



**Missoula Urban Transportation District  
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 27, 2025**

**APPROVED**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Sebastian Strauss  
Jason Wiener  
Sam Oliver

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Sam Oliver

**STAFF**

Jordan Hess, General Manager  
Allison Segal, Finance Manager  
Jasmine Blumenbach, Accountant  
Teddy Mierze, Accountant  
Darlene Craven, Executive Assistant  
Heather Halter, Dir. of Admin. Services

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

11:05 a.m. – Strauss called the meeting to order and asked for roll call.

**Changes or Additions to the Agenda**

**Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda**

None

**Action Items**

**3.1 January 23, 2025, Finance Committee Meeting Minutes** – Strauss pointed out incorrect statements in the minutes and requested that the minutes be tabled to correct the language and present at the March meeting. He moved to table the minutes to the March meeting pending revision, Oliver seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

**3.2 December 2024 Financial Statements** – Wiener asked why the federal financial assistance amount was much higher than budgeted. Blumenbach and Segal verified it was a timing issue as the application was submitted and approved earlier than expected which allowed funds to be drawn sooner. Segal noted additional federal funds were drawn in January due to the uncertainty of the funding.

Strauss asked if it was possible to stagger vehicle purchases to avoid draining the reserve fund all at once. Wiener observed that it is important to have reserves for contingencies, vehicle acquisitions can be irregular. Hess said the seven-year term indicates the agency would be able to survive a potential drought in federal funding. Segal suggested adjusting the reserve policy to better align with revenue and funding realities.

Segal reviewed the projected costs associated with replacing the bus fleet. Four buses will be needed in FY28 and an additional six or seven buses will be needed in FY31. Paratransit funding is somewhat unpredictable and could impact overall reserves as well.

Wiener asked if the reserve policy impacts the agency's credit rating. Segal said it is likely that the policy will be verified against actual funds. Wiener suggested that amending the reserve policy to five-year term could provide more flexibility. Segal pointed out that the reserves are significantly above the required minimum. Strauss said the public should be allowed to provide input as to how any excess funds should be used. He then asked about the status of the ten new buses. Hess responded they are in the production line and the application for the award has been submitted to the FTA.

Strauss asked any reserve funds could be shifted to the new facility costs. He is concerned that the necessary value engineering could require using a fossil fuel power system, which is counterintuitive to building a net zero facility. Hess pointed out that a geothermal system might be cost neutral over a lengthy loan payback period.

Strauss requested keeping the reserve policy time frame open and considering whether reserve funds could be funneled to the new facility power system. It was agreed that the reserves limits and policies will be reviewed during the August meeting.

### **Adjournment**

11:51 a.m. – Strauss adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Darlene Craven, Board Clerk