

## Minutes

RTA Board of Trustees Meeting  
10:27 a.m., November 13, 2018

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

**Not present:** Welo

**Also Present:** Benford, Bitto, Blout, Brooks-Williams, Brown, Calabrese, Caver, Ciesla, Cranford, Dancy, Dangelo, Davis, Draper, Faith, Feliciano, Ferraro, Fields, Flannery, Ford, Garofoli, Gautam, Gay, Gray, Harris, Jaszczak, Johnson, Jones, Kinnear, Lewis, Loh, Macko, McGrady, Palagyi, Pickett, Pinkney, Ponder, Reglus, Schipper, Schnear, Scott, Shaffiff, Smith, Stocking, Stover, Sutula, Togher, Vukmanic, Weil, Wiehe, Wilson, Winn, Worley-Bell, Young, Zeller.

Mayor Clough called the meeting to order at 10:27 a.m. The secretary called the roll and reported that eight (8) 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 October 16, 2018 Board Meeting minutes had been previously distributed and reviewed and asked whether there were any additions and/or corrections. Ms. Moss requested an error on P. 5, fourth paragraph, which refers to her as a he, be corrected. The minutes were approved with the change.

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

1. Rev. Pamela M. Pinkney-Butts – Cleveland, OH – She asked that Reso. 2018-104 and 2018-105 be given adequate notification and more assistance to the public on the repairs and activities. She asked what medical safety precautions are allocated for the public and the workers while this work is being done. Dr. Caver said that construction projects have to follow safety standards. Project leaders discuss risk with the workers. Audits are also conducted at sites.

### Committee reports

There were no reports.

### Introduction of New Employees/Promotions

Introduction of new employees and promotions was moved to December due to time constraints.

### Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

Justin M. Bibb is the new board liaison for the CAC.

Introduction of resolutions

- A. 2018-104 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-85 with Valley Ford Truck, Inc., for the purchase of a rail overhead catenary repair vehicle in an amount not to exceed \$337,988.32 (RTA Capital Fund, Fleet Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Elkins and approved by unanimous vote. This was discussed in committees today.
- B. 2018-105 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-101 with Hatzel and Buehler, Inc. for Project 60A – Puritas Substation Replacement, at a total amount of \$2,637,633.00 (RTA Development Fund, Engineering & Project Development Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Elkins and approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Elkins asked where the resources for this project is coming from. Mr. Schipper said this is grant funded. Money is coming out of a Rail Modernization grant, which will pay 80% of the project. Chief McCall asked if this went through committee. Ms. Dangelo explained that IFBs aren't normally presented to committee unless a board member request it. RFPs do go before committee. These are the negotiated procurements where it is kept confidential until they present more information. Mayor Clough ask the board to inform staff if they want IFBs to go through committee.

Interim General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer's Report

November Sales tax has not been received yet. In October, sales tax receipts were 7.62% higher than Oct. 2017. YTD it was 6.3% less than 2017, but 2.1% above the estimate through October or a \$3.4 million overage. Current 2018 projections we'll be 1.8% above budget at the end of the year with a total of \$201.3 million or a \$3.5 million change compared to budget. Passenger fare projections will end the year at about the same dollar amount compared to 2017. Jan. and Feb. ridership had an 8%-9% loss. October ridership loss is less than 1%. YTD loss is down 5%.

E. 34<sup>th</sup> Street Station is finished. The ribbon cutting is being planned. E. 105<sup>th</sup> Street Station work should be complete by the end of the year. E. 116<sup>th</sup> Street Station is 50% complete. Farnsleigh Station work is 80% complete. There are no planned rail shutdowns forthcoming. The eastside shutdown scheduled for E. 105 Quincy Street Station was pushed to December. Replacement bus service will run during this shutdown. Staff has met with Senator Portman's office related to grants. A \$9.8 million DOT build grant application is expected to be awarded this last quarter for track work under Tower City. An ODOT UTP grant was submitted for \$1.4 million for MCI coaches. A grant application from ODOT OTP3 grant is for \$8.6 million to fund the West Park Station to the Airport tunnel project. A \$1.9 million diesel emissions grant was put in at the end of October for the replacement of CNG coaches.

A Quarterly Service Open House meeting was held last month. The next service plan change is Dec. 2. There will only be minor changes to five schedules. The Red Line 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration will be at the airport. Rev. Lucas will be the emcee. The Ohio Ethics Commission will hold a training of staff and board members, Nov. 26 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at the Main Office. Rev. Lucas, Mr. Joyce and Mr. Bibb, who was the emcee, attended the HealthLine 10-year anniversary. It was a positive event. The Mayor of East Cleveland, Grace Gallucci of NOACA and Joe Marinucci also attended. The HL is a success story in TOD. It came with \$110 million investment of the \$200 million infrastructure that supported the new system. This translated into new infrastructure like street lights, gas lines, water lines, electric grids, fiber optic, street lights, emergency blue light phones and more. This compelled private sector investment. TOD was not just a theory, but a reality for this region.

Similar economic development returns on investments will continue with other projects. Last month the new \$7.5 million, E. 34<sup>th</sup> Street Station was opened to better serve Tri-C and the growing Campus District. The station is now ADA assessable. This summer, the \$7.2 million, E. 116<sup>th</sup> Street station broke ground. The Farnsleigh Station also has a lot of TOD investment around that station. The 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Red Line will highlight the economic vitality of the community in how it provides direct connection between downtown and the airport.

Mayor Clough emphasized the impact RTA has had on the economy with the HealthLine and the neighborhoods that it runs through. It's important to provide service to all residents and riders. Rev. Lucas added that any new programs and ideas are welcome to better RTA's image. At the HealthLine anniversary, staff passed out cookies to the customers. It was a great event. Marketing showed a short video commemorating the event.

### Old Business

The board approved the proposed 2019 Board and Committee meeting schedule.

### Questions or comments from the audience (2 minutes)

1. Ellen Reglus – Terry McGrady introduced Ms. Reglus. He is a retired executive board member for the ATU. She is a 29 year operator from Triskett. Last year, she was working when a zone supervisor brought her to the Main Office. The supervisor did not tell her why she was there. A few employees entered the room with a recorder. She asked for representation, but was met with opposition. Another person was sent in, who was their boss. They informed her they'd ask her questions and said she wouldn't have time for a union representation. She was not allowed to go to the restroom. She called her rep. in the restroom. The meeting was about healthcare fraud. It bothered her how things were handled. The healthcare unit boss was irate and unprofessional. She asked what could be done to avoid this happening again. Dr. Caver offered to meet with her. Mr. Calabrese said he didn't know anything about it. Mr. Garofoli said it was his investigation and he will meet with Dr. Caver to explain the situation.
2. John Stocking – Cleveland, OH – He is a member of Clevelanders for Public Transit (CPT). He passed out a letter of recommendations they want out of the CEO search process. This offers an opportunity for positive change and to reimagine what public transit means for Cuyahoga County. They met with elected officials to draft the letter. They want an open, transparent process and a Q & A with the finalist, which is open to the public. The CEO should be focused on a vision for RTA. The General Manager and Secretary-Treasurer role should be separate positions to maintain accountability. They want someone who will elevate community voices, work to build relationships, demonstrate a commitment to equity as a guiding principle and realize how fare increases and route cuts have driven down ridership. They want a national leader outside the region.

Ms. Moss asked if County Councilperson Dale Miller and Cleveland Councilman Kerry McCormack signed the letter. John said he would get a signed copy to the board. He said that Miller supports the letter and he has been meeting with McCormack. Chief McCall said that McCormack met with CPT and will share his concerns, but he did not sign off on the letter.

3. George Zeller – Cleveland, OH – The inflation rate is 2.3%. The State sales tax increase was 2.4%. There is just about no change when adjusted for inflation. OMB has been good with their projections. When their projections are off, they amend the budget. Last year's

projections were too high. There are numerous issues with the national economy. The job figures come out Friday. Mayor Elkins said there are key indicators of a looming recession. It's likely we'll see that as early as 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter 2019.

