

**THE COAST-WACCAMAW RTA
BOARD MEETING
June 26, 2013
12:00 p.m.**

Board Present: Ivory Wilson, Chair
Bernard Silverman
Katharine D'Angelo
James Elekes
Wilbert G. "Mickey" James
Lillie Jean Johnson
Joseph Lazzara
Gary Loftus
Nicholas Twigg

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
Doug Herriott, Transportation Manager
Kevin Parks, Grants and Procurement Manager
Cathy Hennessy, Staff Accountant
Erica Hill, Business Development Specialist
Rick Carroll, Street Supervisor
Lynette Nobles, Executive Assistant

Also Present: Mark Lazarus, Chairman, Horry County Council
Pam Creech, Citizens Advisory Committee
Bobby Lamb, Coast Rider
Numerous Coast Riders

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, June 24, 2013.

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

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

ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW BOARD MEMBER: Mr. James Elekes was

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duly sworn in by Lynette Nobles, Executive Assistant. Chairman Wilson welcomed Mr. Elekes.

Mr. Rollins took a moment to recognize the contributions of Dr. Covia Stanley for his three years of dedicated service to the Coast Board of Directors, stating that his contribution would be missed. Dr. Stanley was invited to attend today's meeting to be recognized in person, but his schedule would not allow for his attendance.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VISITORS:

Mark Lazarus, Horry County Council

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Mark Lazarus addressed the Board and visitors, stating that he was present today to "clear the air" regarding a comment he had made, directed at Mr. Rollins, during a recent County Council Meeting. Mr. Lazarus also stated that there was some confusion and misunderstanding from that meeting. First, Mr. Lazarus apologized for the use of the word "disenfranchised" at that meeting, stating that the words he should have used were "not engaged." He meant no harm by use of the word "disenfranchised" and apologized to anyone who may have been offended by its use. The following points were made in discussion:

- Mr. Lazarus and Mr. Rollins have met and have cleared the air between them, and Mr. Lazarus is an advocate of Coast RTA;
- He advocates funding Coast RTA and has fought hard for that funding;
- Horry County Council has asked for another seat on the Coast RTA Board to more accurately represent the dollars that Horry County is contributing. There has not been a concerted effort to make that happen;
- He is here today to ask, again, for additional representation on the Coast RTA Board. Wants to see that the Coast Board is acting on a simple request from Horry County Council to change the makeup of the board. If it's denied by the state legislature, then that is fine and that is a fight for another day. Wants to see a true effort from the Coast Board to make that happen;
- There is a County Council meeting on July 16, and if the Coast Board agrees to the County's request today, Mr. Lazarus will ask Council to remove the funding stipulation to withhold fourth quarter funds;
- He has since found since the last Council meeting that the County's stipulation to withhold \$263K in funding for the fourth quarter, will indeed impeded Coast's ability to acquire matching federal funding;
- Wants Coast to get the matching dollars from the federal funding and will do what he can to remove the stipulation to withhold funding as long as Coast makes an effort to restructure its Board makeup;
- He has met with Mr. Rollins and they have determined that Mr. Rollins will meet with the County's Administration Committee to report on Coast so the County will have a better idea of what's going on.

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Chairman Wilson commented directly to Mr. Lazarus that if the County Council has a disagreement with Coast RTA, then Council should voice that disagreement to the Coast Board, and not attack Mr. Rollins; concerns should be voiced to the Board directly. Mr. Lazarus commented that we all need to communicate better.

Mr. James commented that he appreciated Mr. Lazarus coming in person and that the Coast RTA Board must be more aggressive with what it does, and that the leadership of the Coast RTA Board is with and behind Mr. Rollins in support of him.

