

**THE COAST RTA-WACCAMAW RTA
BOARD MEETING
August 28, 2013
12:00 p.m.**

Board Present: Bernard Silverman, Chair
Joseph Lazzara, Vice-Chair
Ivory Wilson
James Elekes
Lillie Jean Johnson
Gary Loftus
Katharine D'Angelo

Staff Present: Myers Rollins, General Manager
John Glover, Transportation & Service Planning Manager
Julie Norton-Dew, DGM of Finance & Administration – CFO
Felicia Beaty, DGM of Operations – COO
Joe Ponticello, Director of Internal Controls
Barbara Blain-Olds, Staff Attorney
Kevin Parks, Grants and Procurement Manager
Erica Hill, Business Development Specialist
Rick Carroll, Street Supervisor
Tom Arends, Material Control & IT Analyst
Pamela Glenn, Receptionist

Also Present: Kelsey Riggs, WBTW
Michael Walter, WMBF
Bobby Lamb, Coast RTA Rider

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), notices of the meeting were provided to the press, stating the time, date, and place of the meeting on Monday, August 26, 2013.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Silverman called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Ivory Wilson gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM/ROLL CALL: Roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VISITORS:

August 28, 2013

Kelsey Riggs, WBTW

PUBLIC COMMENT: Coast RTA rider, Bobby Lamb, commented on the County Council meeting to be held September 3. Mr. Lamb stated that he was concerned, as a Coast RTA rider, that it appears that from his observations that funding is coming up short and that needed enhancements will not come to fruition, and asked why. Chairman Silverman responded that Horry County has withheld 1/4 of Coast RTA's funding, and has requested additional representation on the Coast RTA Board. The funds are supposed to be released once the additional representation request is granted. Mr. Loftus responded that he would be remiss if he did not state that the withheld funding are funds that Coast RTA would not have had access to anyway because the April 2014 check is the one that is being withheld. Mr. Elekes responded that the money has to be reported to the FTA, and that Coast RTA is technically running on an unbalanced budget because the 1/3 of the Horry County funds is not in possession of Coast RTA. Further, Coast RTA is required on October 1 to begin a "Doomsday Plan" in order to cut back routes to maintain a balanced budget, and lay off personnel as well. There are mechanisms that have to be in place, and that it takes time to accomplish this. Therefore, Mr. Elekes stated, we either do have money or we don't have money. What it comes down to is, committed vs. uncommitted funds.

The Chairman called for other public comment, and Mr. Elekes stated that he would like to make public comment based on his position as a member of the general public who is a user of public transportation, and who is concerned about the viability of public transit because of information that has been provided to him, and in no way reflects any action of the Coast RTA Board, management, or membership.

Barbara Blain-Olds, staff attorney, read the following into record:

The creation of COAST RTA as a regional transportation may not have involved ratification by referendum, having predated such requirement in the South Carolina Code of Laws. What procedures would be required for dissolution?

Are there any alternatives for a public transportation system that is other than a regional transportation authority and, if so, what are the procedural requirements for the establishment of such an alternative system?

What process is available to the county for it to establish its own system of public transportation, under its direction and control, and how can that be accomplished?

What structure would that purely local system of transportation assume, and how would the administrative body be established and maintained?

Mr. Elekes stated that what was just read into record were questions shared by the Horry County Council to the Attorney General to determine whether the Coast RTA should allow expansion of its public membership to allow two more members for the Horry County Council. These questions clearly have nothing to do with expansion of membership on any level, but do clearly

August 28, 2013

take aim at Coast RTA for its absolution and reestablishment of the County agency. Mr. Elekes asked Mr. Loftus if the procedure started in June to expand membership for Horry County Council to have more oversight on Coast RTA, how has this transferred to a mechanism to dissolve Coast RTA and bring it under the auspices of the county. Mr. Loftus responded that Mr. Elekes was reading too much into the County's questions of the Attorney General, and that the County simply wants more representation on the Coast RTA board in exchange for its million dollars in funding.

The Chairman stated that this discussion should be deferred to another time and moved to the next agenda item.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: Although there were no formal recognitions, Mr. Silverman thanked all employees for keeping the buses running and on time, stating that they are doing a fabulous job.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: It was properly moved and seconded that the minutes from the previous meeting of June 26, 2013 be approved. There being no questions, a voice vote was taken. No nays being heard, the motion carried. Mr. Elekes abstained from voting because the minutes were not disseminated prior to today's meeting, and he did not have ample opportunity to read the minutes before today's Board meeting. Chairman Silverman stated that there was an extenuating circumstance with Lynette Nobles' accident, but that the minutes will be distributed well in advance in the future.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Ms. Pam Creech was absent and Mr. Silverman stated that the next meeting will be in October.

MASS TRANSIT PRESENTATION: Felicia Beaty provided a report on the Fall/Winter schedule/reductions that will become effective September 8, 2013 and October 1. Ms. Beaty also provided a report on staffing, advising that additional staffing will not be hired, and that seven operators will be laid off for the Fall/Winter schedule, starting with the part-timers first, and some full-time may go to part-time. There was discussion on benefits, and Ms. Beaty stated that anyone working less than 30 hours do not receive health benefits, and that it is not expected that any of the full-time operators will lose benefits.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS: (none)

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Finance and Administration: Mr. Lazzara reported that the committee met that morning and reviewed and accepted the financial report. Reviewed and accepted the bank reconciliation report as provided.