4. LaQueta Worley – Cleveland, OH - She read from the letter that CPT submitted. The new CEO for RTA should be (1) fully dedicated to the CEO role in order to maintain accountability, the General Manager and Secretary-Treasurer role should be separate positions (2) elevate community voices in planning and decision-making.
5. Alanna Faith – Cleveland, OH – She's been a public transit advocate since her boyfriend died running for a bus in 2015. She is a founding member of CPT. She rides the Paratransit. Her home health aide spends a lot of time on transportation. Her aide is limited to two patients because of the time it takes her on the bus to get from one patient to the next. Her income is limited. She spends four hours on the bus and works four hours. They need high capacity transit. Hire a CEO that is empathetic to the riders. She'd like more board members to ride the service.
6. Justine Smith – Cleveland, OH – She is with CPT. She suggested the new CEO be a national leader in transit basics and who understands housing along transit lines. They should be a leader who is an expert in the first and last mile connection. They should have a commitment to equity. The last round of cuts had an impact on riders. A lot of people have given up on transit because of fare hikes and cuts. The CEO should put the riders first.
7. Rev. Pamela M. Pinkney-Butts – Cleveland, OH – There are many wars going on. She asked what RTA is doing about it to make everyone safe.
8. Rico Dancy – Washington, DC – He is the president of the National Black Deaf Advocates. He asked what can be done so that RTA police are trained on how to handle the deaf community when they are pulled over in a car. Dr. Caver will look at the training program. Rico's organization trains organization on how to deal with their community. The 26 was late leaving his stop in Lakewood. The transit app was inaccurate.
9. Lenny Stover – Cleveland, OH – He is the founder and coordinator for the Red Line Greenway which will be a 6 mile network of multi-purpose trail running along the Red Line train tracks. He welcomed the new board members and congratulated RTA for the success of the HealthLine. He previously requested that land on Columbus Road not be sold. He believes selling it will affect future benefits of the Greenway. If properly built, there could be 2 million users a year to this Greenway. W. 25<sup>th</sup> Street corridor doesn't need awakening. It is vibrant with business, apartments and condos. Six developments are adjacent to the Greenway. Development creates congestion, pollution and parking issues. He supports keeping the space green.

He was told by RTA that money and maintenance of the property is not an issue. Volunteers have maintained the property and the park system will take that over for the Greenway. He offered the Board individual tours of the Greenway. He's working on a video to show the Board. There is a meeting today at 4 pm at Forest City Brewery on this issue. This is a once in a century opportunity to preserve green space. Dr. Caver added that the project is a three way collaboration between RTA, Metroparks and the Rotary. He will be speaking to the chief of the Metroparks. Mayor Elkins asked if the status of the project can be discussed with the partners. Mr. Schipper said they are reviewing the proposals. The process is in the confidential period. Once they have discussions with the recommended proposer, it will be presented to the Board. Ms. Moss asked if this is about the concept or individual bids. Mr.

Calabrese is on the panel. He added that they have shortlisted the proposers. They have talked about the specifics of preserving and enhancing the Greenway. Each proposer is committed to the Greenway.

10. Loh – Cleveland, OH – A customer survey would show that the riders are not satisfied. RTA's image is not good enough for tax payers to vote on a measure. A lot of RTA practices are not suitable. A former RTA worker spoke about her personal situation at a county meeting on behalf of an anti-discrimination ordinance. Loh urged the board to pay attention to the riders, workers and the next CEO. RTA riders are as young as 10 years old due to cuts in transportation provided by the school system.

Ms. Moss asked if the Greenway project is a request for a development project or a request to hire a consultant to develop a concept. She asked for a copy of the RFP. Mr. Schipper said it was for developers to come in with development concepts. It will come to the board before it moves forward.

#### Executive Session

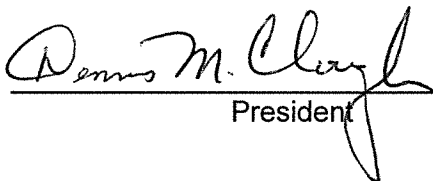
The scheduled Executive Session was postponed due to the lateness of the meeting.

The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, 2018, in the Board Room of the Authority, Root-McBride Building, 1240 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113.

This meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Attest:

  
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Interim CEO, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

  
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President