

Minutes

RTA Board of Trustees Meeting
9:11 a.m., December 18, 2018

Board Members: Clough (Chair), Lucas (Vice Chair), Bibb, Elkins, Joyce, McCall, Moss, Serrano and Welo.

Not present: None

Also Present: Anderson, Becker, Benford, Berry, Bitto, Bober, Bobich, Burney, Calabrese, Castelucci, Caver, Ciesla, Cottrell, Cox, Cranford, Czeck, Dangelo, Davis, Delgado, Dietrich, Draper, Feliciano, Fields, Ford, Garofoli, Gautam, Gay, Gillan-Shafron, Jaszczak, Johnson, Jones, Kerg, Kirkland, Krecic, Lewis, Lincoln, Lively, Loh, Macki, Montgomery, Ndour, Palagyi, Penning, Pflug, Pickett, Pinkney-Butts, Ponder, Schipper, Scott, Stocking, Sutula, Takavitz, Tarter, Togher, Tucker, Valentino, Vukmanic, Weil, Whalen, Wiehe, Williams, Young, Zeller

Mayor Clough called the meeting to order at 9:11 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 November 13, 2018 Board Meeting minutes had been previously distributed and reviewed and asked whether there were any additions and/or corrections. There were no changes. The minutes were approved.

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

Mayor Clough read a statement: You are now invited to comment on any agenda item. Again this period of public comment is for any agenda items ONLY. Please state your name and city of residence. You are allotted two minutes for your comments. Please conduct yourself in a courteous and respectful manner and comply with the two limit time limit. Again this period of public comment is for agenda items.

1. Rev. Pamela M. Pinkney-Butts – Cuyahoga County, OH – For safety reasons she is not stating her city of residence. She disagrees with hiring a firm to search for the new CEO. Dr. Caver has earned the position. She asked who will do the system redesign in Reso No. 2018-107. Fares are not being collected on the Red Line. For Reso No. 2018-108, she asked how many firms RTA hires that are American-owned.
2. George Zeller – Cleveland, OH – For Reso No. 2018-121, he asked if this firm hired the current CEO for General Motors. Greg Moser of Krauthamer & Associates said they hired a chief actuary officer for GM seven or eight years ago. He supports Reso No. 2018-119 on the budget. Things have grown worse since the last public meeting on the budget. The 12 month moving average for sales tax is down more than 6%. That was the 18th month in a row it was down. It was down 4.4% for the year. The stock market fell yesterday worse than it has since 1931, during the Great Depression. The estimate was revised down mid-year and it will more than likely be revised again next year.

3. Loh – Cuyahoga County, OH – She is glad that RTA is doing a national search for the new CEO, but local candidates can also apply. Dr. Caver should be considered for the position. If he understands what RTA needs to benefit the riders, he will be selected. Even if the budget is passed, a new funding source is not secure. Customer service needs to be improved.
4. Chris Stocking – Cleveland, OH – He is the chair of Clevelanders for Public Transit (CPT). He thanked the board for Reso No. 2018-107, which is for the system redesign. RTA initially put out a smaller RFP that CPT didn't believe was adequate. They are happy a new RFP was put out. He is happy that the CEO search is being taken seriously by doing a nationwide search. RTA needs new ideas and a new vision outside the region. This could be a great turning point for RTA. Pittsburgh just did a CEO search. They selected someone who rides the system regularly, who is a good communicator with riders. A Strategic Plan RFP was only posted for a month during the holidays. It did not mention the CEO Search. Pittsburgh included the new CEO in their strategic plan. The right person needs to be brought in. The right questions need to be asked.

Committee reports

There were no reports.

Introduction of New Employees/Promotions

Mamadou Ndour is the new financial accountant. He has a masters' degree in accounting. He has 10 years' experience and was recently an internal auditor at Cuyahoga County. Vanessa Penning is the new contract administrator in Procurement. She previously worked on the managed care side of the insurance industry. Heather Valentino is the new program manager for the Performance Excellence program. She previously worked at Avery Denison. Mary Delgado is the new administrative assistant in Executive. Kay Sutula was promoted to the director position in the Office of Budget & Management. Joe Pflug was promoted to material planner at Central Bus Maintenance.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

Justin M. Bibb is the new board liaison for the CAC. He met with Jose Feliciano, Jr. to get a briefing on the CAC. They will be presenting recommendations to the board in the 1st quarter of 2019. They plan to find ways to engage the CAC as the Authority goes through the pillar studies.

Introduction of resolutions

- A. 2018-106 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-090 with Cintas Corporation No. 2 to provide rental and maintenance of shop uniforms, as required, in an amount not to exceed \$551,987.28 for the base three years and in an amount not to exceed \$183,995.76 for each option year for a total contract amount not to exceed \$919,978.80 (General Fund, various Department budgets), the adoption of which was moved by Rev. Lucas, seconded by Chief McCall and approved by unanimous vote.

Procurement passed around the uniform pants for the board to review.

- B. 2018-107– Authorizing Contract No. 2018-107 with Jarrett Walker and Associates, LLC to provide a fresh perspective on GCRTA service by conducting a transit system redesign study, in an amount not to exceed \$173,691.00 (General Fund, Service Management

Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Chief McCall, seconded by Mayor Welo and approved by unanimous vote.

Mr. Bibb requested the workforce and employers be added to the list of stakeholders. Chief McCall ask that this includes the trolleys.

- C. 2018-108 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-112 with Transit Sourcing Services, Inc., for the furnishing of up to 800 Tokyu Heavy Rail Vehicle 28 Inch Steel Wheels, as specified and required, for a period of three (3) years, in an amount not to exceed \$667,000.00 (General fund, Fleet Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved by unanimous vote.
- D. 2018-109 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-125 with Vehicle Maintenance Program, Inc., for the furnishing of motor coach filters, as specified and as required, for a period of two (2) years in an amount not to exceed \$161,926.00 (General Fund, Fleet Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mr. Bibb and approved by unanimous vote.
- E. 2018-110 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-128 with Transit Sourcing Services, Inc. for the furnishing of resilient discs, as specified and as required, for a period of two years, in an amount not to exceed \$818,750.00 (General Fund, Fleet Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Chief McCall, seconded by Mr. Joyce and approved by unanimous vote.
- F. 2018-111 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-131 with Cleveland Charcoal and Salt Supply Company for the furnishing of chemical ice melt, as specified and as required, for a period of three years in an amount not to exceed \$239,850.00 (General Fund, Fleet Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Ms. Moss and approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Welo noted that with the cost of salt this contract may need to be increased. Chief McCall asked what is chemical melt salt, if it is sustainable and where it will be used. Dr. Caver said it's not rock salt, but the calcium chloride salt. It will be used on platforms and sidewalks. She asked if the municipalities are aware of what is being used. Ted Pickett, manager for purchasing for fleet, said it is active to lower temperatures and used where pedestrians walk. It doesn't damage the concrete like rock salt. Mayor Clough asked if the cost is less than rock salt. Ted said it is more expensive than rock salt. Chief asked what happens to the snow. Ted said it leaves a little residual on the sidewalk, which will stop the next snowfall from freezing again. Chief asked what it will do to the sewers. Staff will follow-up on any unanswered questions.

- G. 2018-112 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-132 with Trapeze Software Group, Inc. to provide Transitmaster software maintenance and support services for a period of five years in an amount not to exceed \$3,180,866.00 (General Fund, Information Technology Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved by unanimous vote.

Transitmaster software tells staff where every vehicle is within the service.

- H. 2018-113 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-133 with Trapeze Software Group, Inc. to provide on-board equipment and services in an amount NTE \$7,319,916.00 for bus and rail with an option in an amount NTE \$399,347.00 for paratransit, for a total contract

amount NTE \$7,719,263.00 (RTA Development Fund, Intelligent Transportation Systems Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Welo and approved by unanimous vote.

This is a part of the radio replacement program. This is the software that will be on the new vehicles. It is linked to the software that was just approved.

- I. 2018-114 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-139 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 \$117,146.00 (General Fund 2019, Rail District Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mr. Bibb and approved by unanimous vote.

This software is the rail dispatch software. It is similar to air traffic controller software. It is used to manage the trains through the system.

- J. 2018-115 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-146 with CBTS, LLC, dba CBTS Technology Solutions, LLC to provide next generation telephone service for one year through the State of Ohio, Department of Administrative Services Cooperative Purchasing Program for a price not to exceed \$209,953.21 (RTA General Fund, Information Technology Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Joyce, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved by unanimous vote.
- K. 2018-116 – Authorizing the purchase of property insurance from FM Global for a period of twelve (12) months for a total contract amount not to exceed \$633,985.00 (General Fund, Risk Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Ms. Moss, seconded by Mr. Joyce and approved by unanimous vote.
- L. 2018-117 – Amending budget appropriations for the Capital Improvement Fund to provide for an increase of \$4,169,683 to the Fiscal Year 2019 Capital budget, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Joyce and approved by unanimous vote.

This increase will be used to combine two rail projects to reconstruct track from West Park to the Airport on the Red Line. It will also be used to purchase a printing press.

- M. 2018-118 – To amend the Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations for the General Fund, as adopted in Resolution No. 2018-082, to provide for an increase in the amount of \$15,000,000 for current expenses and for certain other expenditures of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, the adoption of which was moved by Chief McCall, seconded by Mr. Bibb and approved by unanimous vote.