Ms. Julie Norton-Dew reported that she and Felicia Beaty are working on an austerity budget to make sure Coast RTA is staying balanced, and that another budget will be presented to the Board

August 28, 2013

before the winter break. Mr. Silverman asked when repercussions from the county withholding funds would begin, and Ms. Norton-Dew responded that that would be October 1, as we passed the austerity budget. Due to the county withholding funds, she had to take the three committed payments and divide them over four quarters, which accounts for the shortfall, not to mention that local match money is significantly affected by the withholding.

Mr. Loftus stated that he read that Pee Dee RTA is budgeting uncommitted dollars, and asked how they do that. Ms. Norton-Dew responded that she is unsure how Pee Dee RTA is doing their budgeting, but that until the money is guaranteed, it cannot be included in the austerity budget. Ms. Norton-Dew tried to explain how the budget is set up, and how local match dollars play, and had significant dialogue with Mr. Loftus, stressing that until the money is guaranteed, the austerity budget must be followed. Mr. Loftus requested that he meet with Ms. Norton-Dew and Mr. Rollins so that they can explain the process to him. Mr. Rollins also attempted to explain the budget shortfall, and how the county's withholding funds is affecting the budget.

Mr. Elekes stated that in the July Board meeting, the Board passed a series of resolutions affirming the money was in place, including the full funding of Horry County. Therefore, the resolution is not worth the paper it is written on, and the resolution did not include the requirement of Horry County of reconstituting the Coast RTA Board. Ms. Norton-Dew stated that the resolution was simply for the receipt of the funds. Does the resolution need to be changed? Mr. Elekes stated that he deferred to legal counsel's opinion on that question.

Mr. Rollins stated that Coast RTA thought that it would get the 6/10 without challenge, on a recurring basis. This process has been extremely discouraging and frustrating. Each spring we face a new challenge for funding, and employee morale has been affected. Our hands are tied and raises have been frozen, with no hope of retroactive pay. Mr. Rollins further stated that he has spoken with the chairman of the Horry County Council, and asked him if we were "good to go on Tuesday," and he said we were. The expectation is for Coast RTA to go before Council on Tuesday and show that a good faith effort has been made to reconstitute the Coast RTA Board to allow for more Horry County representation, and Coast RTA has fulfilled that obligation, and has cooperated fully. Mr. Rollins stated that based on his meeting with the Council Chairman that he cannot foresee any problems at the meeting on Tuesday.

There was significant and lengthy discussion, and Chairman Silverman agreed that Coast RTA has done everything it can to comply with the county's request and that Coast RTA has, indeed, made a good faith effort. Mr. Rollins stated that no criteria were ever provided as to what constitutes a "good faith effort," and that a written plan was never mentioned. Again, it was stated that the questions have been submitted to the Attorney General, and that Coast RTA will comply. There was discussion on the law, and Chairman Silverman stated that if Coast RTA is not in compliance with the law, then it will get into compliance. Mr. Elekes questioned if the Attorney General should not conduct an audit of the 23 area RTAs to determine compliance with the law. Mr. Wilson echoed Mr. Elekes's concerns about the County's questions to the Attorney General.

August 28, 2013

Operations Committee: Lillie Jean Johnson reported. Ms. Johnson provided an overview of passes, stating that we are trying to accommodate a variety of people, and the public keeps coming back. Ridership is up, and the Entertainment Express is #1 and the Conway route is #2. The effort to acquire space in the airport is going well. Ms. Beaty reported on the transfer center in the City of Myrtle Beach, and reminded that the ridership shows a 17% increase over last year.

Planning Committee: In Professor Twigg's absence, Mr. Rollins reported that the committee was updated on the shelter and signage project, as well as the joint partnership with the City of Myrtle Beach for a state-of-the-art facility east of the Intracoastal Waterway. Also discussed was the transportation passport. Community needs will be researched. Census data and its impact were discussed as well.

Bylaws: (none)

General Manager: Mr. Rollins reported.

- The airport shuttle is enjoying great success, with 4,000 rides since June 1, which has not gone unnoticed by the North Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce, which has expressed an interest in Coast RTA service. Will be meeting with Rick Elliott and Marc Jordan soon;
- We are experiencing challenges with regards to rolling stock and supplementing the fleet. Have had successful meetings with Pee Dee RTA, which has gone from 110 to 30 buses. We are looking into acquisitions of their trolleys, at no cost, which cost \$275K new, but would take over the federal interest that remains on the buses. Will bring a resolution to the Board in September regarding acquisition of the trolleys;
- Leadership APTA: This is a year-long intensive program which exposes the attendees to inner workings of RTAs, etc., and Julie Norton-Dew has been selected to be a part of this, all costs paid. Congratulations to Julie, who will be part of the 2014 APTA graduation;
- Will soon be meeting with Michael Melaphiny in Chicago, as Coast RTA is under consideration for Best Small RTA of the Year.

Note: Chairman Silverman stated that he spoke with Director Mickey James earlier and that Mr. James will call a meeting of the Fund Development Committee soon.

OLD BUSINESS: (none)

NEW BUSINESS: (none)

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (none)

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Silverman thanked the Board and staff for their hard work, congratulated Ms. Norton-Dew on her selection to Leadership APTA.

August 28, 2013

ADJOURNMENT: It was properly moved and seconded that the Board adjourn. A voice vote was taken. No nays being heard, the Board adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

August 28, 2013