

Minutes

RTA Board of Trustees Meeting

9:05 a.m., January 21, 2020

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

Not present: None

Also Present: Anderson, Benford, Bennett, Berry, Beveridge, Birdsong, Bitto, Brooks-Williams, Burney, Carter, Catalusci, Caver, Cottrell, Dangelo, Davis, Dietrich, Elbee, Epstein, Ferraro, Fields, Garofoli, Gautam, Gibbons, Gibson, Gray, Harris, Harrison, Hawkins, Holland, Jaszczak, Jones, Johnson, Kirkland, Laule, Lewis, Loh, Mariner, Martin, Moore, Moson, Penning, Pinkney, Ponder, Rodriguez, Ross, Schipper, Sims, So, Stevens, Stocking, Stover, Sutula, Togher, Vukmanic, Wiehe, Winn, Woodford, Woods, Young, Zeller

Mayor Clough called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The secretary called the roll and reported that ten (10) board members were present.

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 December 17, 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. David Holland – He is a RTA employee. He had a question about being restored to his seniority after returning to work from being ill. Mayor Clough requested this be presented under non-agenda items.
2. Chris Martin – Cleveland, OH – He requested the Board hold meetings at a time convenient for the public. He requested the full Board package be posted on the website. Mr. Serrano and Mr. Bibb asked that the request for evening meetings be considered.

Committee Reports

Mayor Welo thanked the staff and Board for their work on the Bylaws. It is on today's agenda for approval. Chief McCall requested the discussion on having evening meetings and the time for public comments be added to the agenda for the Board's next retreat.

Introduction of New Employees/Promotions

Ryan Milhouse is the new transportation safety specialist in Safety/Rail. Pierre Milhouse is the new Central Communication Specialist in Service Quality. Merissa Mercado is the new business analyst in HR. Ryan Fogliano was promoted to material contract and release specialist for Supply Chain

Management. Isaiah Elbe and Sheldon Zanders were promoted to operating instructor in the Training & Development department.

Introduction of Resolutions

- A. 2020-1 – Amending the Bylaws of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Welo and approved by unanimous vote.
- B. 2020-2 – Amending Chapter 220 Board of Trustees of the Codified Rules and Regulations of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Bibb and approved by unanimous vote.
- C. 2020-3 – Amending Chapter 262 Internal Audit Charter of the Codified Rules and Regulations of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, the adoption of which was moved by Ms. Moss, seconded by Mayor Welo and approved by unanimous vote.
- D. 2020-4 – Expressing congratulations to the employees of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority who retired during the fourth quarter of 2019, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Byrne, seconded by Mayor Welo and approved by unanimous vote.

The retirees expressed their appreciation. Mayor Clough thanked them for their service.

- E. 2020-5 – Authorizing Contract No. 2019-115 with LTK Consulting Services, Inc. dba LTK Engineering Services for technical specification, program management and engineering services for Red Line HRV replacement in an amount not to exceed \$5,799,792.00 (RTA Development Fund, Fleet Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved by unanimous vote.
- F. 2020-6 – Authorizing Contract No. 2019-131 with Brink's, Inc. to provide revenue collection and processing services (Armored Transportation Services) to the Authority, as required, for a period of three years in an amount not to exceed \$1,116,236.70 for the base three years, and in amounts not to exceed \$388,932.97 and \$398,922.03 for the two option years, respectively, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,904,091.70 for the five-year period (General Fund, Revenue Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Ms. Moss and approved by unanimous vote.

Ms. Moss added that even though the bid was 6% below the cost estimate, they believed it was a good bid. Mayor Clough added that all the resolutions have been reviewed either in committee or prior to today's meeting.

- G. 2020-7 – Authorizing Contract No. 2019-146 with Lake Erie Technologies, Inc. for Project 59 – Fiber Optic Communications System Improvements, in an amount not to exceed \$5,795,000.00 (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.
- H. 2020-8 – Authorizing Contract No. 2019-147 with Panzica Construction Company for Project 24U – E. 79th Street Red Line Station Reconstruction, in an amount not to exceed \$6,399,000.00 (RTA Development Fund, Engineering & Project Development Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Chief McCall, seconded by Mayor Welo and approved by unanimous vote.

- I. 2020-9 – Authorizing Contract No. 2019-166 with Arinc, Inc. to provide maintenance and support of the Consolidated Train Dispatch System for a period of one year at a total price not to exceed \$125,659.00 (General Fund, Power and Way Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Welo and approved by unanimous vote.
- J. 2020-10 – Enacting new Section 640.06 “Charitable Activity: Employee Use of Authority Time and Resources” of the Codified Rules and Regulations of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Byrne and approved by unanimous vote.
- K. 2020-11 – Enacting new Chapter 846 “Management of Fare Media” of the Codified Rules and Regulations of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Chief McCall and approved by unanimous vote.
- L. 2020-12 – Approving the 2020 Title VI Program Update for submission to the Federal Transit Administration, the adoption of which was moved by Ms. Moss, seconded by Chief McCall and approved by unanimous vote.

