

Minutes

RTA Board of Trustees Meeting

9:23 a.m., February 18, 2020

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

Not present: McCall, Moss

Also Present: Anderson, Bell, Benford, Bennett, Beveridge, Birdsong, Bitto, Burney, Castelucci, Caver, Cernois, Cottrell, Cranford, Dangelo, Davidson, Davis (C), Davis (J), Feliciano, Ferraro, Garofoli, Gautam, Gibbons, Gray, Hambro, Hutchinson, Jaszczak, Jones, Jurca, Lee, Lewis, Loh, Marlin, Martin, Morgan, O'Brien, Penning, Pinkney-Butts, Porcella, Ross, Schipper, Scott, Sims, So, Stocking, Sutula, Tarka, Togher, Vukmanic, Wiehe, Williams, Winn, Woodford, Young, Zeller

Mayor Clough called the meeting to order at 9:23 a.m. The secretary called the roll and reported that eight (8) 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 January 21, 2020 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. Rev. Pamela Pinkney-Butts – Cleveland, OH – She congratulated Mayor Welo. She accused the Board of having an all-white platform making decisions. She is concerned about all of the resolutions. She is running President of the U.S. The doors at the Winderemere Station are roped off. The elevators are down. Mothers and people with disabilities are struggling to get around this stations because of the equipment is down. The agenda is racist and sexist.
2. Chris Martin – Cleveland, OH – He is glad to see the inclusion of resolution language and the policy impact statements in the agenda. He requested more convenient meeting times. He requested more access to RTA establishment documents. Mayor Clough said the meeting times would be discussed at the Board's retreat.

Ms. Birdsong reminded the public to be respectful. Freedom of speech is appreciated, but this is a business meeting. Public comments on non-agenda items are at the end of the meeting.

3. LaQuita Worley-Bell – Cleveland, OH – She is the Outreach and Membership Chair for Clevelanders for Public Transit (CPT). She reiterated her request to ride along with Ms. Birdsong on the #8 bus. Ms. Birdsong will have Jose Feliciano follow up with her again to schedule. Initially, the dates that Ms. Bell was available, Ms. Birdsong was not.

Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee

This is Mayor Welo's last committee report. She requested approval of Resolution No. 2020-15 with Stantec Consulting Services for the W. 25th Street TOD. RTA received a grant from the FTA. This will be a BRT. It is a critical project to enhance the W. 25th Street area.

Ad Hoc Technology Committee

Mr. Bibb said the first meeting was well attended by staff and the public. There was representation from the County Office of Innovation, Cleveland Foundation, CSU and others. The discussion was around where RTA is with smart transit, smart cities and the future of mobility. Going forward, they will deep dive into core topics.

Introduction of New Employees/Promotions

Christopher Hudson is the new MDP Business Analyst. He came to RTA through an internship program. Tishna Morgan was promoted to senior claims adjuster. Jason Lee was promoted to business intelligence lead. Kevin Case was promoted to manager of safety.

Introduction of Resolutions

- A. 2020-13 – Expressing appreciation to the Honorable Georgine Welo for her service as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority and extending best wishes for many years to come, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Byrne and approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Clough said that Mayor Welo has been a valuable member of the Board and made RTA a better place. She has taken a leadership role on many committees. She has dedicated so much time and effort. Mayor Welo read a statement.

She expressed that she is leaving with a wealth of knowledge that she will treasure. Serving on the Board has been a fantastic learning experience for her and she is thankful. She believes that being with the board has made her a better rounded person. She learned about public transportation, why RTA is so special and what true hard work can accomplish. She can apply this in many different situations as she supports RTA in the future. She's learned to be opened minded, to value the opinions of others and to consider other ideas along with hers to end with a great final result. Being part of this team made her realize that being a part of a bigger, regional community is more than just sharing credit. A team effort takes compromise. A team member has to lead, follow and more often meet in the middle. She believes the Board took RTA to a better place. Her wish is that they all continue experiencing success, to feel fulfilled and to have pleasant results with each completed project. It's been a pleasure for her to serve on the RTA Board and she will genuinely miss it. She will take the memories of the completed work and to leave an impression on others that everyone has left with her.

Rev. Lucas said he would miss her level approach to the agenda items. He thanked her for being a part of the team that recommended him as the Vice President. He requested the comments be put in the record. Mayor Byrne thanked her for her commitment to the RTA on behalf of the Mayors & Managers Association. She is a true example of a public servant. She will be missed. He

thanked her for helping him to transition into his position as a Board member. Mr. Serrano said she exemplified leadership and service. She led so many committees. Mr. Bibb said she did an amazing job leading the CEO search and helped him as a new board member. Mr. Joyce said she led the committee to find the new GM and this could not have been done without her. Ms. Pellot was amazed at her accomplishments and thanked her for her service.

