

Minutes

RTA Board of Trustees Meeting

10:57 a.m., July 16, 2019

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

Not present: None

Also Present: Abrams, Benford, Berry, Blaze, Braschwitz, Burney, Caraballo, Catalusci, Caver, Cottrell, Davis, Doaty, Evans, Faith, Gautam, Gibbons, Gillan-Shafron, Gray, Jaszczak, Johnson, Jones, Keshtkaran, Kirklan, Krecic, Laule, Lewis, Lincoln, Lively, Manning, Manus, Merver, Penning, Pinkney-Butts, Ponder, Robertson, Rodriguez, Ross, Rowe, Schipper, Schnear, Schultz, Sims, Singh, Stover, Sutula, Tarter, Togher, Tucker, Vukmanic, Weg, Weinmann, Wiehe, Williams, Winn, Zeller, Zerby

Mayor Clough called the meeting to order at 10:57 a.m. The secretary called the roll and reported that nine (9) 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 June 18, 2019 Board Meeting and July 3, 2019 Special Board Meeting had been previously distributed and reviewed and asked whether there were any additions and/or corrections. The minutes were approved.

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

1. George Zeller – Cleveland, OH – One of the key items in the tax budget comes from inflation. Last month it was 1.9% and this month it is 2.0%. That is the range listed in the assumption in the tax budget.

Committee Reports

There were no reports.

Introduction of New Employees/Promotions

Robert Atkinson was promoted to service quality grade II supervisor. Sheldon Zanders was promoted to service quality grade II supervisor. Steve Peganoff was promoted to director of safety. Carolyn Young was promoted to manager of budgets. New hires include the new class of management development program (MDP) group. This is part of the people strategy to develop current and future employees for the RTA. The MDP began in 2008. Every two years, they bring in interns for the summer to participate in all facets of RTA and to compete for the full time MDP which will start in 2020. They include Dro Sohrabian (Rail), Sarah Bartlome (Triskett), Christopher Hudson (ITS), Gurjeevan Gill (Sustainability), Alex Mills (Asset & Configuration), Chloe Tyznik (Internal Audit), Merissa Mercado (Hayden) and Sam Irizarry (Supply Chain Management).

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

There was no report.

Introduction of Resolutions

- A. 2019-71 – Expressing congratulations to the employees of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority who retired during the second quarter of 2019, the adoption of which was moved by Chief McCall, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved by unanimous vote.
- Retirees in attendance include John Bozeman (28 years), Robert Burns (25 years), Robert Coleman (40 years), Theresa Elder-Jones (32 years), Jamie Hill (25), Kim Lanier (30 years) and William Pillow (32 years). Mr. Pillow was also the 2018 GM Customer Service Award winner. The retirees were given the opportunity to speak. Mayor Clough thanked them for their service.
- B. 2019-72 – Authorizing Contract No. 2019-59 with Chemtron Corporation to provide hazardous and non-hazardous waste services in an annual amount NTE \$137,905.00 for each of the base three years and in amounts NTE \$144,316.00 and \$149,212.00 for the first and second option years, respectively, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$707,243.00 (General Fund, Safety Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Rev. Lucas, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved by unanimous vote.
- C. 2019-73 – Authorizing Contract No. 2019-060 with TranSystems Corporation of Ohio for Project 18.37 – On-Call Bridge Engineering Services - 2019 in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.00 for a period of 24 months (RTA Capital and/or RTA Development Funds, Engineering & Project Development Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved by unanimous vote.
- D. 2019-74 – Authorizing Contract No. 2019-65 with Gillig LLC for the furnishing of up to sixty-eight (68) predictive maintenance kits (50,000 mile), as specified and as required, for a period of one year in an amount not to exceed \$204,476.00 (General Fund, Fleet Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Ms. Moss, seconded by Mr. Joyce and approved by unanimous vote.
- E. 2019-75 – Authorizing Contract No. 2019-067 with G & B Specialties, Inc., for the furnishing of switch machine layout kits, as specified and as required, for a period of three years in an amount not to exceed \$342,595.00 (RTA Development Fund, Rail District Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved by unanimous vote.
- F. 2019-76 – Authorizing an increase to Contract No. 2019-98 with Aon Property Risk Consulting, Inc. to provide additional forensic insurance investigation services in an amount not to exceed \$97,220.00 for a total contract amount not to exceed \$197,220.00 (General Fund, Internal Audit Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Ms. Moss, seconded by Mayor Byrne and approved by unanimous vote.
- G. 2019-77 – Ratifying an increase to Contract No. 2019-087 with the Great Lakes Construction Co. for additional emergency repairs of the Red Line S-curve Retaining Wall, in an amount NTE \$650,000.00, for a total contract amount NTE \$1,300,000.00 (RTA Development Fund, Engineering & Project Development Department budget), the

adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Bibb and approved by unanimous vote.

- H. 2019-78 – Ratifying Change Order No. 5 to Contract No. 2018-154 with Railworks Track Services Inc. for the emergency repair of the Brookpark Shop, at a total amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 (RTA Development Fund, Engineering & Project Development Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Bibb, seconded by Ms. Moss and approved by unanimous vote.

This is for the Brookpark shop. There is an electrical issue that needs to be fixed to make it safe for workers. This is needed due to the S-Curve severing the line. Trains on the west side need to be maintained. This will bring the building up to State of Good Repair.

- I. 2019-79 – Authorizing a memorandum of understanding of planning responsibilities between the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency and the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Ms. Moss. Chief McCall asked to recuse herself. There were eight (8) ayes and one (1) recuse from Chief McCall. It was approved.

- J. 2019-80 – Adopting the Tax Budget of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2020 and submitting the same to the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mayor Byrne and approved by unanimous vote.

- K. 2019-81 – Authorizing the Interim CEO, General Manager/Secretary-treasurer to enter into two agreements with Case Western Reserve University for the Student Universal Access Fare Pass (“U Pass”) Program for undergraduate and graduate students, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Chief McCall.

Mayor Welo has met with Rajan Gautam and Mike Schipper on this item. Increases were negotiated for this agreement. This is important for the incoming students. Ms. Moss said she'd recuse herself from the vote because her daughter will be a graduate student at CWRU this fall. There were eight (8) ayes and one recuse (1) from Ms. Moss.

- L. 2019-82 – Authorizing an eight-month extension to Contract 2014-055 with Littler Mendelson, P.C. for outside labor counsel services, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$840,000.00 (General Fund, Legal Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Ms. Moss, seconded by Mayor Welo and approved by unanimous vote.

Interim General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Dr. Caver presented the report. Sales tax YTD compared to budget is \$2.4 million or 2% above expectations. Passenger fares YTD is \$2 million below budget expectation. Ridership decreased 10% in June compared to 2018. The pillar studies will help decide how to address decreased ridership. The E. 116th Street Station is open. The art fence has been installed and punch list items continue. Staff met with the community to unveil the improvements. The community likes the new design. Communication items are being addressed for this station. The Farnsleigh Station ribbon cutting is Aug. 22. The second phase of the Red Line west project began. The reconstruction of the Tower City Customer Service Center will have new safety measures and new point of sell system. It's 95% complete and planned to open August 15.

On June 30, the governor signed into law a 17 day extension of the current operating budget. As a result the Senate and House hasn't been able to pass it. The extension will go until this Wednesday. Staff is looking for funding for track work. The next round of public meetings will be in September for the fare study and system redesign. A homework hot spots and Wi-Fi event is being planned. Staff went to the Rail Conference in Toronto. They met with vendors and peer staff regarding rail car strategies and purchasing options. Staff attended the APTA Rodeo in preparation for RTA hosting in 2021. The Kids Ride Free summer program has 31,000 rides. On July 29 at 2 p.m., Charles P. Lucas, Sr. the father of current board member Rev. Lucas, will be honored with a dedication plaque at Tower City for being the first African American appointed to the Cleveland Transit System (CTS) Board in 1958.