Interim Secretary-Treasurer’s Report

Dr. Caver gave the report. Last year ended with \$285.9 mi in revenue, or \$5 mi above the original budget. Compared to the 3rd quarter estimate, that number is \$3 mi above expected. Passenger fares for 2019 was \$42.8 mi, which is 8% below budget. The 2020 sales tax for January is \$18.3 mi. This is \$992,000 higher than Jan. 2019 or 3.23% higher than Jan 2020 estimate. Ms. Moss asked what the Other category includes under the Tickets section in the revenue report. Rajan later added that this category includes senior/disabled, 2-4 day tickets sold to visitors outside of the general public. India asked staff to provide a detailed report of Other categories to the Board. Mr. Bibb asked staff to look at trending targets for ridership and revenue now that a base line is available. Ms. Birdsong said the EMT met with TransPro Consulting to codify the research and analysis done over the last 18 months. This would revamp RTA’s scorecards to look at operations and setting goals internally and externally. The budget can be included in this analysis. The mission statement will also be reviewed.

General Manager, Chief Executive Officer’s Report

Ms. Birdsong gave the report. The Light Rail Track 10 East was reconstructed and is undergoing signal testing before returning to service. The construction on the Heavy Rail Track 10 West has begun. The new \$15 million radio system installation is on-going. Installation at Paratransit is complete. The new equipment will improve communication between the operators and ICC. Staff can monitor in real time. Dispatchers can now view their vehicles to manage on-time performance. Vehicles will have automatic passenger counters (APC), improving data reliability and reporting. This will provide accurate ridership.

The ATU contract was approved last December. The first meeting to discuss FOP negotiation was January 14, 2020. More meetings are scheduled through March. The FOP and our team are hopeful that we will be able to reach a tentative agreement by late Feb, early March. Staff at the Central Bus Maintenance Facility (CBMF) held an Open House for 13 students from Ohio Technical College. This is part of ongoing efforts to engage technical and trade school graduates to pursue careers at RTA.

Ms. Birdsong met with business leadership from Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse and JACK Casino to discuss new development and urban sprawl, as it relates to special event ridership in the downtown area and opportunities for future collaboration. She also met with staff of University Circle Inc. to discuss development and RTA's Commuter Advantage Program and how it can be better marketed to the business community.

Rev. Lucas added that the Paratransit improvements have been received well by the riders. He gave kudos to Nick Davidson. Ms. Birdsong added that the switch to mobile is good. This has enhanced on-time performance. Chief McCall asked if the changes could be highlighted. Dr. Caver added that RTA uses ride share technology to schedule more efficiently. The system reorganizes and optimizes trips 90 minutes ahead of time. Ms. Birdsong added that she met with the paratransit vendors about various issues. Mr. Bibb asked that RTA's strategy for supporting the 2020 Census be presented to the Board and the public. Ms. Birdsong said that staff is working on this. She is also working with the City of Cleveland to determine the roll RTA will take in this effort.

Questions or comments from the audience (2 minutes)

1. Rev. Pamela M. Pinkney – Cleveland, OH – She congratulated the retirees. She asked what other contractors competed with Brinks (Reso. 2020-6) for the revenue collection contract and what the safety measures will be. For Reso. 2020-8, there is no elevator for the disabled on the E. 79th Street Stations. She asked if the construction will be effected on the east and west side. For Reso. 2020-12, she asked for a meeting about the Title VI program. The operator on bus 3301 thanked staff.
2. David Holland – Cleveland, OH – He is an RTA employee. He explained a seniority issue he was having since he returned from work after being ill. Mayor Clough said he would need to discuss with staff first. Ms. Birdsong offered to meet with him after the Board meeting. Rev. Lucas asked to be a part of this meeting.
3. Larry Rodriguez – Cleveland, OH – He said that advertising is needed to improve services. The Red Line and P-N-R can be improved with better communication.

Retiree Anshel Epstein arrived to be recognized for his service at CBM. He expressed his appreciation for his career and opportunity to work at RTA.

4. Bob Ross – Strongsville, OH – He is a member of Clevelanders for Public Transit. He attended the Cleveland Rising Summit. He supports free fares. His employees rely on public transit. He recently had to rely on public transit. He rode the Red Line to the meeting. The system redesign needs to be adopted by RTA. Jarrett Walker did work in Virginia, which has improved service.
5. George Zeller – Cleveland, OH – the jobs figures will be released Friday. We've gone 91 months in a row below the national average for job growth and 43 months in a row where the unemployment rate has been higher than the average rate. The sales tax is still positive, but weak
6. Chris Martin – Cleveland, OH – The system redesign should be implemented. It will improve ridership. The Board should place a transit tax levy on the November ballot.
7. Loh – Cleveland, OH – It's great that Paratransit is improving. The improvements should be advertised to gain public trust. She supports free public transit. Oklahoma has free fares.

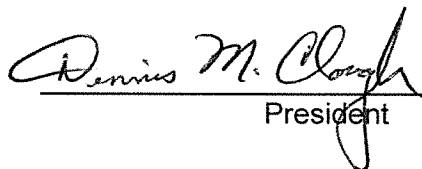
Operators are doing a good job working with riders. These are signs that good work is being done.

8. Lenny Stover – Cleveland, OH – He supports keeping the Columbus section of the Red Line Green Way green. The public wants to keep it green. This site is different. It was funded by federal and state grants to promote public green space. The Metroparks cut down 400 trees, but announced that it was only 20 then 150. They removed the stumps. They promised to plant 45 trees. This makes the trees RTA will cut down more vital. The other TOD areas did not have trees. NOACA reported that Irishtown Bend will have TOD developments. There are 24 other developments on this stretch of land.

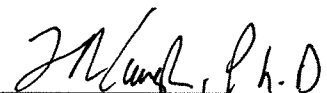
Upcoming Meetings

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2020 in the Board Room of the Authority, Root-McBride Building, 1240 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113.

This meeting was adjourned at 10:11 a.m.



President

Attest: 

Interim Secretary-Treasurer

