

THE COAST RTA-WACCAMAW RTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2017
9:30 AM

Board Present: Joseph Lazzara
Marvin Keene
Darrell Eickhoff
Katharine D'Angelo
Bernard Silverman
Deb Gasque
Rob Sheehan
Lillie Jean Johnson
Sid Blackwelder
Ivory Wilson
Mickey James

Staff Present: Brian Piascik, General Manager/CEO
Lynette Nobles, Executive Assistant/Board Liaison
Michelle Cantey, PIO

Visitors: Nicholas Twigg, Citizen

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the 2017 meeting schedule was provided to the press at the beginning of the 2017 calendar year, stating the date, time and location. In addition, notice of this meeting was provided to the press and stakeholders, stating the date, time, and location on June 26, 2017.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Lazzara called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM and welcomed everyone.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Ms. Johnson gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS: Nicholas Twigg

PUBLIC COMMENT: (3-minute limit) None

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes from the May board meeting. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the minutes were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Piascik asked that we suspend the meeting so the Board could go out and take a look at the new buses that came in. There was a motion and a second that the meeting be suspended for a short time for that purpose. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the motion passed.

Mr. Silverman asked that the Board recognize Mr. Piascik and his staff. There was applause and “Good Job” heard.

Mr. James asked Mr. Lazzara about turning in an evaluation for Mr. Piascik. Mr. Lazzara said that they will discuss that later in the meeting.

There was a motion and a second to call the meeting to order. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the motion passed.

SERVICE/PAC COMMITTEE: No meeting in June

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Dr. Keene reported that the committee met and reviewed the May financials. The two (2) items that are of concern is Maintenance and Fuel. Mr. Piascik shared that he and Mr. Prater are keeping an eye on the budget. Pay increases are coming up and there’s a 3% increase across the board in the budget. It is their thought that we may need another \$50,000 - \$55,000 to complete the year. Mr. Piascik shared a slide showing additional funding that will be coming into the Authority and the sources of those funds. He also shared a chart showing the funding for FY2017 and FY2018, where there is a shortfall (approximately \$300,000). We’ll be working on closing the gap.

Dr. Sheehan brought up that we’re short of mechanics and getting the pay level where it needs to be. Mr. Piascik shared that we’re in the same position with drivers’ pay levels. He said that he and Mr. Burda are discussing training for the mechanics to get them to certain levels.

There was discussion regarding when raises should be given; whether July 1, as has been the case in the past; or changing the timing to coincide with our new fiscal year (October 1 – September 30). A 3% increase across the board is what has been budgeted. It was suggested that this year we move ahead with the raises being effective July 1; however, it will be communicated with staff that next year and beyond, raises will not be given until October 1 instead of July 1, due to the fiscal year change.

The Brittain properties are purchasing passes for their employees, presently. They also have representatives attending the public meetings with us.

Ridership is definitely moving in the right direction.

We have sent a letter (which our attorney wrote) to the auditor letting him know that we are firing them. We also sent him a check for \$6,100 in lieu of the \$24,000 invoice he sent us.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT: Mr. Piascik distributed his list of projects, which shows where each project stands. There are some that need to be added. He reviewed those projects that have changes since the last meeting. We have the MPO Agreement (with GSATS). He will be talking with GSATS regarding pulling in additional funds, since he will be overseeing Brunswick County. He will negotiate. Transit Center improvements are progressing slowly, as it is very difficult to get the contractor in to do what we need. Bus purchase is progressing, we have two (2) more coming today and another one (1) coming next week. Speakers for the enunciation system are being installed and should be in operation by the end of next month.

Mr. Piascik has a letter for Navistar going to Creative Bus Sales, the people who actually sold us the vehicles. There are a few changes that need to be made and the letter will be going out next week.

Mr. Silverman stated that he thinks the project list includes too much information. Mr. Piascik shared that this is really a big help to him. Ms. D’Angelo asked for a copy of the Entertainment Shuttle map. Ms. Cantey distributed those to the board members.

Mr. Piascik attended a luncheon at the North Myrtle Beach Chamber where the Governor spoke and he spoke with Greg Hembree regarding his (Mr. Piascik) new role with TASC (Policy Committee Chair).

We have gotten the planning portion of the bus stop sign designation program. We have a grant, in hand, for planning money from SCDOT for our program. AECOM has proposed pricing for packages for the project. We have AECOM’s scope and fee schedule, which our attorney is reviewing. We hope to have them under contract by the middle of July.

The Transfer Center is a huge hit with the City of Myrtle Beach. We’ve heard nothing but good things.

Dr. Sheehan asked about meeting with North Myrtle Beach regarding the possibility of starting some sort of service in that area. Mr. Piascik said that we will be meeting with them about possibly putting some type of service there; maybe something like the Entertainment Express. It was also suggested that we talk with Little River about service up there. J-1 students are asking for service to the north end to get them back and forth to work.

Dr. Sheehan asked if the time clock project is on the project list. Mr. Piascik shared that the RFP is in Columbia awaiting approval.

Mr. Wilson asked about doing some landscaping at the Transfer Center and Mr. Piascik agreed that doing so is a possibility.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS: Ms. Nobles read the following resolution into the record:

**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
RESOLUTION NO. JUN2017-15**

AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT MPO AGREEMENT FROM GSATS

A motion of the Board of the Waccamaw Regional Transportation Authority authorizing the General Manager/Secretary Treasurer to accept the MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) Agreement between Waccamaw Regional Transportation Authority (WRTA), Brunswick Transit Systems (BTS), and Grand Strand Area Transportation Study (GSATS) implementing Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST ACT).

There was a motion and a second to approve the resolution. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the resolution passed.

OLD BUSINESS: CHANGES TO THE BY-LAWS – The Chair of the By-Laws Committee asked that we remove the last paragraph of the section relating to changes in the By-Laws. This revision will be made, the revised By-Laws will be sent out to board members. The By-Laws Committee will present the revised By-Laws and ask that the Board vote to accept the revised By-Laws.

NEW BUSINESS: PASSING OF THE GAVEL – Mr. Lazzara, out-going Board Chair, passed the gavel to Dr. Sheehan, in-coming Board Chair. Mr. Piascik presented a plaque to Mr. Lazzara in appreciation of his service and support of the Authority.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: There was a motion and a second that the board go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the board went into Executive Session at 11:55 AM.

There was a motion and a second that the board come out of Executive Session. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the board came out of Executive Session at 12:24 PM.

During Executive Session, no decisions were made and no votes were taken.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: It was properly moved and seconded that the Board adjourn. A voice vote was taken. No nays being heard, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 PM.