Ms. Birdsong said she has been an integral part of the Board's resilience and determination to rise above the media scrutiny and operational deficiencies that needed to be highlighted to rally support from the legislatures, community and funders. She is encouraged as a newcomer to Cleveland to see someone with the courage that Mayor Welo has to take on huge tasks. Mayor Welo's energy resounded with her during the interview process. It showed how dedicated she was to RTA and public transit. Mayor Welo has been a longtime friend of Mayor Clough working alongside each other with the Mayors & Managers Association. She demonstrated that more can be done as a team. She showed great leadership with the CEO search.

- B. 2020-14 – Authorizing Contract No. 2019-126 with PNC Bank, National Association to provide Purchasing Card Program Services for a period of three years, with two, one-year options, revenue generating (amount variable based upon annual spend), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Serrano. Mr. Bibb said he would abstain. The roll was called. There were seven (7) ayes and one abstention by Mr. Bibb. It passed.
- C. 2020-15 – Authorizing Contract No. 2019-141 with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. to provide a West 25th Street Transit Oriented Development Plan, in an amount not to exceed \$414,068.00 (RTA Development Fund, Programming & Planning Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mayor Byrne and approved by unanimous vote.
- D. 2020-16 – Authorizing Contract No. 2020-015 with Oracle Corporation to provide Oracle Software Maintenance and Support Services for a period of one year in an amount not to exceed \$550,586.35 (General Fund, Information Technology Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mr. Joyce and approved by unanimous vote.
- E. 2020-17 – Authorizing Contract No. 2020-6 with Computer Sciences Corporation, a DXC Technology Company, to provide Riskmaster Software Maintenance and Support Services in an annual amount NTE \$35,850.72 for a total amount NTE \$107,552.16 for the three-year period (General Fund, information Technology Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mayor Welo and approved by unanimous vote.
- F. 2020-18 – Approving the Authority's 2020 Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Byrne and approved by unanimous vote.

A number of the resolutions have gone through the committee process.

- G. 2020-19 – Rescinding Resolution No. 2013-012 naming the Authority’s Board Room after George F. Dixon, III, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Joyce seconded by Mayor Welo and approve by unanimous vote.

Mayor Clough said that some time ago because of George Dixon's previous contributions, the Board Room was named after him. Unfortunately, because of the circumstances that came up after the last few years, they felt they needed to rescind the resolution. That is why it is before the Board today. Rev. Lucas asked what was the Board Room’s name previously. Mayor Clough said it was called the Board Room.

Interim Secretary-Treasurer’s Report

Dr. Caver gave the report. For Feb. sales tax was \$18.5 million, which was \$700,000 higher than the 2019 actual and \$266,000 higher than the Feb. 2020 estimate. Total sales tax revenue is \$36.6 million compared to a 2019 total of \$35 million, which is a 4.8% increase above 2019 and a 2.3% increase above 2020 estimates. It's performing within range of budget. Passenger fares was steady for January. It was \$3.2 million compared to a budget of \$2.9 million. The revenue report has a new format. The categories were condensed and it looks more like the Comprehensive Accounting Financial Report (CAFR).

General Manager, Chief Executive Officer’s Report

Ms. Birdsong gave the report. The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) awarded seven transit agencies with a total of \$7 million in grants through the Ohio Diesel Emissions Reduction Grant (DERG) Program. Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA) is receiving \$1.6 million to cover 67 percent of the cost to replace five model year 2005 diesel-powered buses with five new CNG-powered buses.

A few EMT members traveled with her to Columbus, Ohio last week for Ohio Loves Transit Day. They met with state legislators throughout the day to discuss legislative priorities for fiscal year 2020-2021. They were met with great enthusiasm. Even though there is competition between cities, they represented what Cleveland’s needs were. A strategic planning workshop was held with EMT and TransPro Consulting. They are meeting with the Board today and tomorrow with staff to work through the “how” instead of just the “why”. This will be for strategic planning for 2020 and beyond. Updates on the goals, the operational scorecard and mission statement will be brought to the Board.

The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Tech Committee was Jan. 30. Led by the Chair Justin Bibb along with committee members Luz Pellot. Mayor Byrne was not able to make it. There was a lot of participation from the public. A number of CIO leaders and the Cleveland Foundation was in attendance. They discussed the pain points of technology and identified several issues like email systems, fare collection and real time data collection. A lot of data is available now that was not available in the past. We are past the data mining stage. Now they want to move forward with dispersing and using the data to our advantage to stay ahead of the curve. Action items and goals will be set.

