

Minutes

RTA Board of Trustees
10:58 a.m., June 19, 2018

Present: Clough (Chair), Britt, Elkins, Lucas, McCall, Moss, Nardi, Norton, Serrano, Welo

Not present: None

Also Present: Benford, Boyd, Brooks-Williams, Burney, Calabrese, Castelucci, Caver, Czeck, Dangelo, Davis, Dietrich, Feke, Feliciano, Fields, Gautam, Gregersen, Harris, Haruthunian, Johnson, Jones, Kadleck, Keshtkaran, Kirchmeir, Kirkland, Lamb, Lee, Lively, Loh, Lozada, Miller, Nero, Opett, Pettus, Pfeiffer, Pickett, Pinkney-Butts, Raguz, Raphael, Reynolds, Scott, Shaffer, Sims, Singh, So, Sutula, Tarka, Togher, Tucker, Vukmanic, Wilson, Young, Uhas, Ulrich, Zeller, Zimmerman

Mayor Clough called the meeting to order at 10:58 a.m. The secretary called the roll and reported that nine (9) board members were present. Ms. Britt was not in the room.

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.

Mayor Clough stated that the minutes from the May 15, 2018 Board meeting had been previously distributed and reviewed and asked whether there were any additions and/or corrections. Mr. Nardi asked to abstain. The roll was called. There were eight (8) ayes and one (1) abstention by Mr. Nardi. Ms. Britt was not in the room. No changes were presented and the minutes were approved.

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

1. Rev. Pamela M. Pinkney-Butts – Bedford, OH – She gave her condolences for Andrea Sims who was acknowledged in Reso 2018-50. She thanked the Patrick J. O'Connor trust for their gifts acknowledged in Reso 2018-51. She put something out on social media asking for gifts to RTA. She thanked trustee Valarie J. McCall. She hasn't gotten an answer regarding the money Gov. Strickland gave to public transportation that Gov. Kasich took away. She is not happy with what happened with former Board President George Dixon. Mr. Dixon was addressing racism and discrimination. She submitted letters with her concerns to the board and Mr. Calabrese.
2. James Lamb – Cleveland, OH – He requested a meeting with Mayor Clough and Mr. Calabrese. He believes Ms. McCall was railroaded. There was wrong doing in that there was a need for a new president. Mr. Dixon's problems were noted to the board in 2003, 2016 and 2017. He asked if the board has a special report other than the annual report. He was told no. He believes they should. He complained to staff about three buses not having air, but buses to Strongsville have air. He agrees that the board is not ready to move forward. Mayor Clough extended an offer to meet with him. He emphasized that the time clock limit is to keep order.
3. George Zeller – Cleveland, OH – He is against Reso 2018-61 regarding the Citizens Advisory Board. He said the resolution is not ready. The basic feature is to put term limits on the CAC. Term limits are harmful. The Ohio State Legislature put in term limits to get rid of someone and it has been ruined ever since. Recommendations from the CAB are not required in writing

anymore. He disagrees with that. The CAB needs accountability. He recommends that no board member vote for it.

4. Akshai Singh – Cleveland Heights, OH – He congratulated the new officers. He had a few questions regarding Reso 2018-58 concerning the CSU economic impact study. He projects an \$80 MI loss as of 2019. That's \$20 MI in MCO sales tax times a \$4 return put back into the economy. Will staff be looking at economic expansion and growth? He stresses that there is a lot of benefits of public transit like ozone action days. What is the impact if there is no revenue before the MCO sales tax ends? Joe said the results will be ready by November.
5. Loh – Cleveland, OH – She congratulated the new officers. But riders are still suffering. Funding was cut, but that doesn't mean nothing could be done. Jobs and livelihoods will be lost. She urged the board to stand up and meet the public needs.
6. Marvin Randalson – Lakewood, OH – He is speaking for Clevelanders for Public Transit. Regarding 2018-58 concerning the CSU economic impact study. He is understanding of the work of the staff and Board. Riders are depending on the Board to take care of the system. He believes that March is too late to wait for the economic study to come back. If action is not made by November, the money will not be available prior to 2019. There needs to be a coalition of leaders and stakeholders willing to speak out to preserve public transit. The CPT will host a Transit Roundtable this Thursday from 1 pm – 4 pm. Local and state elected officials have been invited to speak.
7. Nero – Parma, OH - He ask staff to figure out a way to offset service cuts and build the bus fleet. There is no way to get from suburb to suburb on public transit. He can take paratransit, but he would have to take a bus downtown and then transfer to another bus to get to Parma. Staff needs to look at other models in other cities. In the past, the route 68, went from Brookpark to Great Northern. He suggested a sales tax on the ballot or grants.

