the packet information. The safest route was the LGIP. It was a cautionary approach. The resolution speaks to that and not what was in packet. The dollar amount would be $1.9 million dollars to LGIP. He was more comfortable with that now and that was what resolution spoke to. If the Board moved forward with that, he asked what staff would do with the remaining money.

Mr. Mortillaro clarified that everything being proposed here was in line with the finance policy approved by the Board.

Commissioner Chávez asked if that was referenced in the resolution.

Mr. Mortillaro said it wasn’t. The resolution reflects what the LGIP needed. The balance would be in line with the investment policy which said “safe investments” and to ensure they had x number of months of operating funds. The Board with its motion could put that in any subsequent motion.

Commissioner Chávez appreciated that and explained he was only focused on LGIP.

Commissioner Chávez moved to approve Resolution 2013-26, authorizing investment of 28% of available funds into the New Mexico Local Government Investment Pool. Councilor Bushee seconded the motion.

Councilor Bushee asked what yields for CDs and Treasury Bills they were looking at.

Ms. Aragon said the highest yield was 1% with banks regarding CDs and they fluctuated with an average in the range of 0.8% to 1.5%.

Councilor Bushee liked the diversified approach and wondered if the motion should be broader.

Mr. Mortillaro thought two motions were needed.
Mr. Dwyer clarified that the motion was exclusive to the LGIP and did not preclude future motions.

The motion passed by roll call vote with Los Alamos County, Rio Arriba County, Santa Fé County, Taos County, Nambé Pueblo, Ohkay Owingeh, Pojoaque Pueblo, San Ildefonso Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, Town of Edgewood, City of Española, and City of Santa Fé voting in favor. Tesuque Pueblo abstained.

Councilor Bushee moved to authorize staff to proceed with the alternative investment schedule as presented. Commissioner Chávez seconded the motion for purposes of discussion.

Mr. Dwyer reiterated the percentages in the staff recommendation.

Commissioner Chávez asked if they needed a benchmark to start with.

Ms. Aragon said they would be longer terms and higher yields and with no management fees. Staff would manage that internally.

Mr. Campos cautioned that some of the federal grants Rio Arriba received had a caveat that they could not invest those funds. He asked if any RTD's grants had that provision.

Ms. Aragon said there none that she knew of.

Mr. Mortillaro explained that this was the District’s reserve funds, not federal money. Federal money was for daily operations and capital expenditures.

Mr. Dwyer said he went through those agreements and did not see any restrictions but agreed to go through them again to make sure.

Mr. Mortillaro added that according to District policies staff had to come back quarterly to provide an investment report. The benchmark was the 3-month T bill. So the Board would be able to assess the progress. In the policy the priority was to select investments for Safety, Liquidity and Yield last.

The motion passed by roll call vote with Los Alamos County, Rio Arriba County, Santa Fé County, Taos County, Nambé Pueblo, Ohkay Owingeh, Pojoaque Pueblo, San Ildefonso Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, Town of Edgewood, City of Española, and City of Santa Fé voting in favor. Tesuque Pueblo abstained.

B. Discussion and Adoption of Resolution 2013-27 Authorizing Direct Deposit Payment for North Central Regional Transit District Vendors

Ms. Aragon provided an overview of the issue. The Vendor direct deposit program would pay the vendors electronically by the Automated Clearing House (ACH) direct deposits. Currently the RTD was sending out hard checks. With this program electronic payments would be made directly to vendors who elected to
receive such payments and would go into their checking account. It would thus ensure an accurate financial transaction through Los Alamos National Bank. It would be more timely, checks would not get lost in the mail, processing would be quicker and more efficient and a record of payments electronically would be provided. A list of vendors for this program was on page 50 in the packet. She explained that the District would identify specific vendors that would best utilize the program and would submit a W-9 and enrollment form to participate. The Finance Subcommittee met and discussed this and recommended Board approval.

Councilor Rodgers asked if this was a final listing or if other vendors could enroll in it.

Mr. Mortillaro said this list was an example and new vendors that could enroll in the program the same way.