She met with Laura Koprowski of Ohio Public Transportation Association (OPTA) RTA will be active with them by serving on different committees to reinvigorate RTA’s support through the state level. She met with Clevelanders for Public Transit to discuss customer experience like decibel levels for audio, visibility through windows, signage and wayfinding updates and improvement. RTA and the Collaborative to End Human Trafficking joined together to host the 9th Annual Human Trafficking Awareness Program at Windermere station on January 29. Representatives from Cleveland Rape

Crisis Center, Bellefaire JCB Missing and Homeless Youth Program, and several other organizations spoke about their efforts to combat human trafficking. Acting Deputy General Manager George Fields interviewed with Ideastream on this topic.

On January 28, RTA and Ohio Technical College (OTC) held the first ever Mechanic Signing Day. This was a great opportunity to celebrate our partnership with OTC and hiring an entry-level Equipment Servicer (442 position). This is part of ongoing efforts to engage technical and trade school graduates to pursue careers at RTA.

Questions or comments from the audience (2 minutes)

1. Rev. Pamela M. Pinkney – Cleveland, OH – She has attended meetings for 18 years. She has never seen the system the way it is now. She is running for President of the U.S. She was denied freedom of the press because of her race and gender. Her children and grandchildren have been human trafficked through public transit.

Ms. Birdsong added that RTA is working to address human trafficking. Operators received training to identify human trafficking. Several incidents were avoided through RTA efforts.

2. James Lamb – Cleveland, OH – He congratulated Mayor Welo. He did not know about changing the name of the Board Room. It would not have happened if he had not spoken out about the previous CEO in a letter. His letter removed the CEO. RTA has an African American, female CEO because of his letter. The Board knew about Mr. Dixon before he was exposed. He ask the Board not to bury a man they worked with for 18 years. He lost everything. Mr. Calabrese received taxpayers' money for months after this incident.
3. George Zeller - Cleveland, OH – The Jan Ohio jobs figures are not available because once a year they take the complete count of jobs in the U.S. and compare them to the monthly ones from the employment statistics. They moved the release dates for the February figures. There have been 92 months in a row that Ohio is below the national average. The unemployment rate has been up 44 months in a row. Sales tax was slightly weaker than last month, but reasonably positive.
4. Loh – Cleveland, OH – She thanked Mayor Welo for her work. There is too much congestion in the W. 25th. Street corridor between Detroit and Lorain for a BRT project. The HealthLine is not successful. There was economic disaster during construction. There are safety issues with crossing the street to get the bus.
5. Chris Martin – Cleveland, OH – He thanked Mayor Welo for her service. He asked that the system redesign be implemented and to put a tax levy on the November ballot.
6. Lenny Stover – Cleveland, OH – He is with Keeping Our Greenway Green. They are opposed to development on the Red Line Greenway and destruction of the last urban forest. A RFP was put out August 2018 for a developer. He found out who the developer was before staff met with them, which makes the process questionable. He asked to see the plans before the project moves forward. A nonbinding letter of intent was signed with the developer. He believes there was a promise not to spend RTA money on the project. But today a resolution was passed to have a consultant to study it. The consultant supports RTA beliefs that dense, urban development is the answer to all public transit problem. They acknowledge that this displaces low-income people to the suburbs. They don't acknowledge what it does to the quality of life. People move to the suburbs to get closer to nature. He ask the Board to reconsider.

Mayor Clough appreciates the public input, but he does not support allegations that are not true and do not have evidence to support them. He asks the public to respect the time limit to speak. They are looking at the public comment section of the agenda and whether there will be one or two sections and the number of minutes.

Executive Session Requested

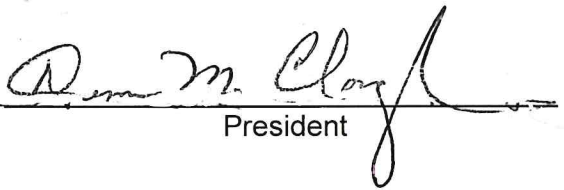
10:26 a.m. - Mayor Clough asked for a motion to go into executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official. It was moved by Mr. Bibb, seconded by Rev. Lucas. There were eight (8) ayes and none opposed.

10:56 a.m. - It was moved by Mayor Byrne, seconded by Mr. Serrano to come out of executive session. There were six (6) ayes and none opposed. Mr. Bibb and Ms. Pellot had to leave prior to the roll call.

Upcoming Meetings

The next regular Board meeting and the Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2020 in the Board Room of the Authority, Root-McBride Building, 1240 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113.

This meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m.



President

Attest: 

Interim Secretary-Treasurer