There were numerous Coast RTA riders who attended today's meeting in support of Coast RTA, and out of concern that Horry County Council would cut funding, thus cutting routes served. Many of these riders were handicapped or visually impaired, and wished to voice their concerns regarding potential funding cuts. Some of the comments made were as follows:

1. Are other entities that get funding from Horry County Council required to adjust their board makeup to allow for more County representation? Mr. Loftus provided examples of the MBREDC and GSWSA having Board representation commensurate with funding and that both of these entities report quarterly to Council;
2. Mr. Rollins has met quarterly with Mr. Rice in the past and anything asked of him from Council has been presented to the Coast RTA Board;
3. What happens if the Coast RTA Board decides not to pursue adding another Board seat? Mr. Lazarus responded that that would be up to County Council;
4. Can there be a conflict with Horry County Council serving on the Coast RTA Board? Mr. Lazarus responded that Council wanted the ability to appoint someone, not necessarily from the Council. Mr. Loftus responded that he is in favor of no elected officials serving on the Coast Board;
5. Another visitor commented that he didn't see the need for the County to cut funding since Mr. Rollins is reporting to the Council on a quarterly basis;
6. Public transportation is the future, and we can't afford to cut it;
7. Handicapped or otherwise impaired individuals depend on public transportation for their independence and livelihood;
8. County Council and the Coast RTA Board need to work together to see what can be done to increase funding, not cut it;
9. It was again stated by Mr. Loftus that Horry County Council "has not cut any funds. Let's be perfectly clear on that. We have not cut any funds. We are simply asking for our representation on the [Coast RTA] Board to reflect the fact that 2/3 of the local funding of Coast RTA comes from County Council. All we are requesting is for representation to reflect the funding that we provide. The money has been appropriated and is in the budget."
10. There were numerous positive comments in support of Mr. Rollins as CEO of Coast RTA;
11. Liz Gilland, former Chairwoman of Horry County Council, point blank asked Mr. Lazarus if funding would be withheld. Mr. Lazarus responded that that question was asked during recess at the last County Council meeting and that the answer was, "No."

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He further stated that he wanted to “set the record straight. We are not cutting anything. The discussion never even came up to impact any transportation at all. We understand; we get it. I promise you.” The frustrating thing at the last Council meeting was that Mr. Rollins did not have a definitive answer as to whether or not the Coast RTA Board would support altering its Board to accommodate more representation from Horry County Council. If the state legislature says no, or if other entities want to step up their funding, then that’s fine, too. Ms. Gilland stated, “So, you are not going to withhold money?” Mr. Lazarus responded, “No.” Ms. Gilland further stated that it made more sense for Council to do the work to change the Coast RTA Board structure, so long as the Coast RTA Board was agreeable.

12. Mr. Rollins made some comments, stating that he thanked everyone for caring enough about each other to be here. He wanted to state publicly that Mr. Lazarus contacted him and they had a productive talk. Mr. Rollins apologized if he did not make himself clear to Horry County Council the other night. However, County Council’s action *does* affect the Coast RTA budget in that their adopted resolution means that Coast RTA cannot count that money for federal matching funds. It reduces Coast’s ability to provide services to the community. The budget is due July 1. Mr. Rollins stated that he felt the proposed Coast RTA Resolution today would get things moving in the right direction as far as funding. Mr. Rollins wants to work with and meet as a team with County. He further stated that he does not have the authority to make instantaneous decisions that County Council seems to want him to make, and that he has to wait for his Coast RTA Board to convene in order to get the answers that Council requests;
13. Mr. Loftus made the comment that the Coast RTA’s budgets were sent in prior to County Council’s third reading;
14. Mr. Wilson commented that Coast RTA needs dedicated funding so that it can do its job;
15. Mr. Lazarus commented that County Council was told that its resolution would not affect federal funding. He committed that he will press Horry County Council to remove the restriction. Horry County Council will do the right thing;
16. Ms. Norton-Dew commented that there were no questions asked about federal funding at the County Council meeting in question;
17. Mr. Wilson thanked Mr. Lazarus for coming to the meeting and that he hopes for dedicated funding in the future;
18. Mr. Elekes stated that, with regards to #1 above, statements made in recess are not part of the official record. Mr. Elekes also commented with regards to the proposed resolution for Coast RTA Board approval today, asked the Coast RTA Board if it is the responsibility of County Council to work with the legislative delegation to alter the Board membership, then he would encourage County Council to prepare its proposed legislation for Coast RTA Board’s consideration and endorsement, therefore being consistent with legislative guidelines. It would be legislatively more efficient if the legislation were proposed by County Council and then presented to the Coast RTA Board for comment. Ms. Blain-Olds commented that she would need to research this. Mr. Elekes asked if we should table today’s proposed resolution, since funding assurances have been made here today by Horry County Council, so that Council could propose the legislation and Coast RTA could then provide comment as an interested party;

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19. Mr. Loftus commented that dedicated funding would be easier to obtain if the Coast RTA Board makeup was changed to be commensurate with the funding entities' interest.
20. There was more discussion between Mr. Loftus and Mr. Elekes, with Mr. Loftus arguing in support of today's proposed resolution, and Mr. Elekes arguing in support of the solution he had just outlined.

In the interest of time, discussion was suspended so that Ms. Sue Price could speak. Ms. Price, Director of Sales at Sonesta ES Suites at Waccamaw Pottery, made a request that Coast RTA buses go through the circle at the hotel, rather than asking her guests to walk four blocks to the nearest bus stop. Mr. Rollins stated that they would look at the route in question and get back with her.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: (none)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: It was properly moved and seconded that the minutes from the previous meeting of May 29, 2013 be approved. There being no questions, a voice vote was taken. No nays being heard, the motion carried.

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Ms. Pam Creech represented the Citizens Advisory Committee. Ms. Creech reported that she was grateful to see the citizen participation here today. There will be no July CAC meeting. She enjoyed the June 14 Task Force Committee meeting. The questions and information provided was substantial. There will be another Task Force Committee meeting tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. at the General Aviation Conference Room at Market Common. The Georgetown transportation member might also want to be involved with this. Mr. Rollins stated that Ms. Erica Hill will be replacing Yvette Jefferson for coordination purposes. The CAC has talked to thousands of citizens, and reminded that we need to have patience with the public so that everyone is communicating properly and is on the same page.

MASS TRANSIT PRESENTATION: CEO Rollins commented that today's presentation was geared so that everyone understands the implications of how Coast RTA's budget is affected in given situations. Ms. Norton-Dew reviewed the following:

- FTA Financial Requirements;
- Original FY 2014 Budget Overview;
 - Revenue;
 - Expenses;
 - Capital.
- FTA Funding Guidelines (49 USC chapter 53) PT;
- Local Match Requirements;
- Local Match and Pending Legislation;
- Sources of Local Match;
- Local Match Percentages;
- Public Comment Requirements.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: It was properly moved and seconded that the regular Board meeting

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suspend and commence with Executive Session. There being no further questions, a voice vote was taken. No nays being heard, the motion carried. The Board went into Executive Session at 2:04 p.m. The Board came out of Executive Session at 3:02 p.m., with no vote or action being taken, with a motion and a second.

Ms. Beaty and Ms. Norton-Dew gave a presentation regarding the impact and adverse effects the Austerity Budget would have on Coast RTA, the employees and their families, as well as the services for Coast RTA riders.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS:

Lynette Nobles read the following resolutions into the record:

**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION NO. JUN2013-22**

**APPROVAL OF WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY 2014
ORIGINAL BUDGET**

A motion of the Board of the Waccamaw Regional Transportation Authority to adopt the 2014 Original Budget for the period July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 and authorizing the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer to manage the fiscal affairs of the Authority in accordance to the fiscal year 2014 original operating budget amounts.

There was a motion and a second to pass this resolution. A roll-call vote was requested and taken, the resolution failed 5-4. (Yeas were Elekes, James, Loftus, and Twigg) (Nays were D'Angelo, Johnson, Lazzara, Silverman and Wilson)

**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION NO. JUN2013-23**

**APPROVAL OF WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY 2014
AUSTERITY BUDGET**

A motion of the Board of the Waccamaw Regional Transportation Authority to adopt the 2014 Austerity Budget for the period July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 and authorizing the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer to manage the fiscal affairs of the Authority in accordance to the fiscal year 2014 austerity operating budget amounts.

There was a motion and a second to pass this resolution. A roll-call vote was requested and taken, the resolution passed 7-2. (Yeas were D'Angelo, James, Johnson, Lazzara, Silverman, Twigg, and Wilson) (Nays were Elekes and Loftus)

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**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION NO. JUN2013-24**

**AUTHORIZATION TO MEET WITH THE HORRY COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO
INCREASE HORRY COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP ON THE
COAST RTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

A motion of the Board of the Waccamaw Regional Transportation Authority authorizing the General Manager/Secretary Treasurer to meet with the Horry County Legislative Delegation and Horry County Council in an attempt to amend the South Carolina Code of Laws section 58-25-40 to increase Horry County Council membership from one (1) to (3) appointments to the Coast RTA Board of Directors.

There was a motion and a second to accept the amendment to the original resolution. A vote was taken and the amendment was accepted. There was a motion and a second to pass this resolution as amended (removed “General Assembly” and inserted “Horry County Council” at the request of Mr. Loftus. A roll-call vote was requested and taken, the resolution passed 5-4. (Yeas were James, Lazzara, Loftus, Silverman, and Twigg) (Nays were D’Angelo, Elekes, Johnson, and Wilson)

MONTHLY REPORTS:

Finance & Administration Committee: The Finance & Administration Committee met this morning and went over the budget and May 2013 financials. Ms. Norton-Dew reported that Coast RTA is under budget for FY2013 (through May) in the amount of \$140,000. She also thanked the board for passing “a budget” for FY2014.

Operations Committee: The Operations Committee met this morning. Ms. Beaty reported that Ridership for the month of May 2013 is 53,723 rides – an increase of 8.6% over May, 2012. Total Ridership is 953,763 which is a 7.1% increase from 2012. Regarding the new Airport Shuttle, we experienced ridership of 854 in 25 days.

Planning Committee: The Planning Committee met this morning. We discussed and identified locations for 54 shelters and 543 signs. Mr. Silverman thanked whoever developed the report which tracks the movement on the Shelter & Signage project.

Bylaws: Nothing to report at this time

General Manager: Mr. Rollins gave his report. During the Horry County Council Administration Committee meeting on June 14th, (attended by Mr. Rollins, Ms. Beaty, and Mr. Ponticello), Mr. Rollins was prepared to give an update (as requested by County Council) on our business plan which we originally gave to them in 2011. My intention was to walk you through

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what they saw, but in the interest of time, I won't. Further, Mr. Rollins stated that he was in no way being argumentative, but it was said, two or three times, that during the Horry County Council meeting in which I presented, I was asked if the holding of the 25% would affect Coast RTA and I said "no". I need to correct the record. I said that if Council went forward as proposed, it would have cataclysmic consequences on the organization. Those were my words. I also said that it would turn our budget on its head. I said that publicly. I also said that if they went forward, we would have to cut routes, eliminate buses, and reduce manpower by 38%. Watch the video. I was very clear.

OLD BUSINESS: No old business

NEW BUSINESS: Election of Vice-Chair. Candidates were Joseph Lazzara and Wilbert G. (Mickey) James. Ms. D'Angelo, Chair of the By-Laws Committee distributed the ballots. Board members voted via secret ballot. Mr. Rollins and Ms. Nobles counted the ballots. The vote was 6 - 3 with Mr. Lazzara being elected as the Board Vice-Chair. The ballots were packaged together and given to Ms. Blain-Olds, Staff Liaison for the By-Laws Committee, for record keeping. Everyone congratulated Mr. Lazzara on his election. He thanked everyone for their support and vowed to work with Mr. Silverman, the new Board Chair.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Ms. D'Angelo announced that she will be out of the country and will not attend next month's meeting. Ms. Beaty asked for Board members to let her know if they are available to be interviewed by Stantec on Monday, July 8th regarding the intermodal center.

Mr. Wilson announced that he will be vacating the Board Chair position and Mr. Silverman will become the new Board Chair effective July 1, 2013. He asked that the members of the Board work together in keeping with the vows made in the Oath of Office that each Board member took when they joined the Board. He also asked that everyone give Mr. Silverman their cooperation in his role as Board Chair. Mr. Wilson will, however, remain on the Executive Committee, comprised of the Board Chair, immediate past Chair, and the Chair of the Finance Committee.

ADJOURNMENT: It was properly moved and seconded that the Board adjourn. A voice vote was taken. No nays being heard, the Board adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

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