Ms. Aragon added that currently any vendor payments that exceeded $20,000 had to have two signatures on the check. With the direct deposit program, that would no longer be required. She added that the Finance Subcommittee had recommended that staff report back to the Board on the status of the program in six months.

Chair Barrone asked if the Board needed to amend the bylaws regarding the two signature requirement for checks of $20,000 or more.

Mr. Dwyer said no, that it was not in the bylaws.

Mr. Mortillaro gave a little background on this requirement. By disclosing this to the Board, the Finance Subcommittee asked for the six month report.

Councilor Bushee asked what the Bank of America lien was for.

Ms. Aragon explained it was for day to day operations using the purchase card.

Councilor Bushee noted that janitorial service costs $2,000 a month. She asked if the RTD had ever considered having staff do this.

Mr. Mortillaro agreed. He said it was a staff position initially. But in investigating the costs, he found that contracting out was less expensive. They could always go back to a staff position if they had problems with the vendor. At this time, bringing on a janitor position would cost approximately $38,000. The janitorial contract was for $24,000.

Mayor Pro Tem Salazar moved to adopt Resolution 2013-27 authorizing direct deposit payments for NCRTD vendors and directed staff to report on the status of the program on a quarterly basis.

Commissioner Chávez seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous roll call vote with Los Alamos County, Rio Arriba County, Santa Fé County, Taos County, Nambé Pueblo, Ohkay Owingeh, Pojoaque Pueblo, San Ildefonso Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, Tesuque Pueblo, Town of Edgewood, City of Española, and City of Santa Fé voting in favor and none voting against.
C. Discussion and Adoption of Resolution 2013-28 Authorizing a Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 so as to incorporate the Transportation Alternatives program (TAP) Federal Funding Award

Ms. Aragon provided a brief overview of the Resolution. She explained it was required in order to amend the FY 14 budget and incorporate the recent award of the Federal TAP grant through the NPRPO Board on September 25, 2013. The NMDOT approval was anticipated to be made in late October and early November 2013. She recalled that the Board had authorized the grant application in Resolution 2013-25 at the October Board meeting.

The application was to develop an ADA Transition plan at bus stops and shelters by designing and constructing modifications recommended within the plan. The finance Subcommittee reviewed the budget amendment at their October 25 2013 meeting and recommended approval to the Board.

Ms. McGuire said the details were on page 55 of the Board packet. She said the award was given verbally and confirmation was received this week that the award totaled $215,736 and required a 14.56% local match, bringing the total project funding to $252,500. The award had increased after all requests were processed and additional money remained to be given out.

Several Board members expressed their gratitude to staff for doing a good job on this.

During the discussion, Mayor Pro Tem Salazar’s telephone connection was lost.

Mr. Montoya moved to approve Resolution 2013-28 as presented. Chair Barrone seconded the motion.

Mr. Campos said he was struggling a little with the math.

Ms. Aragon said the final award amount was $252,500 with $215,736 as the federal share and $36,764 local match.

The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote with Los Alamos County, Rio Arriba County, Santa Fé County, Taos County, Nambé Pueblo, San Ildefonso Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, Tesuque Pueblo, Town of Edgewood, and City of Santa Fé voting in favor and none against. Ohkay Owingeh, Pojoaque Pueblo, and City of Española were not present for the vote.

D. Discussion and Adoption of Resolution 2013-29 Authorizing the Revision of the District’s Reserve Policy

Mr. Mortillaro provided a brief overview of this draft revision of the Reserve Policy which was in the packet on pages 56 and following. He explained that the original reserve policy was 25% of our funds as un-designated reserve. That 25% would have been $2.3 million this year. But the actual reserves are $6.9
million. So he brought this policy revision and it would break down into several categories. He referred to a chart on page 82 of the packet showing the break out in a moderate case scenario that reflected recommendations from the Finance Subcommittee. In their October 25, 2013 meeting the Finance subcommittee discussed the existing reserve policy in light of the substantial progress that had been made. As a result, they recommended that the Board consider amending the reserve policy to separate the fund balance into designated and un-designated portions. He said they had to be judicious in how they spend un-designated reserves and not use the reserve for day to day operations.

Mr. Mortillaro identified the four designated reserve funds as follows:

The Reserve for Operations would stabilize the budget. The goal here was to annually direct 15% of the unrestricted reserves to this fund for meeting unexpected decreases of revenue of more than 5% as well as unexpected increases in costs of more than 5% of budget that could not be rebalanced within existing budgeted resources to protect against reduction of service levels. This reserve would be maintained at a maximum of 25% of annual operating revenues.

The Reserve for Capital Purchase and Replacement had a goal of 5% from unrestricted reserves for fleet replacements, added fleet and replacement or acquisition of fixed assets. It would be maintained at a maximum of 15% of annual operating revenues.

The Reserve for Service enhancements would build up fiscal resources in anticipation of future service enhancements before potential service enhancements would be enacted to have a minimal impact on the operating budget. Resolutions to approve such enhancements would include authorization to use this fund for that purpose as required. The target balance should be sufficient to cover operating expense of the proposed service enhancement for a three-year period.

The Reserve for Debt Service would fund debt service for issuance of bonds equal to the highest year of debt service obligation of the District. These funds would be held by the trustee for payment of related debt service. Currently the District has not outstanding debt.

Councilor Bushee asked where reserve funds were kept now.

Mr. Mortillaro said they were kept in a savings account.

Councilor Bushee asked why the Finance Subcommittee chose to increase the capital reserve investments.

Mr. Mortillaro said it would provide more help for replacement needs if the District didn’t get federal monies for them.

Councilor Bushee asked if there was flexibility there.

Mr. Mortillaro said they when they invested they would invest the whole amount but the interest would be reallocated based on what bucket they were in.
Councilor Bushee surmised that instead of going up to 15% they could just leave it more liquid.

Mr. Mortillaro agreed that was how it worked.

Councilor Bushee asked when the GRT allocation would sunset.

Mr. Mortillaro said 2023 was the 15 year sunset.

Councilor Bushee asked about the fluctuations in the coming years and Mr. Mortillaro explained the chart further.

Commissioner Chávez moved to approve Resolution 2013-29 amending the adopted Financial Policies. Mr. Campos seconded the motion.

The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote with Los Alamos County, Rio Arriba County, Santa Fé County, Taos County, Nambé Pueblo, Ohkay Owingeh, Pojoaque Pueblo, San Ildefonso Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, Town of Edgewood, City of Española and City of Santa Fé voting in favor and none against. Tesuque Pueblo was not present for the vote.

E. Discussion and Review of Service Request Update for Sipapu, Ski Santa Fé, and Town of Taos

Ms. McGuire referred to her single page handout and went through each item, one by one.

Mr. Gary Forrest, General Manager at Sipapu, thanked Ms. McGuire and the Board. Sipapu was looking for service and emphasized that they wanted this to be successful and would like the Sipaputoptic option. It would allow staff members as well as guests to utilize the bus services. Hours for the other option were not as workable. He announced they would open November 16.

Chair Barrone asked if there were any dollar amounts put on any of these.

Ms. McGuire said the cost would be around $3,500 monthly but she didn't have hard numbers yet.

Chair Barrone asked if they would be able to move forward or if it was dependent on negotiations with Town of Taos due to duplication of services with the Chili Line.

Ms. McGuire said it could be some savings to the RTD. They were still in midst of conversations and not solid or concrete yet.

Chair Barrone said even with cost savings the money was tapped out.

Ms. McGuire agreed they didn't have excess money and they would have to reconfigure routing.
Ms. Mermejo asked how quickly they could get this done with them opening Nov 16.

Chair Barrone thought they were doing all they could do.

Ms. Mermejo said she was ready to make a motion to do it.

Chair Barrone agreed this was needed in this rural area but wondered if it would work without the savings from the Town of Taos.

Mr. Mortillaro recalled in their last discussion the RTD Board indicated that they would not provide weekend service unless there was a contribution from the private sector for that. The District didn’t do weekend service now. If Sipapu did provide funding, the District could quickly move to that service delivery. For the current weekday service the District could add the stop at a minimal cost. However the time that the bus goes and comes was not optimal for employees to use to get there and back. We would have to reconfigure the route and that would impact other riders trying to get to school in Taos. Short of having two buses going in opposite directions it would not benefit the workers. If we could get the savings from Taos we could get something to work. That was the balancing act we have today.

Ms. Mermejo asked Mr. Forrest if he would consider a trial basis during the weekday and willing to make a contribution.

Mr. Forrest said they are not willing to make contributions to weekday only service but would for weekend service. They were looking forward to having any service. Even with employees there was the possibility to rework schedules. If it came down to only the number 2 schedule they would still like to have it. The pre 8am and after 5 schedule during the week would be best for weekday service. If it worked, and they were willing to contribute to weekend service, he asked what would happen.

Ms. Mermejo asked if the RTD would have to continue to work with Taos.

Ms. McGuire agreed the version 2 was not the ideal one. It would have an $8,000 annual increase. Based on the perspective of weekday first, she recommended coming forward with a solid week day option for the next Board meeting built into their existing routing. It was not a quick fix. She would have to do more research to make sure school kids from Peñasco etc. would be okay. They could do weekdays on a trial basis and assess it.

Mr. Mortillaro said they could give a definitive schedule and details at the next meeting.

Ms. Mermejo asked why it had to wait until the next meeting.

Mr. Dwyer explained it was not noticed for action today.

Councilor Rodgers asked for the status of the current discussions with Town of Taos and if it was a slow motion process.

Chair Barrone said he and Mr. Mortillaro met with the mayor’s staff. The mayor did not show up. Staff
agreed to appoint people to meet with Ms. McGuire.

Ms. McGuire said it was moving in a positive direction. Due to issues in previous years it was going to take a little longer - getting to know each other and ensuring everyone was fully participatory. They met November 1 and had a good discussion regarding decreasing costs and trying to be very diligent.

Councilor Rodgers said his concern was if they gave staff direction to come back next month they would still be waiting on Taos. He wanted to fast track this. If they got into December it might not work for this year.

Mr. Mortillaro said his concern was that it had to go to the Town of Taos legislative body and couldn’t predict what would happen there. If they started exchanging routes he was going to want some sort of agreement so there was no misunderstanding.

Chair Barrone asked if there was no way to move forward without Taos.

Mr. Mortillaro said they could do weekday service. They wouldn’t have to put a new bus on; just another stop. And they could move quickly if they got the Board’s okay.

Councilor Rodgers asked what time the bus would get there and leave.

Ms. McGuire said version 2 was the most workable option. 9:15 or 9:30 to get there; 3:00 or 3:15 to come back.

Mr. Montoya said 8:48 am to 3:46PM was what it was.

Ms. Maes asked if Mr. Forrest went directly to Taos for this.

Mr. Forrest said he went directly to the Chili Line. They said their obligations were too much and gave him Ms. McGuire’s number. November 15 was their soft opening and December 6 was the hard opening. We would keep showing up no matter how long it might take to get bus service there.

Ms. Maes asked if the buses at NCRTD were equipped to take skis and equipment.

Ms. McGuire said they were not, but Chili had used PVC piping and that would work.

Ms. Maes asked if she had evaluated those costs.

Ms. McGuire said she hadn’t.

Commissioner Chávez noted the packet said no action requested by staff and would report in December. His loyalty had to be to the current users of the route now before the Board looked at new requests. If they rushed it they might not do it right? The window for this ski season he hoped was not the only window open. He asked Mr. Forrest if he was willing to make an investment now not later when they knew it wouldn’t work.

Mr. Forrest said he couldn’t.
Councilor Bushee asked how long ago he made this request.

Mr. Forrest said he made it in August.

Councilor Bushee asked if the cost was minimal.

Ms. McGuire said it was $8,000 annually.

Councilor Bushee recalled the Board was constantly dealing with new routes that appeared and they were funded in short order. If there was an opportunity to begin in December she would recommend that.

Councilor Ring said people in Torrance County had a couple of things going. The Salt Mission Trail was going to develop into a loop route. There was an emphasis to do something with Route 66. He brought this up because there was some discussion about working with Torrance County and this organization to expand new service into Torrance County for these projects.

Ms. McGuire said she didn't have any information on that.

Councilor Ring felt there were other opportunities out there that might need to be considered.

Mr. Mortillaro commented that Elizabeth Carter was here from Rio Metro. Maybe she could follow up with that. He did remember when the District was approached by Torrance County.

Councilor Ring said at one time they had a little district that ran out of money. He just wanted to bring that up as food for thought.

Ms. Mermelo said it might not be an urgency or rush for most people but there was a sense of emergency for us. It was a minimal cost. There was high unemployment and Sipapu had openings now. So with all due respect, she disagreed with comments made.

Mr. Forrest found all of it interesting and appreciated the discussion.

Chair Barrone knew no board action could be taken now but he would like something for action on December 6.

Mr. Mortillaro said they intended to bring a report but he got the sense that the Board wanted a decision then. He reminded the Board that on December 6 the Board would be dealing with the service plan update. It would be a major policy setting meeting. They would see all the pieces then with recommended changes so they would get the big picture so it was timely.

Commissioner Chávez said that would not preclude the staff from continuing to work with Taos. If the RTD didn’t look at duplication then they were not using money appropriately. He asked again if those requesting services were willing to contribute at the front end. He found that frustrating.
Mr. Forrest replied that they already contributed $26,000 to the GRT in taxes. The questions were valid. They would love to have this service to help their staff and possibly get more guests. They were no worse off now with no service to Sipapu now. They needed to know if the service would have value to the community as well. His perspective was that with the taxes they paid this seemed feasible. They were only 4.8 miles from the current bus stop.

Ms. Maes said the Town of Taos spoke at another meeting about issues with transportation of skis and the liability. If staff could look at that additional cost she would appreciate it.

Ms. McGuire pointed out, relating to liability concerns, that they did have cameras in all buses now. Relating to private individuals' property, they dealt with bicycles now.

Councilor Bushee asked if they would be carrying skis inside the bus or outside.

Chair Barrone said it would be outside.

Ms. McGuire said she had not looked heavily into that at this point and was not totally familiar with the Taos set up.

Chair Barrone said they carried skis on the back of the vehicle.

Ms. McGuire didn’t think this would rise to the level to make this get done.

Mr. Montoya asked that Mr. Forrest advertise and promote this if we do it.

Mr. Forrest agreed. Their marketing director was standing by to do that and with their partner lodging facilities as well. They very much want this to be successful. The $26,000 he mentioned was lodging tax. Over quarter of a million was what they contributed to GRT.

Ms. McGuire reported on the Town of Taos Chile Line and went through her handout. She was encouraged. She thought the RTD was better served doing the due diligence with at least one more conversation.

Ms. Maes asked if the Town of Taos developed an MOA with the ski run.

Ms. McGuire said not that she knew of. They interacted with the village.

Ms. McGuire continued with Ski Santa Fé on her handout. A Federal program that tied in with federal lands providing transportation to them. Ski Santa Fé would qualify for that program. She had to look further and would have to apply for that. It could be a potential option.

Councilor Bushee asked for a copy of it to share. The meeting mentioned that she attended was the first opportunity to meet with Ski Santa Fé to obtain demographics and what could possibly be considered by the private sector. She passed out a packet and introduced people in audience for this part. The aspect of safety was not addressed in this packet. There was a tragedy a few years ago, when a private bus that had not
been properly maintained crashed. Santa Fé now had students who would use transportation. She understood that this would not be considered for this ski season but for the next one. With such service maybe there would be fewer individual vehicles and better opportunities for families etc to go up.

She mentioned the Freedom pass for those under 17 and over 72. Seniors skied free now. This proposal suggested a $5 fare. She was open to suggestions. Almost 5,500 season passes, 3,200 local passes. Staff and youth programs. The proposal was very conceptual. The Council was very interested that this would provide year round access to the mountain.

