

Appendix 5

Special Transportation Services Society 2015 Budget Presentation, October 29, 2015

Good evening Madam Mayor, City Council and City Administration. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you this evening.

My name is Sharron Roberts. I'm the Chairman of the Special Transportation Services Society, or STSS.

You'll be happy to know that the STSS is NOT asking for an increase in our budget for 2016. We believe we can manage our 2016 operations with a grant of \$138,800 which was the grant allocated to STSS for 2015.

I'm here tonight to thank you for your ongoing financial and resource support for our wheelchair accessible and Driving Miss Daisy transportation services and to update you on our activities.

As you may know the STSS has been operating in Fort Saskatchewan since 1980, offering subsidized transportation service for seniors, wheelchair users and those with serious chronic illnesses.

Our volunteer Board continues to manage the operation of our 2 specialized transit services which includes the two wheelchair accessible vehicles and Driving Miss Daisy.

Both transportation services are busy. Ridership for Driving Miss Daisy, from January 2015 to the middle of October, 2015, shows that registered clients have taken 3,757 in city rides and 677 out of city rides to medical and specialist appointments in Edmonton, St. Alberta and Sherwood Park. That's a total of 4,434 trips to date.

The wheelchair accessible service has provided 730 in city and 169 out of city rides for a total of 899 trips from January to the end of September 2015.

In 2015 the STSS Board made some service and operational changes.

- After a successful fundraising campaign in 2013/14 to purchase the MV1 van and a Casino, in the fall of 2014, the Board was able to reduce the fees for in city travel from \$6.00 to \$5.00 per ride and our clients are grateful for this move.
- In the spring we reviewed and updated our Policies and Procedures.
- After a long search the Board hired a dedicated part time driver to assist with the wheelchair accessible service.
- We've been able to add an additional day to the out of city service. Wheelchair clients can now attend to important medical and specialist appointments on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays. This arrangement doesn't address everyone's needs especially when you have to leave the community for kidney dialysis or chemotherapy appointments in Edmonton. The Board is currently reviewing this situation.

We are preparing to renegotiate what we hope will be a new multi-year contract with Driving Miss Daisy. We also need to negotiate contracts with the full time and part time wheelchair accessible vehicle drivers before year end. In 2016 we will initiate a new fundraising campaign to replace the 12 passenger, 2005 wheelchair accessible handivan.

Shayne Sharpe of Royal LePage continues to partner with the STSS, covering the leasing costs for transportation so wheelchair reliant residents can attend Shell Theatre performances and special functions at the Dow Centennial Center. The STSS also continues to donate the wheelchair vehicles and pay the drivers to help transport wheelchair dependent participants to the City's annual Seniors Tea, held each June.

In closing, on behalf of the STSS Board, I would once again like to thank City Council and City Administration for your continued support and assistance regarding our transportation services. I would also like to recognize the dedication, participation and support of our City Council representative Frank Garritsen and our City Liaison, Gail Steeves, whose ongoing guidance and encouragement is appreciated by all our Board members. Lastly, I would like to thank all the STSS Board members for their commitment to the important work we do.

Thank you. Are there any questions?