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Board of Directors Meeting Minutes March 9, 2026

Call to Order

Chairman Virginia Bodyfelt called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call

In attendance:

Virginia Bodyfelt, Chairman
Steve Shea, Vice-Chairman
Carla Hester-Croff, Secretary/Treasurer
Jeff Ramaj, Board Member
John Bettolo, Board Member
County Commissioner Rob Slaughter, Board Liaison
Mary Seppie, Bookkeeper

Absent:

None

Board or Guest Comments:

Mr. Pacheco was contacted by Gene Legerski to see if STAR would be interested in purchasing the land/building where the buses are currently stored, which is at 430 Blair Avenue in Rock Springs. This building is a recently vacated vehicle maintenance garage owned by the County. The City of Rock Springs Fire Department Region 4 Response Team was going to utilize the building, but the Mayor of Rock Springs decided against appropriating an additional building. Mr. Pacheco mentioned this to Commissioner Slaughter to see if he had any thoughts on how much the building would cost. Mr. Slaughter told him he did not have any information at the time but would mention to the other Commissioners that STAR may be interested in the building.

Approval of March Agenda and February Minutes

Mr. Shea made a motion to approve the March agenda and the February minutes. Mr. Ramaj second. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Mr. Ramaj made a motion to accept A/P checks 14928-14934, 14936-14943, 14945, voids 14927, 14935, 14944 and all electronic fund transfers as listed on the transaction report. Ms. Hester-Croff seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Ms. Hester-Croff made a motion to accept payroll checks 6940-6968 and transfers as listed on the transaction report. Mr. Shea seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Director Update

- February's ridership increased by 717 rides from February 2025. The new mobile app accounted for about 13 %, or 337 rides. There were 75 new riders created in February and 22 riders with the first trip taken.

- Bus #11 was sold on Friday, March 6th. It was sold to a couple from Idaho for \$3,000.
- Two 14 passenger buses have been ordered from Model 1 Commercial Vehicles. Each bus will cost \$125,764.50. The buses are significantly lower in price than the last buses purchased from Colorado West since they are 2023 models, but they are new and STAR was able to purchase them utilizing the AZ State Cooperative Agreement. One bus is scheduled to be delivered mid-May and the other mid-June.
- Mr. Pacheco told the Board that he gave a presentation to the City of Rock Springs on February 17th. STAR's special guest speaker was Debra Thompson. Debra was born blind, grew up in Green River, moved to California, and then retired and moved back to Rock Springs. She said that the public transit system in our area helped in her decision to move back home.
- Mr. Pacheco has been working with Ron Noble, who is the Chairman on the Board of the Eden Valley Rural Healthcare Clinic. Mr. Noble is interested in a shuttle from Farson to Rock Springs to bring Farson clients in for medical appointments, shopping, etc. Mr. Pacheco provided information to the Board on Monday March 2nd. He presented the cost for a shuttle to run once a week for a year, which would be \$10,000. Later, Mr. Noble told him that they may only be interested in running the shuttle twice a month instead of every week. Their Board was also interested in utilizing the STAR service during the week for senior lunches at the senior center in Farson. There are three CDL drivers in Farson with P endorsements. These individuals work for the school district in Farson but may be interested in driving for STAR as well. Mr. Pacheco will keep the Board updated as there are further discussions held with their Board.

Safety Training/General Information

The March safety topic is Cybersecurity Training.

Old Business

Update on Bus Disposals

Mr. Pacheco discussed the sale of Bus 11 on March 6th for \$3,000 in his Director Update. Please see section above.

Free Day 4-17-2026

Mr. Pacheco said that SPARE has been working with STAR to ensure that the free fare will be applied to all rides booked for the Free Day on 4/17/26. There will be one or two more meetings with SPARE to finalize any details, and Mr. Pacheco will begin advertising the Free Fare day in the next few weeks.

New Business

Adopt Tentative FY2027 Budget

Ms. Seppie presented the proposed FY2027 budget to the Board. Mr. Ramaj asked if she had taken the current increasing cost of fuel into account. Ms. Seppie said she had not, as she had calculated the budget prior to gas prices starting to increase. She told the Board that if the County, Cities, or FTA do not fund STAR at the expected levels, the budget will need to be revised again and if gas prices are still elevated, she will adjust that as well. If all funding levels requested are awarded, STAR will still have to fund \$101,098 from its reserves for FY2027. If the budgeted funding levels are not met, STAR will have to fund even more from its reserves to offset any shortfall. Ms. Seppie also told the Board that approval of the City of Rock Springs funding request for FY2027 is on the agenda, but the City of Green River's is not. By approving the budget, the Board is also approving to request the amounts shown on the budget for the City of Green River's FY2027 request, which will be \$22,801 and will need to be submitted before the next Board meeting. Mr. Shea made a motion to approve and adopt the FY2027 Budget. Mr. Ramaj seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Approve City of Rock Springs funding request for FY2027

STAR will be requesting \$45,900 from the City of Rock Springs for FY2027. Ms. Hester-Croff made a motion to approve the FY2027 funding request for \$45,900. Mr. Shea seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Chairman’s Signature on Authorizing Resolutions for FTA 5311 and FTA 5339 Grants

Ms. Seppie told the Board that the Chairman’s signature on these authorizing resolutions allows Mr. Pacheco apply for these grants for the FY2027 grant period (October 2026-September 2027). Mr. Ramaj made a motion to allow Ms. Bodyfelt to sign both authorizing resolutions. Mr. Shea seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Executive Session

No Executive Session was held.

Adjournment

Mr. Shea made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Ramaj second. All voted in favor. Motion carried. Ms. Bodyfelt adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Virginia Bodyfelt, Chairman _____

Carla Hester-Croff, Secretary/Treasurer _____

Mary Seppie, Recording Secretary _____