

Minutes

RTA Board of Trustees
9:01 a.m., September 18, 2018

Committee Members: Clough (Chair), Lucas (Vice Chair), Elkins, McCall, Moss, Norton, Serrano and Welo

Not present: None

Also Present: Benford, Bennett, Bitto, Bobich, Buford, Calabrese, Caver, Cottrell, Cranford, Dangelo, Davis, Dedo, Dietrich, Draper, Feliciano, Ferraro, Fields, Ford, Garofoli, Gautam, Gillan-Shafron, Henderson, Houston, Jaszczak, Johnson, Jones, Kirkland, Krebs, Krecic, Lamb, Lee, Loeffler, Loh, Lozada, Manning, Manus, McGuinea, Orlando, Pickett, Pietz, Ponder, Randalson, Ragone, Schipper, Scott, Shariff, Stover, Sutula, Tarka, Togher, Tucker, Vukmanic, Wiehe, Young, Zeller

Mayor Clough called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. The secretary called the roll and reported that eight (8) committee 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.

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

There were no comments from the public.

Committee reports

- Operational Planning & Infrastructure Committee report – Mayor Welo said there are a few items approved at her committee meeting on today's agenda. The next committee meeting will address issues at Tower City. The Bylaws Review Committee meeting is working hard and will have another meeting. The GM/CEO Search committee has also met.
- Organizational, Services & Performance Monitoring Committee report - Rev. Lucas's committee has met and several items were addressed. He thanked Dr. Caver regarding approval of the resolutions on today's agenda.
- Audit, Safety Compliance and Real Estate Committee report – Ms. Moss did not have a report.
- External and Stakeholder Relations & Advocacy Committee – Chief McCall's meeting was moved to October due to the length of the last meeting. They will discuss the Community Advisory Committee CAC.

Minutes

Mayor Clough stated that the minutes from the August 21, 2018 Board Meeting minutes had been previously distributed and reviewed and asked whether there were any additions and/or corrections. They were approved.

Introduction of New Employees/Promotions

Beth Ragone is the new legal secretary. Sharon Cottrell-Pfeiffer was promoted to Procurement Services Team Leader. She has been a contract administrator for 18 years, serving in the Services Team. Nikki Ponder was promoted to budget management analyst. She previously worked at Fleet as a business analyst.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

There was no report. The committee will report out through Chief McCall's committee in October. The Board liaison position is open for anyone interested.

Introduction of resolutions

- A. 2018-84 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-037 with Motor Coach Industries, Inc., for the manufacture and delivery of up to nine (9) forty-five (45) foot commuter coaches, training, special tools and spare parts in an amount not to exceed \$5,134,023.77, with options to procure an additional eleven (11) coaches, training, special tools and spare parts, to be delivered over the five (5) year term of the contract (RTA Development Fund and pending FTA grant awards, Fleet Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Welo and approved by unanimous vote.
- B. 2018-85 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-055A with Medical Mutual of Ohio to provide medical and prescription drug benefits for a period of one year with three, one-year options in amounts not to exceed \$26,464,352.00 and \$5,364,894.00 respectively, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$31,829,246.00 for the base year (General Fund, various department budgets), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Elkins, seconded by Rev. Lucas. The roll was called. There were six (6) ayes and two (2) opposed by Chief McCall and Mr. Serrano. It passed.

A memo was sent to the Board regarding the DBE for this contract, TM Consulting. Mayor Clough asked if the time period was met to get the new DBE. Dr. Caver confirmed.

- C. 2018-86 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-055B with National Vision Administrators, LLC to provide vision benefits for a period of one year with three, one-year options in an amount not to exceed \$142,316.00 for the base year (General Fund, various department budgets), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved by unanimous vote.
- D. 2018-87 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-055C with Delta Dental Plan of Ohio, Inc. to provide dental benefits for a period of one year with three, one-year options in an amount not to exceed \$935,616.00 for the base year (General Fund, various department budgets), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Norton and approved by unanimous vote.
- E. 2018-88 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-055D with the Guardian Life Insurance Company of America to provide life insurance benefits for a period of one year with three, one-year options in an amount not to exceed \$501,530.00 for the base year (General Fund, various department budgets), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mayor Norton and approved by unanimous vote.

The last four resolutions are related to health, dental, vision and life insurance benefits coverage for employees.

- F. 2018-89 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-074 with Ohio Graphco, Inc., dba Graphco to provide a new printing press to the Authority with an option to finance and purchase at an amount not to exceed \$713,239.46 (RTA Capital Fund, Support Services Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayo Welo and approved by unanimous vote.

This will allow in-house printing to be done with the new press. The return on investment will be about 5 ½ years.

- G. 2018-90 – Authorizing Contract No. 2018-081 with Safety-Kleen Services, Inc. for the furnishing of parts wash tank services, as specified and required, in an amount not to exceed \$227,659.30 for a period of three (3) years (General Fund, Fleet Management Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Mr. Serrano and approved by unanimous vote.
- H. 2018-91 – Authorizing a four-month extension to Contract 2015-046 with Lakefront Lines, Inc. for supplemental paratransit services, in an amount not to exceed \$1,050,555.00, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$9,997,059.00 (General Fund, Paratransit Department budget), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Rev. Lucas and approved by unanimous vote.

Rev. Lucas said this has been vetted carefully. He complimented Paratransit for their work. Mayor Welo thanked the staff. This could create the possibility of a larger bid and more vendors bidding for this service.

- I. 2018-92 – Authorizing the establishment of a three-year overall annual goal for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation in the Authority's federally funded contract procurement opportunities for federal fiscal years 2019-2021, and its submission to the Federal Transit Administration, the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Elkins, seconded by Mayor Welo. The roll was called. There were six (6) ayes and two opposed by Ms. Moss and Mr. Serrano. Mayor Clough emphasized that more outreach to women owned business needs to be done.

Information was sent to the Board about outstanding questions they had about this agenda item. It included a list of women owned business invited and who came to the community meeting, number of women owned DBEs and what was spent with those companies for the last five years.

- J. 2018-93 – Authorizing the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority to enter into a license agreement with Lamar Advertising of Youngstown, Inc., dba Lamar Advertising of Cleveland, OH ("Lamar") for six outdoor advertising locations in the City of Cleveland for a term of five years with an option for five additional years, the adoption of which was moved Mr. Serrano, seconded by Mayor Norton and approved by unanimous vote.

A memo was sent to the Board in regards to additional information requested by the board. The question was regarding what RTA received for the six locations. RTA is receiving \$23,000 more than received in 2018. The revenue is based on what Lamar is able to receive. The deal includes Lamar taking low performing and prime sites.

- K. 2018-94 – Authorizing the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority to enter into a two year license agreement with Megabus Northeast, LLC, Megabus USA, LLC and/or Lakefront Lines, Inc. ("Megabus") for service at the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Transit Center ("Transit Center"), the adoption of which was moved by Mayor Welo, seconded by Rev. Lucas and approved by unanimous vote.

Interim General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Sales tax YTD is 7.7% less than it was in 2017 taken into account the loss of MCO sales tax. Related to the budget and estimate, through September, it is above budget by 2.8%, equal to \$3.8 M over the budget estimate. Revenue of \$3 M from the State Medicaid Transition Fund was received in August. This is the final payment received as transitional money for the MCO sales tax loss. The total received is \$18.2 M. Ridership is down for August by 3%, and down 5% YTD, which is less than the beginning of the year. Bus is down for the month by 1%, and down 5% YTD. Rail was down 3%, and down 1% YTD. Trolleys are down 7%, but up 6% YTD. Several events are aimed at improving ridership, like the RTA GoPass program. There were two promotions in August. This project is aimed at looking for bus lines that have capacity and making targeted markets to drive ridership to those lines. Four thousand rides per week were generated. The Kids Ride Free promotion resulted in a 50% increase in ridership from last year. It is a total of 85,000 rides, which included two additional week. This program helps kids enjoy city amenities during the summer.

Construction on the E. 34th Street Station will end at the end of the month. The ribbon cutting will be October 9 at 10 a.m. Work at the E. 105 Street and E. 116th Street Stations is still ongoing. Construction work also continues at the Farnsleigh Station on the light rail. The summertime is used to increase the amount of work done on the rail system. This summer, work was done on the west, Red Line from July 22 – August 12, to replace ties 7,300 ties for \$5 M. Replacement bus service was effective and the tie replacement allowed speeds to be improved on that line. The next priority is the Light Rail System Signal rehabilitation. Engineering will be working to develop a package to look at what needs to be repaired on the LR. There may be some delays during that project. The committee heard an update on the E. 79th Street Station. From Sept 22-23, the Blue and Green Line will be shut down for track work for a bridge inspection occurring at the E. 116th Street Station. There will be track work west of the Puritas Station to increase the speeds of the trains.

A \$9.8 M Build grant was submitted to FTA for track work at Tower City west. A pilot program with Lyft and Paratransit will end at the end of September. A whitepaper will be created and submitted to the FTA to look at the pros and cons of doing the project. Mobile ticketing is a way to help people who may not understand how to pay their fares. Mobile ticketing grossed the highest sales of \$435,000 in August. The fall schedule change was August 12. There were 19 scheduled modified. The HealthLine 10-year anniversary is October 24. Officials from Albuquerque and Atlanta toured the HealthLine recently. The Red Line rail service to the airport will celebrate 50 years. Cleveland was the first city in the western hemisphere to offer this direct connection. The service offers a seamless trip from the airport to downtown without having to go outside.

The Red Line will be the focus of an art program with the InterUrban project, LAND Studios and Cleveland Foundation with the Wolf Book awards. The art will address racism and diversity. A DBE Compliance audit will begin today and next week there will be an ODOT State Safety Oversight Triennial audit. Chief McCall thanked him for updating them on the 50th anniversary of the Red Line service. She suggested the economic impact of the HealthLine be discussed during the anniversary. She suggested the Board check emails regularly regarding request they make. Several board members said they didn't receive items they requested at committee meeting last week. Rev. Lucas complimented Dr. Caver on his first report in the Interim position.

Questions or comments from the audience (2 minutes)

1. George Zeller – Cleveland, OH – the sales tax is substantially weak this month. The only good news is that it's close to budget projections. The actual figure with the 12 month moving average, was down 9.6%. The amount collected this month compared to the all-time peak in 2001, was down \$31.8 M a year. Auto sales got weak this month. For the year, they are doing better than non-auto. The State had a relatively weak figure too. There is a lot of talk in Columbus to put extra revenue in the Rainy Day Fund, instead of funding transit. Total State revenues this month were up 0.4%. Inflation was 2.6%. Adjusted for inflation, State revenue is down. In Cleveland and Cuyahoga County, the median income was down in the latest census data. The August job figures will be available Friday.
2. Lenny Stover – Cleveland, OH – He's with the Rotary Club of Cleveland. The Club has volunteered for 43 years grooming the track side on the Red Line. In 2007, he had the idea to turn this into a public green space. In 2014, a partnership was formed with RTA and the MetroParks. Since then two federal grants and a state grant have totaled \$7 M. Construction begins next spring. This has been compared to New York's High Line. Greenways have evolved over the last 5-10 years. Greenways are different from trails, because they are wide with a linear park that reconnects neighborhoods that have been segregated by trains and highways. This will provide green space for improvised areas.

He is opposed to the RFP to sale property on Columbus Road. He supports development, but not on a greenway. Development in Ohio City will help ridership. He believes in TOD, but questioned the extent. He invited the board to go on a walking tour. Ms. Moss has known Mr. Stover for a long time and has witnessed his commitment to this project. The property is next to the Velvet Tango Room. Chief McCall thanked Mr. Stover. It was once an area that had a lot of complaints. She is in favor of the walking tour.

3. Marvin Randalson – Lakewood, OH – He is with Clevelanders for Public Transit. The biggest concern they have is where RTA is going. This is the best opportunity to reverse the decline of transit service. With new leadership will be new ideas. Don't make safe choices that will represent the status que in Cleveland. RTA should be a leader for a younger and more vibrant leaders. They want RTA to look forwards. He is planning to move to San Francisco for a better job opportunity.
4. Marques Manus – Cleveland, OH – He is with Clevelanders for Public Transit. RTA can make dramatic moves if they want, such as the HealthLine, W. 25 and others. Change can happen quickly if everyone works together.
5. Loh – OH – RTA can make moves to improve the community. Riders have endured service cuts and higher fares in favor of development. Once service and frequency is cut, you create limitations. Projects have to be well designed to prevent flaws. The HealthLine created development. Expand service to other neighborhoods so people won't leave.
6. James Lamb – Cleveland, OH – He speaks out to voice for the city, region and county. The public is the tax payer. He continues to see benefits in one place and cuts for himself. RTA is in business because of him and other tax payers. After attending a bylaws committee meeting he was surprised that the bylaws had not been revised in 28 years. The service can't continue to be cut. He fought for the #81 for four years.
7. April Buford – Cleveland, OH – She asked what is a companion animal. She suggested Paratransit be featured on the TV show, Undercover Boss, to see how operators work and

communicate. At times she is picked up early to get dropped off later. Operators were surprised she she's questioned them about where she is on the drop off list. She said she wasn't allow to transport a grandchild to school because it took money from the school system. She suggested RTA use Court Order Community services to clean the bus. Mr. Henderson said he would speak to Ms. Buford about her concerns.

Executive Session Requested

10:06 a.m. - Mayor Clough asked for a motion to discuss the appointment of personnel and/or compensation of personnel. It was moved by Mayor Norton, seconded by Mayor Elkins. There were eight (8) ayes and none opposed.

10:40 a.m. - Mayor Norton made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Mayor Elkins. The roll was called. There were six (6) ayes and one (1) opposed by Mayor Norton.

The next regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 16, 2018, in the Board Room of the Authority, Root-McBride Building, 1240 West Sixth Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113.

This meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Attest:

J. M. Lewis, Ph.D.
Interim CEO, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

Dennis M. Clough
President