Committee reports

Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee report:

- Chair Welo has spoken to Tom Raguz, executive director of the Office of Management & Budget, regarding the upcoming presentation in July on a fare study and the Tax Budget.

External and Stakeholder Relations and Advocacy Committee report:

- Chair McCall said there are two items on the agenda that went through this committee.

Introduction of New Employees/Promotions

This was rescheduled until next month.

Citizens' Advisory Board

Mr. Serrano said there is one item on the agenda today.

Introduction of resolutions

- A. 2018-50 – Expressing the great sorrow of the Board of Trustees and the entire Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority at the passing of Andrea C. Sims, the wife of RTA employee Steven Sims and extending condolences to her family, the adoption of which was moved by Rev. Lucas, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved by unanimous vote.

Rev. Lucas requested this resolution on behalf of the Board.

- B. 2018-51 – Expressing appreciation and gratitude for the gift from the Patrick J. O'Connor Trust, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Nardi, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Welo expressed her appreciation for this gift. Mr. O'Connor was a U.S. Army veteran and a retiree from First Energy Corporations. Mayor Clough acknowledged his appreciation for the gift.

- C. 2018-52 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-028 with Northeast Lubricants LTD, for the furnishing of antifreeze, as specified and as required, for a period of two (2) years in an amount not to exceed \$306,880.00 (General Fund, Fleet Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Elkins and approved by unanimous vote.
- D. 2018-53 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-44 with National Electrical Carbon Products, Inc. for the furnishing of pantograph carbon shoes, as specified and as required, for a period of one year in an amount not to exceed \$107,469.60 (General Fund, Fleet Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Nardi and approved by unanimous vote.
- E. 2018-54 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-56 with Dartco Transmission Sales & Service, Inc. for the furnishing of transmission rebuild kits, as specified and as required, for a period of two years in an amount not to exceed \$268,082.00 (General Fund, Fleet Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mr. Norton and approved by unanimous vote.
- F. 2018-55 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-060 with Trillium Transportation Fuels, LLC dba Trillium CNG to provide CNG Operations and Maintenance service for the Authority's Hayden District CNG Fueling Station for a period of five years in an amount not to exceed \$1,500,000.00 (General Fund, Hayden District budget), the adoption of which was moved by Rev. Lucas, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved by unanimous vote.
- G. 2018-56 – Authorizing Change Order #2 to Contract No. 2016-106 for the furnishing of 87 octane unleaded gasoline, as specified and as required, for a period of one year with an option for one additional year, in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 (General Fund, Fleet Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Nardi, seconded by Mayor Welo and approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Calabrese added that the new paratransit vehicles received this year are gasoline powered, replacing older vehicles that were diesel powered. More gasoline is being used than anticipated.

- H. 2018-57 – Authorizing a Change Order to Contract No. 2014-040 with Applied Graphics, LTD. for the procurement of bus exterior graphics production and installation services for up to thirty-three (33) coaches, as specified, for a price not to exceed \$134,158.20 (Development Fund, Fleet Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Welo and approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Calabrese added that Applied Graphics was awarded a contract for 240 vehicles. Every time there is a new fleet of vehicles, the options are exercised. There are still 73 vehicles left on the contract after this award.

- I. 2018-58 – Authorizing a contract with Cleveland State University for the completion of an economic impact study in an amount not to exceed eighty-five thousand dollars (\$85,000.00) (Development Fund, Programming and Planning budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Elkins and approved by unanimous vote
- J. 2018-59 – Authorizing the filing of grant applications with the State of Ohio for State Fiscal Year 2019 financial assistance under all State of Ohio programs, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Elkins, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved by unanimous vote.
- K. 2018-60 – Rescinding Resolution No. 1994-35 and repealing Section 220.05, “Health Care Coverage” of the Codified Rules and Regulations of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mr. Norton and approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Clough added that this eliminates any board member from receiving health care from RTA.

