

WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
d/b/a THE COAST RTA
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2019
9:30 AM

Board Present: Dr. Rob Sheehan
Darrell Eickhoff
Joseph Lazzara
Bernard Silverman
Ivory Wilson
Katharine D'Angelo
Lillie Jean Johnson
Randal Wallace
Dr. Marvin Keene

Staff Present: Brian Piascik, General Manager/CEO
Ron Prater, Chief Financial Officer
Michelle Cantey

Visitors:

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the 2018 meeting schedule was provided to the press at the beginning of the 2018 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 February 25, 2019.

CALL TO ORDER: Dr. Sheehan called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM and welcomed everyone.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Dr. Sheehan 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:

PUBLIC COMMENT: (3-minute limit): None

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: Mr. Piascik recognized the following employees: Lawrence Jones (via telephone), driver on Route 7, a plaque for 20 years of service; Ms. Mary Nesbit, Paratransit driver, a plaque for 18 years of service; Ms. Cathy Hennessey, Staff Accountant, a plaque for 11 years of service; Mr. Wilson recognized and introduced Mr. John Glover, who has been with the Authority from the beginning. They met while in the military, in Germany.

Mr. Wilson presented Mr. Glover with a plaque for his many years of service and wished him well in his retirement. Mr. Glover was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at TASC and SCDOT awarded him the Golden Spatula.

Mr. Piascik announced that we had two (2) of our newer drivers compete in the Cutaway category of the TASC Roadeo and one (1) of our drivers competing in the 40' category, who finished third. He also announced that the Coast RTA Management Team was nominated and won the "Making a Difference" Award. Each member of the team received a plaque.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: There was a motion and a second to approve the agenda. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the agenda was approved

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: There was a motion and a second to approve the minutes from the February board meeting. A motion and a second were made to accept the minutes. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the minutes were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SERVICE/PAC COMMITTEE: No meeting was held; updates will be given in the General Manager's Report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Dr. Keene said that we would push the audit report portion off until we have received the full report from the auditors. Mr. Piascik added that the auditors are doing our certification to NTD, which links our Chart of Accounts to FTA Rules and Regulations, so we have added that to their efforts. We should receive the final version today. We should be able to present the final audit report in April for acceptance by the board. Regarding income updates, Mr. Piascik reported that we are going to be working with North Myrtle Beach to provide a parking shuttle from June 15 – August 15. A couple of things need to happen first. We need to put together a proposal and hammer out an agreement and get with the City. Before that, we need to talk with the County because this could be construed as an expansion of service and we have a provision in our contract that we cannot expand service until we have our debt resolved. North Myrtle Beach has agreed to pay the O&M costs (\$90/hour to include everything except administrative cost) \$60,000-\$70,000; so this is what we are asking for. The County has been informed and Mr. Piascik will be meeting with them tomorrow morning and will see what they want us to do in order to proceed with this. There will be a budget revision coming, which should be cost neutral, just moving some money around. The shuttle will be two (2) vehicles, eight (8) hours each.

Regarding fare box revenue, statistics show that we have reduced the number of failures (free trips) in February. We will probably be changing the type of paper for our passes. Dr. Sheehan asked if the board should expect to see an official "budget change". Mr. Piascik said that there will be one in April. Mr. Silverman asked if we ran a shuttle for the car show the previous week; to which Mr. Piascik replied that we did; however, he did not have the ridership number.

Another reason we need the budget revision is to incorporate the expenses related to the bus stop implementation, which is not in the budget on either the revenue or expense side. Mr. Wilson asked

the cost of putting up one of the signs. Mr. Piascik said that the cost varies but averages about \$1000 each. We have 14 of 40, in this task order, installed. SCDOT is weighing in on those remaining 26.

Our Passengers per Hour (Paratransit) for March is 1.31, which is a huge increase over previous months. This is the first month using the new Ecolane scheduling software.

Dr. Keene stated that we are keeping an eye on our cash, as relates to our quarterly payments.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT: Mr. Piascik began by asking the board for a consensus vote regarding his pursuing an agreement with the City of North Myrtle Beach to provide parking shuttle services June 15-August 15, assuring that Horry County is in agreement. There was a motion and a second that Mr. Piascik pursue an agreement with the City of North Myrtle Beach to provide parking shuttle services June 15-August 15 pursuant to agreement by Horry County. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the motion is approved.

TASC update. It was a really good conference, which Dr. Taylor, FTA Administrator, attended. Mr. Piascik had an opportunity to speak with her. Next week will be “FTA Week” finishing up various items with FTA. Dr. Sheehan expressed a need for someone in the organization taking over the grant work. Mr. Piascik reported that Mr. Kevin Parks has stepped up and is doing a good deal of work on grants now. Dr. Sheehan also expressed a desire for others to attend and be present at board meetings to answer questions and give information to the board, a wider range of voices. Relating to funding, Mr. Piascik shared that he was speaking with other TASC members and he asked one of the members what would happen if they secured additional funding and his reply was that the city would reduce their funding by the same amount. He was also asked to continue as Secretary of TASC and was re-elected.

We have a meeting with Ride Systems coming up where we will be discussing issues we are having with the app and the automatic annunciation system. Mr. Piascik will have an update for the next Service/PAC committee meeting. Ecolane is going well and productivity is improving. We have not been counting personal assistants who accompany our paratransit riders. Family members who accompany pay \$1.50. Mr. Prater added that it is critical that we have supporting source documentation for those situations. Mr. Piascik assured that we do get that documentation through the Ecolane software. Mr. Silverman asked about feedback regarding the bus stop signs on Route 10. Mr. Piascik said that he has had no feedback at this point. Dr. Sheehan asked if we have had any complaints about not being picked up (flag stops). Mr. Piascik said that we are still making flag stops. Mr. Silverman asked about the shelter at Home Depot. Mr. Piascik said that he will mention it at his next meeting with City of Myrtle Beach.

Public meetings are in the works for the Bucksport and Loris routes, which are necessary due to their conversion to permanent routes and/or route deviation. The board will be notified as to date, time and location, as soon as the meetings are scheduled.

Mr. Piascik asked to schedule a By-Laws Committee meeting to update some of the language. Ms. D’Angelo shared that Ms. Nobles had sent her the By-Laws with the changes and that she had asked Ms. Nobles to send them out to the board members. She asked about Article VII, item k –

annual development of wage rates. Mr. Piascik said that he will have that with the budget revision for the April board meeting.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

OLD BUSINESS: By-Laws will be reviewed at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Ms. Cantey invited the board members to attend a fish fry on Sunday at 3:00 PM for John Glover, here at Coast RTA.

ADJOURNMENT: There was a motion and a second that the meeting be adjourned. A voice vote was taken. No nays being heard, the meeting was adjourned.