This will be used to pay for \$5 million for claims, settlements and to maintain the ending balance in the Insurance Fund, \$5 million for the Reserve Fund for rail cars and \$5 million for the local match to the Federal Highway Administrations grant for the radio replacement project.

- N. 2018-119 – Making appropriations for the current expenses and other expenditures for the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority during the Fiscal Year 2019, the adoption of which was moved by Chief McCall, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved by unanimous vote.

This is the annual appropriations for 2019. The expenditure totals are \$286.3 million. Of that, \$192 million is for personnel services, which includes salaries, overtime, payroll taxes and fringe benefits. It will fund 2,333.5 FTEs. Mayor Clough added that two public hearings were held on the budget. The budget is better than what was originally anticipated. He thanked the staff for their hard work.

- O. 2018-120 - Authorizing a contract with Cleveland State University for a study that includes the implementation of on-board sensors and real time data acquisition capabilities in transit vehicles in an amount not to exceed five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000.00) (RTA Development Fund, Intelligent Transportation Systems budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Joyce and approved by unanimous vote.

Chief McCall asked what department at CSU is conducting the study. Dr. Caver said it is the Engineering School. She is happy that RTA is working with CSU. They are doing a lot of work across the State with smart technologies. The City of Cleveland worked with them and NASA on their Smart grant.

- P. 2018-121 - Authorizing a contract with Krauthamer & Associates to provide executive search and recruiting services to the Board of Trustees of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority in an amount not to exceed \$85,000.00 (General Fund, Human Resources Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Ms. Moss and approved by unanimous vote.

Interim General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer's Report

He thanked the board for their hard work and leadership this year and approving the 2019 budget. He pledged that the staff will continue to search for ways to be more efficient and effective with the resources. Sales tax for December was \$17.8 million or 5.95% higher than December 2017. Annual sales tax collections for the year is \$6.5 million or 3.3% better than budget. Compared to the 3rd quarter estimate used to develop the 2019 budget, sales tax is 1.5% or \$3 million better than the revised estimate. It performed stronger than expected. Passenger fares is continuing to stay steady. Through November, they were up \$1 million compared to 2017. Year-end projections are expected to be up \$500,000 or 1.2% over the 2017 actuals. November ridership was down 6%. YTD it's down 5%. YTD bus is down 5%. Rail is down 1%, but was up 5% for November. Trolleys were down in November, but was up 2% YTD. Ridership is steady for the first two weeks of December.

The naming rights agreement for the E. 34th Street Station was approved by the Tri-C board. The ribbon cutting will be this spring. The E. 105th Street Station should be completed by the end of the year. The E. 116th Street Station is 50% complete. Farnsleigh Station on the Blue Line is 80% complete with a planned ribbon cutting in the spring. RTA did not receive a \$9.8 million DOT Build grant for track work at Tower City, but staff continues to look for funding for capital projects. The FTA will conduct a triennial in September 2019. Mobile ticketing sales for November was \$402,000 worth of sales for 64,000 passes. Electronic validators are being tested in Tower City. After successful testing, there will be a 90-day pilot.

Key performance indicators in safety (preventable accidents and OJI's) have performed well. Number of miles between service interruptions is 12,000 just below the 15,000 goal. On-time performance goal is 80%. We are at 79.63%. The attendance goal is below 5%. We're at 5.8%. The passenger fares goal is cover 20% of the operating cost. It is currently covering 18.73%. RTA received an award from University Circle, Inc. called the Building the Circle award for RTA's partnering role in the MLK Carnegie Crosswalk Project. UCI was excited about how RTA helped to make the crosswalk

safer for children in that area. Related to a Plain Dealer article on paratransit service, all services are carefully monitored to track all complaints and administer processes for improvement. In January, the board will be asked to extend the supplemental paratransit contracts. Chief McCall requested a deep dive into customer concerns before any long-term paratransit contract is approved. The contractors need to do better. There needs to be a thorough presentation made to the board. Rev. Lucas has been working closely with Paratransit on these issues. In-house service is good, but there are concerns with the subcontractors. These issues will be addressed as a part of approving the extension. She urged staff to look at other programs with on-demand services.

Ms. Moss asked what the plan is for not receiving grant funds for track work in Tower City. Mr. Schipper said there is a funding package to do the work. The design is complete. The package will be advertised in a few weeks and will come to the board in February. It will use up the majority of the rail State of Good Repair funding for 2019. Mayor Welo thanked Transit Police for the money they raised for the Gathering Place.

Questions or comments from the audience (2 minutes)

Mayor Clough reiterated for everyone to state their name and city of residence. Each person has two minutes to speak and was reminded to be respectful.