Old Business

Mayor Welo announced that there will be an Ad Hoc Bylaws Review Committee meeting, Monday, August 26 from 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. It's planned to bring the update to the full board soon.

Rev. Lucas asked that the committee to review the Paratransit contracts continue to meet to address some issues. He added that prior to his father being appointed to the CTS board he was head of the NAACP in the 1950's. Back then the clan burned a cross in their yard and today the discussion is about racial harmony. He is happy about his father's upcoming dedication service.

Questions or comments from the audience (2 minutes)

1. Alaina Faith – Cleveland, OH – On Sunday, she was picked up at 12:51 p.m. in Lakewood. There were four passengers on the bus. One of the passengers was on the bus since 11:30 a.m. The other passenger was picked up at 11 a.m. and was the last drop off and her estimated drop off time was 1:48 p.m. which is equivalent to a trip to Buffalo. She asked for the number of paratransit riders and what the protocol is for clean up when someone can't reach the restroom. There will be a meeting with RTA management in August. This is bordering on inhumane treatment. On Monday, she was on the bus for an hour from City Hall to her home, which is a 13 minute ride.
2. Loh – Cleveland, OH – She said the issue Ms. Faith mentioned is not unique. This shows that RTA is not up to riders expectations, which is more serious for people with disabilities.
3. Lennie Stover – Cleveland, OH – He is with Keep Our Greenway Green. Their mission is to increase ridership particularly at the W. 25th Street Station and the W. 65th Street Station where the Red Line Greenway will run. They want to help show the benefits of the RLGW. Ridership would be enhanced if this area is kept as an event space. He reviewed the RLGW plans and believes there will not be an event space with the planned development. The Metroparks and the Cleveland Museum of Natural Museum confirmed there is a wetland on the site. Cutting down the trees will affect air quality. It will be a quality of life issue for people living in the area. The plans are still not public, which is building resentment. This development would not help create a long-term, permanent, sustainable source of revenue.
4. Brian Gibbons – Fairview Park, OH – He's with Clevelanders for Public Transit (CPT). He thanked RTA for the second round survey on the system redesign. CPT recommends that outreach and marketing strategies used for the second round of information collection be reviewed prior to any presentations or outreach scheduled in the late summer or early fall. Since attendance at the meetings has been low, they'd like the communication strategies critiqued to get the meeting schedule out. They suggest the meetings be widely and persistently announced and the results be shared with people on the street and at events

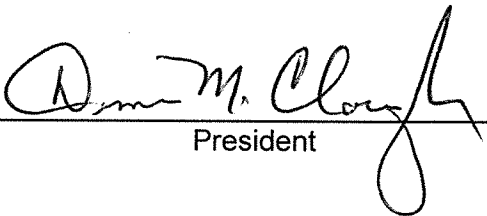
where further community comment can be gathered. He agrees with CEO designate India Birdsong's statement in a recent article that the public needs should be considered before making decisions. He asked if the system redesign meeting with Jarrett Walker on July 25 at RTA had been announced publicly and if there are public meetings with Jarrett and RTA staff scheduled at RTA board meetings. Jarrett's presentation at the City Club July 26 will only reach a small piece of the public. He suggested the schedule of public meetings be distributed persistently. CPT will be at Public Square tomorrow from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. to educate riders on how to use RTA and what the system redesign will mean.

5. Akshai Singh – Cleveland Hts, OH – He is testifying on behalf of a statewide organization called Move Ohio, of which he is the co-chair. It's comprised of five labor locals, transit unions, disability advocates, transit and environmental organizations. He said that RTA has a partner in Move Ohio and CPT to attend TRAC meetings to make a case for money that could be potentially used for transit. He ask that the board search for partners to send to Columbus with OPTA and RTA staff.

Upcoming Meetings

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 20, 2019 in the Board Room of the Authority, Root-McBride Building, 1240 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113.

This meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.



President

Attest: 

Interim CEO, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer