

Minutes

RTA Committee of the Whole Meeting

10:30 a.m., Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Committee Members: Lucas (Chair), Moss (Vice Chair), Byrne, Joyce, Koomar, McCall, Serrano, Weiss

Not present: Duarte, Pellot (virtual)

Staff: Becker, Birdsong, Burney, Caver, Dangelo, Davidson, Dietrich, Fesler, Fields, Garofoli, Gautam, Gettings, Harris, Kirkland, Krecic, Lincoln, Mothes, Orlando, Petit, Schipper, Scott, Shurik, Sutula, Talley, Walker-Minor

Public: Gibbons, Loh, Pinkney

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. There were eight (8) committee members present.

This meeting was live-streamed on RTA's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/rideRTA) for staff and members of the public. Members of the public were allowed to attend in-person. Based on Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance to continue to avoid large events and gatherings and Ohio Department of Public Health advice that businesses and other entities may continue to require mitigation measures, as well as RTA's interest in protecting community and employee health and safety, several measures were put in place for in-person attendance, which are spelled out in the meeting notice.

Code Book Updates

Michael Fesler, Associate Counsel II, gave the presentation. The rules and regulations were first codified in 1989 (Resolution 1989-176). These revisions are part of an ongoing project to review and update the Code Book to bring policies in line with current operations. It is subject to review and revision every 3 years. The three items that will be addressed today include:

- Chapter 297 – Innovation and Technology Division
- Section 460.03 – Reserve Fund – Revenue Stabilization
- Chapter 852 – Reward Program

The first recommendation is to amend Chapter 297. Recognizing the increasing importance of technology to all organizations including public transit, the GCRTA has elevated the Office of Information Technology to become the Division of Innovation & Technology. This amendment will also create the position of DGM for Innovation & Technology of which Mark Petit was named the first to this position back in February. The proposed amendments will bring the code book in line with the current organizational structure of the Authority.

The 2nd recommended revision is in the Finance Code to add the Revenue Stabilization account to our Reserve Fund. Currently, Section 460.03 provides for five sub accounts to reserve funds: Examples: fuel, compensated absences, hospitalization, 27th payroll expense, rolling stock replacement. This amendment would add a sixth account which is the revenue stabilization fund to protect against substantial decreases in revenues. Initial proposed funding of \$85 M would be transferred into this account.

The 3rd recommendation is to repeal Chapter 852. This was enacted in 1978. It is a reward program of up to \$5,000 for persons who furnish information leading to an arrest and conviction of someone involved in a crime on RTA facilities. The program has not been used in over 20 years. Since it was enacted, we have expanded the use of security cameras, which provides most of the evidence and deterrent value that this may have been leading to.

Staff requests that the Committee of the Whole recommend these provisions to the Board of Trustees for approval. Mr. Serrano asked if there was signage about the program. Commander Gettings said there is no current signage. It was created around the time Crime Stoppers was created which they have used over the years. When they do have issues, they go through normal procedures. Ms. Birdsong added that the program may not look good since we have staff in place to do some of this work in tracking crimes. Chief McCall said maybe it was not advertised and not used for that reason. She asked if do not need this because of our relationship with Crime Stoppers and do we pay into CS. Mr. Fesler stated that since it has not been used, it was decided to take it out. Commander Gettings said we do not pay into Crime Stoppers although we have only used it a few times over the years since we have an extensive camera system.

It was moved by Chief McCall, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved to move this to the full Board Meeting.

Mayor Elect Justin M. Bibb Congratulations

Mayor Elect Bibb was presented a certificate from the Board to congratulate him on being elected as the Mayor of the City of Cleveland. President Lucas congratulated him on the win and noted his technology initiatives that have been put in place since he left the Board. Also we have a new Police Chief and the Transit Ambassador Program and other security programs have been introduced. The Board is made up of various mayors and the wisdom they provide to the Board is invaluable.

Ms. Birdsong congratulated Mayor Elect Bibb and thanked him for his time on the Board and his drive for technology and connectivity and looks forward to working with him. Mayor Elect Bibb said his time on the Board shaped him as a leader and a major driving force in his run for mayor. He wants to make transit a key priority for the city and looks forward to working with RTA.

Executive Session Requested

10:50 a.m. - President Lucas asked for 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 Chief McCall, seconded by Mr. Serrano. There were eight (8) ayes and none opposed.

11:41 a.m. - It was moved by Chief McCall, seconded by Mr. Joyce to come out of executive session. There were eight (8) ayes and none opposed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.


Rajan D. Gautam
Secretary/Treasurer


Theresa A. Burrage
Executive Assistant