1. Rev. Pamela M. Pinkney-Butts – Cuyahoga County – She does not want to state her city of residence for safety reasons. She thanked Eric Johnson for helping her. She asked for forgiveness for any offensive statements she may have said in the past. She is being abused. Some RTA employees are involved. She commended Mayor Frank Jackson for his work. She turned in a recommendation for the GM's Customer Service Award. She was held captive 16 years ago. Her children were taken from her. She is being followed to be discredited. Her efforts to support RTA is being mocked. The transit system is valuable and important to her. She doesn't like the way the system is being used. Families are traumatized when they have to relocate and come to another city. She believes Dr. Caver is best for the CEO position. He is educated, kind, concerned, dedicated and committed to RTA. She would like to speak privately with the board.
2. Williams Tarter – Broadview Hts., OH – He wants to know the game plan for next year. Next year is a State budget, a transportation budget, and a county budget. A lot of things will impact public transportation and other issues, like non-emergency transportation. He asked how the public can help advocate and assist the board and administration in making the case to Columbus and the county. Mayor Clough urged him to stay involved and engage in the stakeholder process with the system redesign consultant. Mr. Tarter asked that the information be shared with the public on the testimony process. Mr. Bibb invited him to join the CAC. Mayor Welo encouraged him to speak to his State representatives. Mayor Elkins said there will not be a shift in how the State supports public transit. A \$15 million bill was passed for a new stadium in Columbus. This is the total State aid provided for transit. It's unrealistic to expect the State to help public transit. He urged him to continue his work and to share the impact of public transit with local leaders.
3. Chris Stocking – Cleveland, OH – He is the chair of Clevelanders for Public Transit. The Metra in Chicago requested \$5 billion from the state of Illinois for transit. It mentioned the work that needs to be done to educate the riders. He wants RTA to involve the riders more. He requested the plan to improve ridership on the HealthLine, which is down 15%. There have been delays and decreases in ridership since proof of payment was discontinued a year ago. He believes this is why Red Line ridership is up. The time it takes to get to Windermere in East Cleveland has increased from 27 minutes to 42 minutes. He rode a streetcar in Seattle

that uses a proof of payment system. They use unarmed employees to scan fare cards. He wants civilian transit ambassadors like Seattle in conjunction with the CPT Fair Fares plan. They will be meeting with new board members to discuss this plan. It is available at www.clefortransit.org

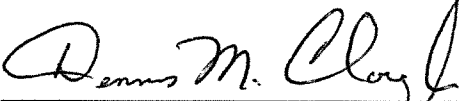
4. Loh – Cleveland, OH – She supports the CPT's position. She asked why the city of residence is required for public comment. People dealing with domestic violence and human trafficking don't want to state the city they live in. She ask the board if they would consider not making this a requirement. Mayor Clough requested legal look at this. He believes it is to reflect the information in the minutes. Chief McCall asked what the law says about public comments. She requested it be presented through her External Affairs committee. Mayor Clough said there is no legal requirement to have public comments. RTA does it to hear from the riders.
5. Gail Cox – Cleveland, OH – She asked if snow can be removed from bus shelters. Mayor Elkins believes each city is responsible for cleaning shelters in their respective cities. Dr. Caver said that RTA shelters are maintained by the communities they are in. RTA removes snow from their facilities and platforms. Mayor Clough asked her to call the city where she is having the issues. The other mayors have their staff clean shelters in their city. Mayor Welo said she would ask the Mayors & Managers Association to have them request the mayors clean the shelters. Chief McCall requested the process be looked at to see who is cleaning the shelters whether it is the cities or RTA.

Rev. Pinkney mentioned that people who adopt shelters need to be held responsible. In reference to Loh's comments, she doesn't believe that RTA would do anything malicious to put anyone in danger.

6. Lenny Stover – Cleveland, OH – He is involved with *Keep Our Greenway Green*, a community based initiative that promotes environmentally sensitive development on privately owned land along trails and greenways. They request that land not be developed along Columbus Road near the W. 25th Street Rapid Station. They have held two public meetings. They are working on a package for the board. In January 2013, when they didn't have funding for the Greenway, the Plain Dealer did a story on the Greenway, comparing it to New York's Highline. It cost \$145 million for 1.5 miles of greenway. It gets four million visitors a year. In Minneapolis, they get two million visitors a year to their greenway. Cleveland's greenway could be a rare urban forest. Developers will say it is only 4% of the two-mile greenway. It also includes 700 ft. or 50% of the red zone. It's the only urban forest on the greenway. Events can be hosted there. This will increase riders more than any development project.

The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2019, in the Board Room of the Authority, Root-McBride Building, 1240 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113.

This meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.



President

Attest: 

Interim CEO, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer