

## Minutes

RTA Board of Trustees  
9:08 a.m., March 27, 2018

**Present:** Dixon (Chair), Clough, Elkins, Lucas, McCall, Moss, Nardi, Norton, Welo

**Not present:** Serrano

Also Present: Albro, Anderson, Benford, Benner, Biggar, Bitto, Brooks-Williams, Brown, Burney, Calabrese, Campbell, Catalusci, Caver, Cranford, Czeck, Damanti, Dangelo, Davis, Draper, Ferraro, Garofoli, Gautam, Gray, Hambro, Harrison, Jaszczak, Johnson, Joyce, Kirkland, Krecic, Laule, Loh, Montgomery, Pickett, Pierce, Pinkney-Butts, Prease, Raguz, Ranaldson, Raphael, Schipper, Scott, Shariff, Sims, Singh, Solomon, Srinivasan, Taino, Tarter, Townes, Vukmanic, White, Wiehe, Winn, Woeltel, Worley-Bell, Young, Zeller

Mr. Dixon called the meeting to order at 9:08 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.

Mr. Dixon stated that the minutes from the February 20, 2018 Board meeting had been previously distributed and reviewed and asked whether there were any additions and/or corrections. 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 would like Dr. McCall to be the next president of the board. She would like Mr. Nardi to be the vice president. She asked RTA to reach out to the public about board meetings. Reso No. 2018-33 on the fares should be first on the agenda. She asked for clarity on the fare increase. Reso No. 2018-28 on the insurance needs to be elaborated on as far as who will be impacted by the insurance. Reso No. 2018-29 needs clarification. She asked for the board to make legislatures more accountable for service cuts.

Mr. Calabrese thanked the public for attending the meeting. He reminded them that the board committee responsible for fare increases approved a resolution in January that the fares would not be increased in 2018. He held a press conference last month regarding the fares not being increased this year and there being no service cuts.

2. Loh – Cleveland, OH – She applauded the resolution on the Kids Ride Free Day, but pointed out that if it's not summer, students may have school related activities on weekends that they can't get to. Students may misplace their student cards and be accused of not paying the fare on weekends. This creates problems. She ask staff to consider having a program for the weekends during the school year.
3. Diane Howard – Cleveland, OH – She's with NOBL and Clevelanders for Public Transit. She thanked staff for not having cuts. She asked if there would be cuts next year. Mr. Calabrese said he hopes not, but money is needed to provide service. He asked for help to convince others to fund public transit that is necessary to provide service. She read a letter that CPT plans to send to County Executive Budish to emphasize the importance of public transit to riders.

Chief McCall added that the new External and Stakeholder Relations and Advocacy committee recently established involves a number of the groups and individuals present today. She recommended that this committee be utilized over the summer to have hearings and to get feedback. There will be dialogue about funding at these meetings.

4. James Lamb – Cleveland, OH – He reminded the public that it's important to speak to their state representatives and state senators about transit needs. He asked them not to complain without doing their part to remind them that they work for the people. RTA is doing great work, but they can't do it for free. He's seen three fare hikes over the last 25 years. He encouraged the public to write letters.
5. LaQueta Worley-Bell – Cleveland, OH – She's with CPT. She asked how many times her route will get cut. Her loop bus was cut from the Central community. The route 13 Buckeye, route 12 Woodland were also cut. They still have the route 11 now because of the other cuts. Her father was robbed at gun point because the route 33 Central bus was cut. He had to walk from Cedar getting off the route 8. If the 33 was running, he wouldn't have got robbed.
6. George Zeller – Cleveland, OH – Today's comments are appropriate. RTA has to do what they do because the revenue from the state has been drastically slashed. The fault is not with RTA, but the state of Ohio.

#### Committee reports

Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee – Chair Mayor Welo reported that she met with Clevelanders for Public Transit at her office. They spoke about their proposal and other issues such as how people with records are employed and the importance of giving them a second change. She said there won't be any change unless the message gets to Columbus. She encouraged them to speak to and meet with candidates. The Governor is a key candidate. She apologized for the cuts.

#### Introduction of New Employees/Promotions

Kimberley Gillan-Shafron is the new marketing manager. She lives in South Euclid. She comes from the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad where she was the VP of Marketing and Community Alliances. She was there for 3.5 years. Before that she was the director of marketing and communications at the Museum of Natural History for 7 years and with Scholastic Book Fairs. Deandre Williams and David Reinhardt are the new security system specialist. Williams is from Guardian and David is from CSU. Reinhardt was at CSU for 24 years working with their police and camera system. Williams has worked for four years with cameras and residential. Chris Coppock was promoted to resident engineer/architect. He came from Union Pacific Railroad. He's worked on the west side track project.

#### Citizens' Advisory Board

They met earlier this month.

#### Introduction of resolutions

- A. 2018-26 – Authorizing Contract No. 2017-122 with Clifton, Weiss & Associates, Inc. for Project 59 – Fiber Optic Communications System Improvements Design in an amount not to exceed \$799,572.00 (RTA Development Fund, Engineering & Project Development Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Chief McCall and approved by unanimous vote.

All but one of these resolutions has gone through committee.

- B. 2018-27 – Authorizing Contract No. 2017-132 with PFM Financial Advisors, LLC to provide financial advisory consulting services for a period of five years in an amount not to exceed \$105,000.00 (General Fund, Accounting Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Ms. McCall, seconded by Mr. Nardi and approved by unanimous vote.
- C. 2018-28 – Authorizing Contract No. 2017-166 with USI Insurance Services National, Inc. to provide casualty insurance broker services for a period of three years in an amount not to exceed \$274,350.00, with two, one-year options in an amount not to exceed \$91,450.00 for each option year, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$457,250.00 (Insurance Fund, Risk Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Nardi, seconded by Mayor Clough and approved by unanimous vote.
- D. 2018-29 – Authorizing Contract No. 2017-171 with Wabtec Global Services, for the furnishing of forty (40) KM-48 Controller Cam Assemblies, as specified, for a total price of \$191,412.00 (RTA Development Fund, Rail District Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Chief McCall and approved by unanimous vote.
- E. 2018-30 – To amend Resolution No. 2017-117 to provide for a decrease in the fiscal year 2018 Appropriations for the General Fund in the amount of \$12,693,721 for current expenses and transfers of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mayor Clough and approved by unanimous vote.
- F. 2018-31 – Amending Section 1013.04, “Service Availability For Each Mode” of the Codified Rules and Regulations of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Clough, seconded by Mr. Norton and approved by unanimous vote.
- G. 2018-32 – Establishing a “Kids Ride Free All Summer” fare under Section 840.12 of the Codified Rules and Regulations of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Nardi, seconded by Mayor Welo and approved by unanimous vote.
- H. 2018-33 – Amending Section 840.03 “Fares” of the Codified Rules and Regulations of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority to delay implementation of the August 2018 fare increase, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Chief McCall and approved by unanimous vote.

Mayor Elkins supports this resolution, but urged the board in a future meeting to roll back the most recent fare increase, given that the result was about \$800,000 in revenue. The projected 2019 year end budget would be about 1-months operational capacity, which wouldn't make a major impact to maintain operations. Since a levy will be needed in the future, rolling back the fare increase would generate some ridership support.

Joe added that one goal is to do a complete fare analysis and to look at the roll back as an alternative also. Mayor Welo thanked the staff for their work. The \$800K could be used towards maintenance and new rail cars. A fare won't matter if vehicles can't be put

on the road. Joe added that the board approved the new budget. It was approved without cutting service or increasing fares because the budget deferred \$5 MI of capital and money for the rail car replacement fund. This can be done on a short term basis, but the vehicles have to be maintained for safety. Mayor Elkins asked what will be done locally to find revenue between today and the end of 2019. The \$800K can't be discussed in a vacuum. There is no other entity in the county that has operating for 40 years on the same levy.

Mayor Clough said they have to be judicious concerning the budget. It's important that the study is completed. To take one thing out or decrease in expenditures for capital is premature. The study needs to be finalized before any potential promises are made to the public. Mayor Elkins added that ridership continues to suffer as a result. Mayor Clough added that the board made an important decision to increase the fare and delayed the second increase, but believes they need to be judicious.

Chief McCall appreciates the discussion but would like the study to look at the routes too. She added that the rail system is the number one issue. Mr. Dixon appreciates the conversation and mindset of the board.

#### General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Sales tax is weak, down 12.7% from last year. A 9% decrease is expected due to the MCO sales tax issue. It's down 2.78% below budget. People aren't spending money on things that are taxed. February ridership was down 6%. Bus was down 8%. Rail was down 4%. These trends are being seen around the country. St. Patrick's Day ridership was up 50% over last year. Staff is preparing for the Indian's Home Opener, April 6. The Monsters are also playing, April 8 for their Pucks and Paws day. Staff is looking to see if pets could be allowed on the service that day. The next groundbreaking is for E. 116<sup>th</sup> Street Station on National Infrastructure Day, May 15. This Thursday, Councilman Blaine Griffin will hold a community meeting on the E. 116<sup>th</sup> Station. It will be held at the Harvey Rice Library. Joe testified before the Senate Banking Committee on the importance of transit funding and for TIGER funding. The TIGER awards were announced. Unfortunately, only 3% of the award went to public transit versus 25%, which was the normal. The plan was to use the funds to, build the two tracks in Tower City, but now money needs to be found for that project.

President Trump signed the 2018 FFY Omnibus bill, which authorizes money for this current fiscal year. It provides a slight increase for public transit. Staff can now apply for the grants that are a part of that bill. Until this bill was approved the President had also released information about the future budget to be effective October 1. The mix is between highway and transit. APTA pamphlets are available today for the Board that covers public transit's impact on the economy, national ridership and the mix between shared mobility and public transit. A meeting was held at Triskett on CNG. Councilman Brian Kazy was pleased with the neighborhood response. The FTA sent their environmental impact approval letter this week for the CNG station. He was invited to speak to County Council Transportation Committee, April 3 at 3 p.m. The County Council never had a focus on public transit. Councilman Dale Miller had a committee that met all last year. The byproduct of that is public transit will be a standing issue in the committee that Nan Baker chairs.

Clevelanders for Public Transit suggested RTA hold quarterly service planning open houses. The first one will be held April 26 at Noon and 5:30 pm at RTA. The public can give their input about schedule changes, etc. The sale of Harvard District closed. The \$3.7 MI made from the sale went into the Rail Car Replacement fund. The Paratransit pilot with Lyft is ongoing and is planned to be online April 2. Rev. Lucas asked for more information about what the slight increase will be from the Omnibus bill. Joe said it may be 3%-4% or \$30,000 more. The official notice hasn't been received. Rev. Lucas

asked for the word to be sent out about the quarterly public meetings. He rides paratransit every day and overhears the discussions on fare increases.

Questions or comments from the audience (2 minutes)

1. Rev. Pamela Pinkney-Butts – Bedford, OH – She quoted Holy Scripture. This is RTA's season to get what belongs to it. The voices of those who have been silenced are crying out now. Race and gender matters. It's time for name and position changes. The clock is not going backwards.
2. James Lamb – Cleveland, OH – He congratulated George in his career and work with the board. RTA looks good because of the board. The public doesn't like cuts, but they are necessary. He encouraged them to write their congressional officers. He offered to send the letters himself. He's been riding for 50 years.
3. George Zeller – Cleveland, OH – The sales tax this month was disastrous. Of all the money anticipated that didn't materialize, the 12 month moving average is down 9%. That's worse than the 6% and 7% for the last two months. The state of Ohio was down 7.4%. The whole economy is weak. We're down 6%. The annual loss is \$14.2 MI. Job growth has gone 26 months in a row below the national average.
4. Rich Raphael – Cleveland, OH – He's with Clevelanders for Public Transit. They thanked Mr. Dixon for his service and Mayor Welo and her committee for their leadership in looking at the recommendations in their report and voting to recommend that the current fare increase be put on hold. They are encouraged by the support of Mayor Elkins and Dr. McCall concerning local funding initiatives and the service planning open houses. They hope the meetings will include information for the realignment of routes 14 and 15.
5. Marvin Randalson – Lakewood, OH – On behalf of Clevelanders for Public Transit, they'd like to thank the RTA board and staff for delaying the 2018 fare increase and service cuts and examining reforms to fare policy for 2019. But they can't be satisfied just for this year because these issues will be there next year. Transit is the foundation of the community and can't be left in the position that it's in. The weakness of the sales tax is the real problem. Transit needs more revenue now to remove all the threats. They understand that the state has abandoned them. The board has the power to place new revenue on the ballot this year. They support Mayor Elkin's request to restore fares to 2016 levels. Their analysis indicates that ridership drives fare revenue and not fare increases. FTA data has shown that ridership drives fare revenue and when adjusted for inflation, fare revenue is less than it was in 2000 when it was \$1.25 a trip.
6. Rico Dancy – Washington, DC – In D.C., they have a green card and yellow cards that last for six years. It's called Access. He travels from D.C. to Cleveland every other day. The route 2 used to stop at 1 a.m. People can't attend church because this route doesn't run on weekends. The federal government is going to cut HR 620 which is service/funding for people with disability. It will stop the part of the Civil Rights Act for people with a disability. He asked if more service could be added to route 2.
7. Lynn Solomon – Cleveland, OH – She's ridden RTA for 25 years. She thanked the board for committing to no fare hikes and service cuts for this year and for committing to being transparent to the public and listening to their needs. Without riders, there wouldn't be an RTA. RTA has to step up to look for dependable, local funding by putting a tax levy on the

November ballot. Fare hikes and cutting service has created a death spiral. RTA needs to get realistic and proactive.

8. Loh – Cleveland, OH – In the original RTA plan, there will be a four year increase in fares for paratransit. She has learned from other research organizations like Center for Community Solutions, that Cuyahoga County has an increased aging population. That means there will be more senior citizens than before. She's observed students in wheelchairs. The paratransit fare hikes will decrease their ability to study and function in the county. The system needs to be redesigned for efficiency and effectiveness to save money. Mr. Calabrese said the Paratransit fares will not increase this year either.
9. Diane Howard – Cleveland, OH - She thanked the board for considering the revenue system. She's spoken to her state representatives in Columbus, which has resulted in no action. She encouraged everyone to vote.

Mr. Dixon urged the public to speak with their elected officials. RTA needs all the help they can get.

Executive Session Requested

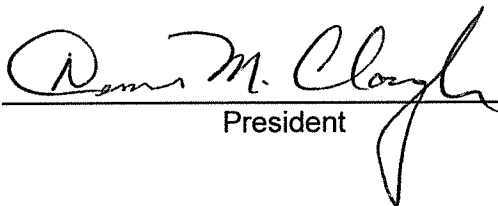
10:19 a.m. – Mr. Dixon asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss the appointment of public officials and personnel matters. It was moved by Mr. Nardi and seconded by Mayor Elkins. The roll was call. There were nine (9) ayes and none opposed.

11:11 a.m. – Mr. Dixon asked for a motion to come out of executive session. It was moved by Chief McCall and seconded by Mayor Welo. The roll was called. There were six (6) ayes and one (1) opposed by Mr. Norton. Rev. Lucas and Mayor Clough left before the roll was called.

The next regular Board Meeting and Annual Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17, 2018, in the Board Room of the Authority, Root-McBride Building, 1240 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113.

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

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
CEO, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President