Chair Barrone asked if the ski basin was open year round.

Councilor Bushee said it was not now but could be. They had world renowned mountain biking trails.

Mr. Bultuijs emphasized that the resolution in the packet had full Council endorsement and was willing to work with the RTD to implement it. They understand that this would be a complex process. As that evolved they were hopeful that the Board could do a service plan well in advance of the next year ski season so marketing could happen to promote it.

Commissioner Chávez asked Mr. Bulthuis on the funding side, in addition to possible federal funding that Ms. McGuire mentioned, if he could touch on any funding sources.

Mr. Bulthuis said all of those things were on the table. They have had preliminary talks about lodging tax. They were going to look everywhere; consider shifting resources or finding new resources. User fees were looked at and other partnerships with the private sector. The LTAB was very favorable of this.

Commissioner Chávez said that was good to know. In the memo presented by Councilor Bushee it touched on the services they already provided. What he didn't see in this was the Santa Fé Pick up service. That was another layer, duplication of services would have to be factored in.

Mr. Bulthuis agreed.

Mr. Dwyer asked Mr. Bulthuis if legal counsel went to the OTAB meeting and if they were they okay with using LTAB funds. Originally they said those funds were only for bricks and mortar.

Mr. Luttjohann with Santa Fé Convention and Visitors Bureau said the attorneys were not there. It was not a formal item. They did have a precedent for this. Funds were going to Santa Fé Trails now. The current structure of funds was in the realm of grants. They were looking forward to a new budget cycle and new opportunities were all open for discussion.

Ms. Maes asked if the County and/or City considered applying for 5310 expansion.

Commissioner Chávez said an article was printed in the New Mexican on September 20th. He was not called before the article ran but was mentioned in the article. Aside from that it was a very initial request. He wanted to respect the RTD process. He was trying to follow this and make sense of how these requests were coming to the Board.
Councilor Bushee didn't think the MPO staff were here but she believed they had applied for every Federal fund possible and had not received any. The press got on this because it was on the LTAB agenda. There was no way to jump start outside. She had not even been a sponsor but followed suit to move forward. No one was trying to rush service. They understood that in no way would this become available for this year.

Ms. Maes asked if this was included in their applications.

Ms. McGuire said no. The applications were due by the end of August and they did not have enough information to do that.

Ms. Maes asked about future funding.

Mr. Mortillaro indicated that unless the Board was on board with something we would not apply for it. If approved we would put it in the funding cycle.

Ms. Mermejo was confused on the timing on this. She asked if the City of Santa Fe had the authority to dictate to the NCRTD what to do or look at. She thought it should have started here. She asked for clarification on how this happened. It seemed to have come through the back door.

Mr. Bulthuis said this was the initial step in the form of this memo to this committee. There had been a lot of press. Honoring the process was what they were doing today.

Chair Barrone agreed the intention of the resolution was initial stages.

Councilor Bushee agreed. There was follow up with private sector folks and now presenting to the Board. She hoped people didn't feel they were trying to jump forward ahead of another project. This was new and they were trying to refine it. They brought it to Council to get input. It was meant to be part of the fabric of our community. Everything that had happened to date was in the packet she provided.

Mr. Lutjohann said it came to them because CVB reported out a meeting with Ski Santa Fe and their winter marketing. That led to transportation issues. LTAB asked him to bring a representative to discuss transportation options. He worked closely with Mr. Bulthuis and turned to him. Mr. Mortillaro was at the meeting as well. They were not operating outside of the District.

Mr. Dwyer said he had been with the Board since the beginning. There was a time when the Board had to go into mediation. All members have their own processes and sovereignty. People look to their own processes to solve issues instead of going to Board to solve issues. He recommended that members come to the Board and be more respectful of the Board to do that. He urged them to come and address the full Board so that no one feels left out of the process.

Councilor Bustee said since this idea just came up in September she wondered how they could bring the community together. All they were doing today was to bring this conceptually forward. She did not ask that the Board immediately fund this.

