

Minutes

RTA Board of Trustees Meeting

9:03 a.m., November 19, 2019

Board: Clough (Chair), Lucas (Vice Chair), Bibb, Byrne, Joyce, Moss, Serrano, Welo

Not present: McCall

Also Present: Anderson, Astolfi, Benford, Beveridge, Birdsong, Bitto, Brooks-Williams, Burney, Caver, Collins, Cottrell, Dangelo, Davidson, Eggleston, Feliciano, Ferraro, Fields, Finster, Garcia, Garofoli, Gautam, Gibbons, Gibson, Jaszczak, Johnson, Jones, Keshtkaran, Kirkland, Laule, Lewis, Loh, Macko, Martin, Mothes, Orlando, Penning, Pickett, Pinkney-Butts, Ponder, Rasco, Schipper, Scott, Shariff, Stocking, Sutula, Togher, Vukmanic, Wiehe, Williams, Wilson, Winn, Woodford, Worley-Bell, Young, Zeller

Mayor Clough called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. The secretary called the roll and reported that seven (7) board members were present. Rev. Lucas arrived after the roll call.

The Secretary advised that notice of this meeting has been posted more than twenty-four hours in advance of the meeting, that the usual notification has been given the news media and other interested persons, and that all requirements of the Ohio Revised Code and Rules and Bylaws of this Board regarding notice of meeting have been complied with.

Minutes

Mayor Clough stated that the minutes from the October 22, 2019 Board Meeting had been previously distributed and reviewed and asked whether there were any additions and/or corrections. There were no corrections. The minutes were approved.

Invitation for public comment on agenda matters – (2 minutes)

1. LaQueta Worley-Bell – Cleveland, OH – She is with Clevelanders for Public Transit. She is the chair of their Outreach Committee. RTA Board meetings need to rotate in the evenings. It's hard for people to attend morning meetings. In Cincinnati, their Board meets at 6 pm every other month.
2. Mark Finster– Cleveland, OH – He is with Clevelanders for Public Transit. They have a shuttle service where he lives at Springhill Villa. The shuttle schedules (?) were not user friendly. They have redacted information, where as previously it had "no" on it. The old ones were more readable.

Committee Reports

There were no reports.

Introduction of New Employees/Promotions

Brandon Eggleston is the new supervisor of rail station facilities. Janet Gibson is the new senior budget management analyst in OMB. Holly Mothes is the new manager ITS, end user support. Charnese Wilson is the new assistant contract administrator in Procurement. Jeff Macko was promoted to planning team leader in Service Management.

Introduction of Resolutions

- A. 2019-105 – Authorizing Contract No. 2019-123 with Hatzel & Buehler, Inc. for Project 60B – Warrensville Van Aken Substation Replacement, in an amount not to exceed \$2,849,000.00 (RTA Development Fund, Engineering & Project Development Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Joyce and approved by unanimous vote.

This was discussed outside of committee. Mike Schipper can answer questions.

- B. 2019-106 – Authorizing Contract No. 2019-145 with CBTS, LLC, dba CBTS Technology Solutions, LLC to provide next generation telephone service for one year through the State of Ohio, Department of Administrative Services Cooperative Purchasing Program for a price not to exceed \$209,253.20 (RTA General Fund, Information Technology Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Byrne and approved by unanimous vote.
- C. 2019-107 – Authorizing a lease agreement with the City of Euclid for the property adjacent to the Euclid Park-N-Ride located at 23900 St. Clair Avenue, Euclid, Ohio for a term of three years at \$3,425.00 per year for use as a Dog Park, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mr. Joyce and approved by unanimous vote.
- D. 2019-108 – Authorizing the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority to grant to the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (“NEORS”) a permanent subterranean right-of-way and easement to access and maintain the Westerly Storage Tunnel on parcels known as Cuyahoga County permanent parcel numbers 007-11-019 and 007-11-020, located at the intersection of Columbus Road and Abbey Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, for the price of \$10,150.00, the adoption of which was moved by Ms. Moss, seconded by Mayor Welo and approved by unanimous vote.
- E. 2019-109– Authorizing the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority to enter into a purchase agreement with the Norfolk Southern Railway Company, a Virginia Corporation, for the purchase of land in fee simple and three permanent use easements located at the East 79th Street Red Line Rail Station and along the Red Line east between Kinsman Road and Quincy Avenue in Cleveland, Ohio for a total amount of \$660,000.00, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Ms. Moss and approved by unanimous vote.