- L. 2018-61 – Amending Section 222.04 “Citizens Advisory Board” of the Codified Rules and Regulations of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority and approving operating guidelines for the Community Advisory Committee, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Welo and approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Serrano said this process has been going on for a year. Mr. Serrano added that changes were made regarding term limits. But term limits were always in place. Several members were honored for serving for many years. Now the board will select all the members and vet them through a committee. Structure was added to the term limits. The name was also changed. A majority of the CAB members agreed to the changes.

- M. 2018-62 - Authorizing a Non-Binding Letter of Intent with Cuyahoga County for the procurement of solar energy, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Calabrese added that this is for the Letter of Intent and a Memorandum of Understanding would have to come back to the board for approval.

General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer’s Report

He will accept the Smart 50 Award for RTA on June 27th. Sales tax is slightly ahead of 2018 estimates because of the MCO sales tax of \$9 MI less than last year. Ridership is showing improvement. It’s still down, but at a smaller rate. In May, bus was down 3%. Rail was up 1%. The June 3 service change went into effect. Twenty-two time tables were changed. The Glenwillow area

now has improved serve with the #41 and #41F. The Kids Ride Free promotion kicked off this summer.

E. 34th Street Station, E. 105th Street Station and E. 116th Street Station work is ongoing. Work will start soon at the Shaker Farnsleigh Station. A major Red Line project between Jun 22 and Aug 11 is gearing up. Construction will be between W. 117th Street Station and the Puritas Station. A number of CAC members were brought to emeritus status recently. There will be a program to honor longtime CAC member, Marie Fratus, July 17 at the Little Italy Station. The next strategic plan session is June 20 at 9 a.m. at RTA. Board members are welcome to attend. The Greater Cleveland Partnership has offered to create an Operational Improvement Taskforce looking at RTA efficiencies and operations.

President's Report

Mayor Clough thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve. A lot of things need to be addressed. He looks forward to a positive approach in dealing with the challenges ahead.

New Business

On the agenda was a discussion regarding the GCRTA CEO, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer's employment agreement. Mayor Clough asked for comments. There were none.

Questions or comments from the audience (2 minutes)

1. George Zeller – Cleveland, OH – RTA projects the monthly sales tax receipts. It came in almost on the nose. There have been public allegations that RTA has poor fiscal management. He says the allegations are false. RTA and OMB needs to be given credit for doing better than the State on estimating revenues. It has been 12 months in a row where the moving average adjusted for inflation has been down. This month's figures are -7.3. Inflation this month is 2.8. This month was a loss. There was a loss before the inflation adjustment. There was less money collected this year than last year. Compared to the peak figure in 2001, where the most money was collected for sales tax adjusted for inflation, it's down now \$3.38 MI per month or \$40.6 MI per year. The State was 5.9% below last year for sales tax. The job figures for June have gone 66 months in a row below the national average for growth.
2. Isaac Miller – Cleveland Hts., OH – He read a statement from a rider that couldn't make it to the meeting. He's been searching for a transitional job in the Cleveland area over the last 6 months to a year. Because of the lack of public transit, it's been hard to get a decent paying job. It cost too much to take transit and takes too much time to get there.

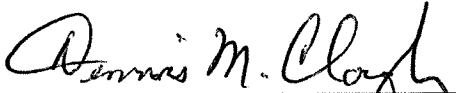
Statement: We the people deserve a safe and clean mode of transportation to ride to and from school and work and health appointments every day. We must keep the flow of our economy to make it to all the shops, so we definitely need to have a secure, safe and clean transit. Enough is enough. Endless service cuts and fare increases is destroying the system. We need investment in transit now.

He believes there is no creativity or a push to figure out the budget issues. He doesn't want to leave the area, but he may have to.

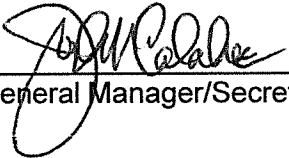
3. James Lamb – Cleveland, OH – He asked when the #81 would be extended. He congratulated Rev. Lucas on his election as Vice President. It's good to have someone in this spot who has a limitation. Service is needed to Steelyard on the weekends. He will ask the State for the service if he can't get it. He requested a meeting with Mayor Clough this week.

The next regular Board Meeting and Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 24, 2018, in the Board Room of the Authority, Root-McBride Building, 1240 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113.

This meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.



President

Attest: 

CEO, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer