

## Minutes

### Greater Dayton RTA Board of Trustees Public Board Meeting

February 4, 2020

- Trustees: Sharon Hairston, President  
David P. Williamson, Vice President  
John Lumpkin  
Belinda Matthews-Stenson  
Thomas Weckesser
- Excused: Vince Corrado  
Adrienne L. Heard  
Franz Hoge  
Sharon D. Howard
- Staff: Mark Donaghy, Chief Executive Officer  
Chris Cole, Chief Operating Officer  
Christopher Conard, Coolidge Wall, Co. LPA  
Cathy Garner, Sr. Executive Administrative Assistant  
Brandon Policicchio, Chief Customer & Business Development Officer  
Bob Ruzinsky, Deputy Chief Executive Officer  
Mary K. Stanforth, Chief Financial Officer
- Others: Interested citizens (see attached sheet)

### Call Meeting to Order

Ms. Hairston called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present and proper notice of the meeting had been given.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Hairston led attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority**

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**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken:

Mr. Corrado	Excused	Mr. Lumpkin	Yes
Ms. Hairston	Yes	Ms. Matthews-Stenson	Yes
Ms. Heard	Excused	Mr. Weckesser	Yes
Mr. Hoge	Excused	Mr. Williamson	Yes
Ms. Howard	Excused		

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Hairston stated Greater Dayton RTA (RTA) By-Laws require Board Trustees approval of today's Board Meeting Agenda. Ms. Hairston explained the Board Agenda was mailed in advance, however, since that time one change is required. Ms. Hairston stated that Mr. Williamson will be presenting the Planning Committee Report in the absence of Ms. Howard. Ms. Hairston then DECLARED ACCEPTANCE of today's Amended Board Meeting Agenda.

**APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 3, 2019 MEETING MINUTES AND APPROVAL OF JANUARY 3, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Hairston asked if anyone requests a reading of the minutes or if there are corrections to the minutes? Upon hearing no requests or corrections, Ms. Hairston declared ACCEPTANCE of the December 3, 2019 Meeting Minutes and the January 3, 2020 Special Board Meeting Minutes.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Five                      Nays: None

**FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT (JOHN LUMPKIN)**

Mr. Lumpkin stated the Finance/Personnel and Planning Committees met on January 21<sup>st</sup> and as a result the Finance/Personnel Committee is recommending four (4) Action Items for approval by the Board of Trustees.

**ACTION ITEM #2 –RESOLUTION NO. 2020-2-1, STATE FISCAL YEARS 2020 & 2021 OHIO URBAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS**

Mr. Lumpkin stated The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) provides financial assistance to public transportation systems in Ohio through the Ohio

Urban Public Transportation Grant Program. Current funding opportunities are offered under the Urban Formula Program and the Preservation Partnership Program. RTA intends to use state awarded funds for Preventive Maintenance or other Capital Projects based on budget need. Because of the state fiscal year (July 1 through June 30), eligible projects can be selected from either the RTA's 2020 or 2021 list of eligible projects.

Historically RTA has applied under the Urban Transit Program, as well as the Ohio Transit Preservation Partnership Program. In addition, we have applied for funding under some Ohio EPA programs, which are open to Ohio public transit systems. Other funding opportunities may arise and will be considered for application based on program requirements and current need.

MOTION MADE by Mr. Lumpkin and SECONDED by Ms. Matthews-Stenson to APPROVE Resolution No. 2020-2-1, Ohio Urban Public Transportation Grant Program Applications.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Five                      Nays: None

**ACTION ITEM #3 - RESOLUTION NO. 2020-2-2, FISCAL YEAR 2020 – 49 USC 5307, 5337, 5339, 5310 AND OTHER FEDERAL CAPITAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS**

Mr. Lumpkin stated 49 United States Code (USC) 5307 authorizes grants to public transit systems in urbanized areas for capital, operating, and planning assistance based on formulas used in the statute.

49 USC 5337 and 5339 authorizes grants to public transit systems in urbanized areas for capital assistance to support and maintain fixed guideway assets (5337) and other capital assets (5339) in a state of good repair. The RTA can use this funding for the purchase of electric trolley buses, modernization of trolley infrastructure, the capitalization of maintenance costs, and other supporting facilities & equipment projects as well as to maintain capital assets in a state of good repair. These funds are based on formulas used in the statute.

49 USC 5310 provides funds to the region to support projects that serve the elderly and disabled.

Resolution No. 2020-2-2 provides authorization to file Fiscal Year 2020 USC 5307, 5337, 5339, 5310 and Other Federal Capital Assistance Grants.

MOTION MADE by Mr. Lumpkin and SECONDED by Mr. Weckesser to APPROVE Resolution No. 2020-2-2, Fiscal Year 2020 – 49 USC 5307, 5337, 5339, 5310 and Other Federal Capital Assistance Grants.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Five                      Nays: None

**ACTION ITEM #4 - APTEAN IREN UPGRADE PROJECT MODIFICATIONS**

Mr. Lumpkin stated that during 2018 Staff recommended an upgrade to RTA's Accounting software. Staff is currently in the final stage of upgrading the software, however there have been some difficulties in implementing the Contracts component of the software. After time and efforts were spent trying to implement the new Contracts process, it was unfortunately determined we needed to go back to using the custom process that had previously been designed for RTA. The goal was to go to a more "off the shelf" product, however that did not work out after considerable time and effort were spent. At this point in time, Staff is requesting additional funds in order to successfully and correctly implement all facets of the accounting software. Additional professional and technical services are required to ensure proper functionality of the new version. This project supports RTA's core value of Stewardship of the financial resources entrusted to our care.

MOTION MADE by Mr. Lumpkin and SECONDED by Ms. Matthews-Stenson to RATIFY an increase to the Aptean IREN contract in the amount of \$70,115 for the purchase of additional Aptean professional and technical services for a total award of \$371,619. The cost will be funded with 80% federal and 20% local operating funds.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Five                      Nays: None

**ACTION ITEM #5 - RADIO MAINTENANCE**

Mr. Lumpkin stated Motorola Solutions is the sole provider of the Digital Radio System that Montgomery County uses to which the RTA subscribes. This is the radio system which all RTA revenue vehicles, supervisor vehicles, maintenance vehicles and management personnel use for closed radio communications. In 2014 this decision was made as part of RTA's Technology Investment project to convert from a private UHF based radio system to the new county-wide system.

RTA is requesting the authorization of the funds to enter into a four (4) year contract with Motorola Solutions for the initial version upgrade and four (4) years of maintenance that will include one version upgrade every other year for the radio server and dispatch consoles. This purchase supports RTA's core value of Stewardship through the effective and efficient use of agency resources.

MOTION MADE by Mr. Lumpkin and SECONDED by Mr. Weckesser to AWARD a CONTRACT to Motorola Solutions in the not to exceed amount of \$237,424 for the purchase of an initial upgrade and four (4) years of maintenance of RTA's radio server and dispatch consoles. The cost will be funded with 80% federal and 20% local operating funds.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Five                      Nays: None

**DISCUSSION ITEMS TO MENTION**

**October 2019 Sales Tax Update**

Mr. Lumpkin stated at the meeting Ms. Stanforth reported Year-to-Date (YTD) October 2019 Sales Tax receipts equal \$32.7 million while YTD October 2018 receipts equaled \$31.2 million. Improvements were realized in the areas of Sellers Use tax and Streamlined Sales and Use tax (out of state sellers). When comparing to 2017 and previous years, current funding has been reduced by \$4 million as a result of the lost Medicaid Managed Care Tax.

**November 2019 Financial Statements**

Mr. Lumpkin stated at the meeting Ms. Stanforth reported for the Month of November, 2019 RTA's Net Loss before federal and state depreciation is \$544,000. This compares to the November, 2018 Net Loss of \$142,000. The negative result is attributed to higher contract services including hardware maintenance and buildings and grounds maintenance, as well as the elimination of State transitional aid revenue.

The YTD November, 2019 Net Loss before federal and state depreciation is \$2.0 million. This compares to the YTD November, 2018 Net Loss of \$630,000. The current loss is attributed to the elimination of State transitional aid for 2019, offset by lower operating expenses, higher federal assistance and the significant change in the fair value of investments. The Committees must continue to address the growing operating loss trend while considering options to improve RTA's overall financial health. The Agency simply cannot continue to absorb such large annual operating losses.

**PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT (DAVID WILLIAMSON)**

Mr. Williamson reported the Finance, Personnel and Planning Committees met for a jointly held meeting on January 21, 2020. The Planning Committee does not have any Action Items to present, however, the Committee does have important updates to provide.

Mr. Williamson stated at the committee meeting Mr. Brandon Policicchio provided a summary document of recent activities in the Customer & Business Development Department.

More than 150 people learned how to live a healthier life going into 2020 thanks to RTA's Get Healthy for the Holidays event on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at Wright Stop Plaza. This was the fifth year of the annual event, which included free health and insurance information, screenings, and a prize pack. The event was done with the help of Premier Health, Kettering Health Network, Planned Parenthood, Dayton and Montgomery County Public Health, Five Rivers Health Centers, Help Me Grow!, and Primary Health Solutions.

Ohio Loves Transit Day is February 14<sup>th</sup> and the RTA will be using the day to promote its services and reward customers for using Transit app. As part of the statewide initiative, transit agencies will be sharing customer stories about how transit improves their lives, and how agencies are using new state funding to provide better service. In Dayton, RTA riders will be able to ride free on February 14<sup>th</sup> if they show the Transit app to their driver.

This past month, the RTA was named as a first place winner of the American Public Transportation Association 2020 Photo Invitational. The RTA submitted several photos of customers using RTA services. In total, 12 photos were selected as part of the contest.

### **INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT (THOMAS WECKESSER)**

Mr. Weckesser stated the Investment Advisory Committee met on January 23<sup>rd</sup> for an informative session regarding current topics in the investment arena, RTA's investment portfolio and sales tax revenue. The Committee does not have any action items today, however I have informational items to share.

#### **Meeder Investment's Economic Update and Financial Presentation**

Mr. Weckesser stated at the meeting, Ms. Eileen Stanic began her presentation with an Economic Update. As of September 2019 U.S. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) Growth was just over 2% quarter-over-quarter as well as year-over-year. This year's Presidential election may have an impact on GDP as we get closer to the fall of 2020.

Regarding Oil and Diesel Fuel pricing, AAA Diesel Retail Prices are in the \$60-\$65 per barrel range, which is up about \$10 per barrel from our October 2019 meeting. The slight uptick over the past quarter results from recent disputes with Iran. Pricing is still relatively low, with the likely scenario being higher future prices. With the US producing more and more diesel, this has buffered the increase in prices.

Regarding the U.S. Unemployment Rate, we continue to have a full employment state with employers finding it difficult to find qualified employees. The National Unemployment rate is currently under 4% and Ohio's rate

is now at 3.5%, compared to 4.5% at our October 2019 meeting.

When looking at inflation, Personal Consumption Expenditures (PCE) inflation remains well below 2%. Market inflation expectations are in the 1.5% range over the next 5 years. The lower inflation expectations indicate a slowing economy.

#### **RTA Investment Portfolio Update**

The par value of RTA's investment portfolio at December 31, 2019 was \$25.32 Million and carried a weighted average maturity of 1.69 years. The weighted average yield on the portfolio was 1.69% and the Annual Interest Income Projected on the current portfolio is \$427,891.

Meeder's recommendations to the Committee included:

- Recent trends in inflation and slowing global growth support the Fed's recent actions of reducing the Federal Funds Rate. The market is anticipating one additional rate cut in 2020. Given this outlook for rates, Meeder continues to recommend extending the core portfolio, cash flow permitting.
- Commercial paper continues to provide excess yield to the portfolio over alternative short term products; therefore, Meeder recommends continuing to build the allocation to commercial paper.

Committee members unanimously agreed with Meeder's above stated recommendations. This will be the path followed until the next Investment Advisory Committee meeting which is scheduled for April 2020.

Sales Tax has previously been mentioned under the Finance/Personnel Committee Report.

#### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Mr. Donaghy stated that he had a few informational items to mention. Mr. Donaghy continued that he had good news to share about the Bus Group from the Czech Republic as they raised over \$30,000 to get the bus shipped back to the Czech Republic! Mr. Donaghy stated that in addition, RTA will supply some critical infrastructure parts along with a full Operator Uniform to be on display with the bus as it makes its way back to the Czech Republic. These funds



will help to send one of RTA's Electric Trolley Buses back to its original home and be placed in a museum for the world to see. RTA has already begun arranging for the transfer to occur!

Mr. Donaghy commented the RTA Scooters have been pulled out of service for the winter season. Mr. Donaghy then stated not to worry the Bike Share Program is still in effect for those "out door winter mobile warriors." ☺

Mr. Donaghy stated our manpower continues to get better for bus drivers however, not as fast as we would like it to be. Mr. Donaghy communicated that Staff continues to work on addressing the matter. Mr. Donaghy encouraged anyone who may know a good Bus Driver or Mechanic that may be interested to please invite them to apply.

In closing Mr. Donaghy stated as many know RTA's Management Team was able to reach a labor agreement with the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 1385 with a new 3-year contract. Mr. Donaghy expressed his thanks to the Union's leadership, led by ATU President, Mr. Gerald Duncan. Mr. Donaghy commented that Staff is currently wrapping up back pay issues now and that he is happy that both parties now have an agreement through April, 2022.

Mr. Williamson asked if the bus being shipped to the Czech Republic will still maintain RTA's logo on it?

Mr. Donaghy replied yes!

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following citizens expressed their disappointment with a recent termination of an RTA Employee:

- Ms. Florence O'Brien – 4032 N. Main Street – Apt. # 102, Dayton, Ohio.

- Ms. Sandra Mae Smothers – 6217 N. Main Street – Apt. #124, Dayton, Ohio.
- Ms. Candace Woods – 6217 N. Main Street – Apt. # 106, Dayton, Ohio.
- Ms. Loretta Day – 1465 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street – Dayton, Ohio.
- Ms. Charlene E. Dawson – 6045 N. Main Street – Apt. #214 Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. Donaghy replied to all that RTA does not discuss nor comment on details regarding disciplinary actions of RTA employees. Mr. Donaghy communicated to all that the events spoken about were all captured on audio and video.

Ms. Florence O'Brien – 4032 N. Main Street – Apt. # 102, Dayton, Ohio. Ms. O'Brien also expressed her concerns with the RTA Connect vehicle being overcrowded and stated she has trouble climbing up and down the steps.

Mr. Donaghy stated to Ms. O'Brien that as she is aware the design of this particular vehicle has the engine located in the rear of the bus and therefore nothing can be done about this. However, Mr. Donaghy will have Staff look at the data to see what other size vehicles might be available regarding overcrowding issues.

Ms. Charlene Dawson – 6045 N. Main Street – Apt. # 214, Dayton Ohio. Ms. Dawson also asked if the bus driver can take their five minute layover break on Walmart's property on Route #16 Northbound entering the Walmart Store on Hoke Road verses across the street from the Walmart store. Ms. Dawson commented that the traffic is sometimes dangerous as patrons have to walk a distance to and from that location.

Mr. Donaghy replied that he will have Staff to look at this request. Additionally, Mr. Donaghy stated often Walmart Officials will make the simplest request difficult as everything has to go through to their home office. Mr. Donaghy commented that most Walmart Stores do not want buses on their property, however, again Mr. Donaghy will have Staff to look into the matter.

Carla Pitsinger – 2727 N. Gettysburg Avenue – Apt. #1 – Dayton, Ohio. Ms. Pitsinger is requesting an RTA shelter at the Women's Wilmington Family Shelter.

Mr. Donaghy replied to Ms. Pitsinger that Mr. Policicchio will speak with her immediately following today's meeting.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS  
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Ms. Hairston stated there is a request to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

MOTION MADE by Ms. Matthews-Stenson and SECONDED by Mr. Williamson to RECESS into Executive Session for the purposes specified.

Roll call was taken:

Mr. Corrado	Excused	Mr. Lumpkin	Yes
Ms. Hairston	Yes	Ms. Matthews-Stenson	Yes
Ms. Heard	Excused	Mr. Weckesser	Yes
Mr. Hoge	Excused	Mr. Williamson	Yes
Ms. Howard	Excused		

The meeting recessed at 3:41 p.m.

MOTION MADE by Mr. Williamson and SECONDED by Ms. Hairston to RECONVENE into regular session.

Roll call was taken:

Mr. Corrado	Excused	Mr. Lumpkin	Yes
Ms. Hairston	Yes	Ms. Matthews-Stenson	Yes
Ms. Heard	Excused	Mr. Weckesser	Yes
Mr. Hoge	Excused	Mr. Williamson	Yes
Ms. Howard	Excused		

The meeting reconvened at 3:50 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION MADE by Mr. Weckesser and SECONDED by Ms. Matthews-Stenson to ADJOURN the meeting.

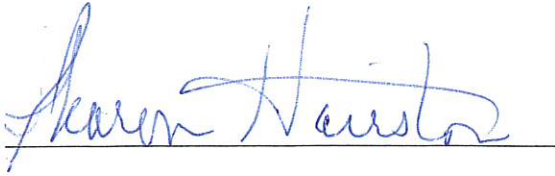
MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Five

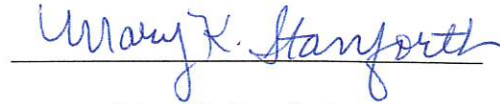
Nays: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

ATTEST

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sharon Hairston", written over a horizontal line.

Sharon Hairston  
President  
RTA Board of Trustees

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mary K. Stanforth", written over a horizontal line.

Mary K. Stanforth  
Secretary/Treasurer  
RTA Board of Trustees

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