

## Minutes

### RTA Organizational, Services and Performance Monitoring Committee Meeting

9:05 a.m., March 23, 2021

**Committee Members:** Lucas (Chair), Byrne, Weiss

**Other members:** Joyce, Koomar, McCall, Moss, Pellot

**Not present:** Bibb, Serrano

**Also Present:** Benford, Birdsong, Bitto, Burney, Catalusci, Caver, Coffey, Cottrell, Dangelo, Davidson, Dietrich, Ferraro, Fields, Garofoli, Gautam, Johnson, Kirkland, Manning, Mothes, Orlando, Petit, Schipper, Sutula, Talley, Togher, Walker-Minor

Rev. Lucas called the meeting to order 9:05 a.m. Three (3) committee members were present. Mayor Weiss had technical difficulties so Rev. Lucas asked Mayor Koomar to join the committee for today so there would be a quorum. Mayor Weiss was able to connect while the meeting was in progress. This meeting was conducted by teleconference for members of the Board in accordance with Sub. H.B. 404 of the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly, passed on November 19, 2020, House Bill 197 of the 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly, signed by the Governor of the State of Ohio on March 27, 2020 and the March 9, 2020 order of the Governor of the State of Ohio declaring a public health emergency. The meeting was live-streamed on RTA's Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/rideRTA](http://www.facebook.com/rideRTA)) for staff and members of the public.

#### Bus Option

Dan Dietrich, Director of Fleet Management and Glenville Manning, Contract Administrator, gave the presentation. This is to exercise an option under contract 2020-046 with New Flyer of America Inc. for the purchase of up to nine, five-door 60ft. articulated BRT coaches. The reason for this presentation is due to an opportunity resulting from grant funding and open production slots to add an option of nine HealthLine buses to the seven bus base order for a total of 16 buses to be manufactured in 2021. RTA operates 60ft articulated five door BRT coaches servicing the HealthLine. To provide reliable and cost effective service, buses must be replaced on a regular cycle. FTA recommends replacement of transit buses at twelve years. The current HealthLine buses have been in service since 2008 and are beyond their useful life, operationally unreliable, and costly to maintain.

The Board of Trustees approved Resolution No. 2020-61 on August 25, 2020, authorizing Contract No. 2020-046 with New Flyer of America, Inc. for the manufacture and delivery of up to seven (7) five (5) door 60 ft. articulated BRT coaches, spare parts, tooling and training in an amount not to exceed \$7,154,341.63 with options to procure up to twenty-one (21) additional coaches, spare parts, tooling and training to be delivered over the five (5) year contract term. There is a critical need to replace additional coaches that have exceeded their useful life. Funding has been identified to procure up to nine (9) new coaches under a contract option. New Flyer, Inc. will have capacity available this summer to meet GCRTA's production need. The delivery schedule of these nine (9) five (5) door 60-ft articulated BRT coaches are scheduled to be completed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2021. These nine (9) coaches will be in addition to the base order of seven (7) coaches, bringing the total delivery to sixteen (16) coaches by the end of September, 2021.

Staff requests that the Organizational, Services & Performance Monitoring Committee recommend to the Board of Trustees the award of an option for the purchase and delivery of up to nine (9), of the remaining twenty-one (21), five (5) door, 60-ft articulated BRT coaches, in an amount not to exceed

\$8,746,054.20. Mayor Koomar asked if these vehicles are for the HL and what percentage do they represent of the entire fleet. Dan said this is 16 of 24 buses in the fleet. He asked him to elaborate on the grant funding and amount. Ms. Dangelo said the funding is included in the resolution. Ms. Birdsong thanked the staff. These vehicles have gone through several iterations. The rendering of the vehicle in the presentation will go to production. It embodies what RTA wants from a marketing standpoint, is a good investment and in line with state of good repair.

It was moved by Mayor Byrne, seconded by Mayor Koomar and moved to the full Board Meeting for consideration.

#### Temporary Legal Staffing Services

Sheryl King Benford, General Counsel, Deputy General Manager, Legal Affairs, made the presentation. She mentioned that Mayor Koomar was sworn in privately, March 5. He was welcomed by the Board and staff. Occasionally the Legal department needs to use temporary legal services to fill in for employees who are on leave for a period of time. In addition, the Coronavirus Pandemic has created the potential for and in fact the need for staff attorneys or legal secretarial support to be out of the office due to illness, quarantine or other accommodations.

The Legal department must continue to appropriately ensure the work is done and the Authority is not negatively impacted. A contract for temporary legal services can allow the Legal department to continue to maintain that efficiency and productivity. They have been using these services and this resolution they will ask to be moved to the full Board is for a six-month period. They had these services competitively procured in September of last year. They thought it would be a short time for the Pandemic, but it has been longer than planned. The Board packet includes a resolution for acquiring temporary legal services from Special Counsel Inc. and a second resolution ratifying the increase and authorizing an extension until the end of the month so that they can continue the services.

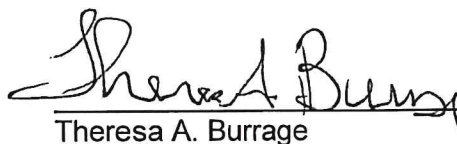
Ms. Moss asked if this a staffing agency or a legal entity. Are they provided an assignment or are they for additional staffing. Sheryl said it's a staffing contract. They have used the contract for secretarial and attorney services. This one has been for attorney services from September. The contract is for staff for the Legal department when necessary. Sheryl said they have a temporary attorney in the department and they have used Special Counsel to provide secretarial and attorney services in the absence of attorneys as stated earlier. It was moved by Mayor Weiss, seconded by Mayor Byrne and approved to move this to the full Board Meeting.

Rev. Lucas welcomed Mayor Koomar to the Board. He has attended meetings as a member of the public prior to his start day. He is excited to join the Board and had a positive Board Orientation meeting the Executive staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 a.m.



Floun'say R. Caver, Ph.D.  
Interim Secretary/Treasurer



Theresa A. Burrage  
Executive Assistant