Mr. Dwyer commented that the newspapers said that the RTD was a viable funding source.
Councilor Bushee said she was not responsible for the newspapers' content.

Mr. Mortillaro wanted to see the Board focusing on going forward at this time. Staff had been given direction by the Board to look at this.

Mr. Montoya wanted to hear what Ski Santa Fé had to say.

Mr. George Brooks, from Ski New Mexico, said this was a concept that came up to this Board. 4 to 5 years ago. They did not have the traction then but did come to address this Board.

Mr. Ben Abruzzo, with Ski Santa Fé said they were approached and asked if they would like transportation service. Of course he said yes. There were multiple businesses as well as his along that road that people could benefit from. They were asked if they could help with this project. He felt potentially that if this bus line had a cost they could take that cost out of their lift ticket to allow a zero cost to skiers but would give the RTD money to fund the bus as a neutral cost. As Councilor Bushee mentioned there was a youth ski program, their parents bring them up and sit around. They could be a large user. The youth program had over 300 children attending. There was a program to bring skiers over age 70 who use it so they don't have to drive up that road. He thought they would see a benefit.

Chair Barrone asked if they were willing to contribute.

Mr. Abruzzo said they would contribute with the offer of a discount off the lift pass.

Councilor Ring thanked them for stepping forward to show a desire to work with the RTD and not just take from it.

Mr. Brooks said they very much supported Sipapu's proposal as well. Anything that helps our industry and our kids and seniors we support. We would want to advertise and promote to bring more people to state etc... and thus increasing our tax base.

Mr. Mortillaro said the Board authorized staff to do a needs assessment at the last meeting. They had time to do it and do it right. That was the process they were using. They didn't really need further direction from the Board. They would be working with Mr. Bulthuis and his staff to develop something to bring forward to the Board for direction. He appreciate the offer from Ski Santa Fé to work with us.

Chair Barrone asked if all the potential funding sources would be identified.

Mr. Mortillaro agreed. They were asking the Board to permit staff to submit an application to the FLAT program - an application with many parties. They would have more discussion at the December meeting.

Councilor Bushee wanted to know which staff she should be working with.

Mr. Mortillaro said it was Ms. McGuire.
Councilor Bushee understood that not charging fees was a separate issue.

Mr. Mortillaro agreed. The Board would hear from the consultant in December about staying fare free on regular routes but for other services would look at fares. The week day service Sipapu requested would be a regular route so no fee, the weekend service would be a premium service and could have a fee.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**F. Financial Report for October 2013**

Ms. Aragon gave a brief Financial Report for October and referred the Board members to the written report in the packet. It showed that income rose closer to the level of expenses during September. The board had no questions about the report.

**G. Finance Subcommittee Report**

Mr. Mortillaro gave a brief report on the Finance Subcommittee meeting that was held on October 25, 2013. Copies of the minutes from the meetings held on August 23, 2013 and September 2, 2013 were provided to Board members for their review.

**H. Tribal Subcommittee Report**

There was no Tribal Subcommittee report.

**I. Executive Report for October 2013 and Comments from the Executive Director**

1) Executive Report
2) Performance Measures for September 2013
3) Ridership Report for September 2013

Mr. Mortillaro gave some comments about his report which were in the board packet.

**MATTERS FROM THE BOARD**

Chair Barrone requested that staff develop an Employee Recognition Committee or program in order to recognize outstanding employees.

Mr. Mortillaro said that staff had already developed an employee Recognition Committee that met on a regular basis and had created a variety of different recognition programs to be presented to the Board at their January 2014 meeting.
MISCELLANEOUS:

Commissioner Chávez requested that the minutes be amended to reflect him as the primary representative for Santa Fé County. He said the Board of County Commissioners made him the primary representative and Commissioner Anaya the alternate.

The Board directed staff to amend the minutes from October 4, 2013 and bring them back to the December 6 meeting for approval.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m.

Approved by:

[Signature]
Daniel R. Barrone, Chair

Attest:

[Signature]
Geoffrey Rodgers, Secretary

Submitted by:

[Signature]
Carl Boaz, Stenographer