This was funded by a grant by the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Interim Secretary-Treasurer’s Report

Dr. Caver gave the report. In November sales and use receipts were \$18.2 MI. This is \$760,000 higher than 2018 actuals or 4.3% above last year and 3.85% above estimates for November 2019 collections. YTD, \$193 MI has been collected or \$2.9 MI greater than budget or 1.5% above estimates. Passenger fares through October was \$8 MI less than budget. Four million dollars (\$4 MI)

of that was not received from the City of Cleveland Schools. The money was received in November. They expect an aggregate increase in total revenue for 2019.

General Manager, Chief Executive Officer's Report

Ms. Birdsong gave the report. The E. 79th Street Red Line Station reconstruction is currently out for bid. The Board will be updated on the progress. ODOT awarded RTA a \$15.3 million grant. The grant will be used for rail car replacement (\$5 million), new MCI Park N Ride coaches, land acquisition around the E. 79th Street Red Line Station. RTA has now secured \$118 million of the \$240 million needed for new rail cars. Staff traveled to Washington, D.C. Nov. 13-14 to rally for funding and speak with legislatures and state representatives about the need for funding for the urban mid-size agencies. We want to remain eligible for funding with the State, local and federal entities to ensure the gap is filled for rail cars. Staff was received warmly. Fourteen (14) newly promoted supervisors recently graduated from the Authority's Frontline Supervisor Training Program. They were from a variety of departments, including rail, bus and human resources. October 28, RTA hosted a meet and greet with the Northeast Ohio Delegation to talk about funding needs.

GCRTA received the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget presentation award for the 2019 Budget Book. She congratulated staff for their success. On October 30, Ms. Birdsong was elated to be one of the recipients of Cleveland's Most Interesting 30 People in 2020 award from the Cleveland Magazine. This is good press for the RTA and she will leverage the communication with the business partners. The union contract has been in discussion for several years. A tentative agreement has been made as of Friday. Staff is waiting for them to present it to their membership with a plan to have a ratified contract by the middle to the end of December.

Old/New Business

The Board voted to move the previously approved April 21, 2020 Board meeting to April 14, 2020 due to a conflict with the OPTA conference and to combine the previously approved May 5, 2020 Committees and May 26, 2020 Board meeting to May 12, 2020 due to the Memorial Day holiday. Ms. Birdsong congratulated Mayor Welo for being elected as Mayor of South Euclid for her 5th term.

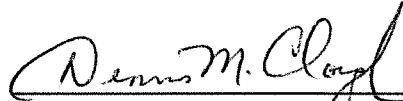
Questions or comments from the audience (2 minutes)

1. George Zeller – Cleveland, OH – In comparison to 2001 when the most sales tax was collected, is down 11.3% below or \$27.1 MI. OMB almost always forecast the sales tax on the nose. There have been 90 consecutive months where the Ohio job growth rates are below the national average. Ohio has been higher than the national average. Ohio's rate is 4.2%. The U.S. rate is 3.5%.
2. Rev. Pamela M. Pinkney-Butts – Cleveland, OH – She asked if RTA is inclusive when they make decision with contractors. She is concerned that the union does not have a contract yet. Mayor Clough mentioned that it was announced about a tentative agreement. She asked who the operators should speak with about the contract. Ms. Birdsong said the union will share the information with them. She is a victim of human and sexual trafficking. She requested a meeting with the Board to develop a plan for her. She's been harassed by operators. People with mental illness or disability are treated differently.
3. Loh – Cleveland, OH – RTA is on the right track with the new GM/CEO. Paratransit will have some improvements with their new director. She asked about tickets that expire Jan. 1, 2020 and if they can be exchanged. RTA should send reminders about tickets expiring and where they can be exchanged.


Upcoming Meetings

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, 2019 in the Board Room of the Authority, Root-McBride Building, 1240 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m.



President

Attest: 

Interim Secretary-Treasurer