

WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
d/b/a THE COAST RTA  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2020  
10:30 AM

**Board Present:** Darrell Eickhoff  
Dr. Marvin Keene  
Joseph Lazzara  
Katharine D'Angelo  
Lillie Jean Johnson  
Bernard Silverman

**Staff Present:** Brian Piascik, General Manager/CEO  
Ron Prater, Chief Financial Officer  
Lynette Nobles, Board Liaison

**Visitors:** Professor Sara Brailer, CCU  
Charles Perry, Horry Independent

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the 2020 meeting schedule was provided to the press at the beginning of the 2020 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 January 20, 2020.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Eickhoff called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM and welcomed everyone.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Mr. Lazzara 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:** Sociology Professor Sara Brailer and Charles Perry

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Professor Brailer talked about a project looking at met and unmet needs of the homeless in Horry County. They spoke with 100 homeless people. Their basic needs for shelter, food, a place to bathe and wash their clothes are met by the homeless shelter. For 67% of them, the number one (1) unmet need is transportation. 34% of the 67% said that transportation is a problem for them every day. Not having transportation is a problem in trying to find/keep employment and medical appointments. Professor Brailer said that she has been invited to join the task force. The frequency of our service seems to be the biggest issue. Professor Brailer will send her complete report to Mr. Piascik.

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION:** Mr. Piascik announced that the following drivers will be

participating in the TASC Rodeo in March in Hilton Head: Matt Simon, Gary Bradley, Robert Bomba, Ron Cameron, (40' buses) and Beneshia Julious, Jalexus Ford (Cutaways)

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** There was a motion by Mrs. D'Angelo and a second by Mr. Silverman to approve the minutes from the December board meeting. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the minutes were approved.

It was decided that the By-Laws Committee will meet Wednesday, February 19th, after the Service/PAC Committee meeting.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Dr. Keene shared that our budget is in good shape. Mr. Piascik shared that we are looking at a budget revision. We are buying out vacation hours to get those back in line. We had to upgrade our push-to-talk phones, and Travel and Training is running a little high.

**Henrietta Golding, Esquire** – to answer questions regarding open meetings, etc. The purpose of FOIA is transparency in government. There are also protections. Any employee receiving \$50,000 or more is a matter of public record. Personnel matters and legal matters are the two (2) exemptions under FOIA. In Executive Session, no votes can be taken and no decisions can be made. We are not required to announce an Executive Session in advance. When discussing individuals, you may do that in Executive Session. Contract negotiations can be subject to FOIA. When going into Executive Session, we must announce the purpose. The board members are now provided tablets and have been assigned a coasttra e-mail address. One of the purposes of doing so takes the board member's personal e-mail out of being included under FOIA. Any e-mail sent to anyone can be subject to FOIA. Communications regarding Coast RTA business are subject to FOIA. Any time we have at least three (3) board members together, it's a meeting. Should you send something to an attorney, that would come under attorney/client privilege; unless you send it to a third party. FOIA requests from out of state, you are not required to respond.

Mr. Piascik stated that in Charleston, they are looking at changing their service area to add two (2) additional counties. They're worried that it will require them to change the make-up of their board. They are interested in initiating changes to the law that governs RTA's in South Carolina. We're not sure that all of the RTA's were established under the same legislation. Mr. Piascik will send the information to Ms. Golding to make that determination. COMET in Columbia is no longer a member of TASC and they could possibly initiate change to the law that would be detrimental to what TASC is trying to accomplish.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Piascik began by going over funding coordination: On the Transportation Committee makeup, a good thing for us is that they've added Economic Development, so the scope has been widened. The Chair is Dennis DiSabatto, who has requested to meet with Mr. Piascik. He's also been talking with Mr. Gosnell, the new County Administrator. The

Transportation Committee will meet January 27<sup>th</sup>. Meetings with Barry Spivey are going well. The Road Use fee is going very well. We will need to go through a budget process with them.

Georgetown County – we’re waiting to see on the administrative changes and still want to continue meetings. We’ll focus on City of Georgetown and Andrews. We have a Chamber Legislative breakfast on Friday. Ms. Johnson will be attending.

Myrtle Beach Chamber – have a meeting with Karen Riordan and Jimmy Gray on January 27<sup>th</sup>. We have the Transportation Summit with the Lieutenant Governor on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The Myrtle Beach Chamber Board meets February 26<sup>th</sup>, and we will be on the agenda.

City of Myrtle Beach – General Fund Application for \$250,000 is due January 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Piascik will ask for \$430,000 (\$330,000 Operations and \$100,000 for Capital) and see what they do. They have invited us to participate in development of a Five-Year Transportation Plan, due in March.

City of Conway – Mr. Piascik is meeting with the City Administrator Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> to talk about their budget process.

City of North Myrtle Beach – Mr. Piascik is meeting with them on Thursday at 10:00 AM. They are interested in service. They want to begin small and build on that. We have to have direct funding. There is a new funding opportunity with the state – Intercity Grant for Service between Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach. It falls right into that plan and we could fund the new route. We’ll ask for two (2) to three (3) years funding.

SCDOT - \$1.8 Billion in State of Good Repair – Mr. Piascik will write a letter requesting \$2 million to leverage funds for our new facility. Our application for 5311 funds, up to \$775,000 is due February 28<sup>th</sup>. SMTF is \$193,000 and our 5307 match is going to be up to \$140,000. We have paid off the shelter program.

FTA – Facility Grant is in process. We’re working on the scope now.

WRCOG/GSATS – We are requesting 5307 funding to do a Fare Structure Analysis and 5310 by February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Annunciation system problems – we are getting Ride Systems back in here to redo the geo fencing, which tells the system to announce the stop in advance. We have corrected all of the hardware issues. Mr. Piascik will let the board know when Ride Systems will be here to fix the issue(s).

Regulatory – NTD update is due January 31<sup>st</sup>; Mike Levitan is working on this. Triennial is scheduled for June 10-11, 2020, with questionnaire due January 31<sup>st</sup>. Title VI – we have a letter from FTA approving our plan. DBE Letter – there is potential for a finding. Fuel Management issue - we tried to purchase the system last year. We drew the money down, anticipating having the system in by the end of September, but it didn’t happen and the vendor was fired. The grant has been closed out, so we were unable to return the money. We have found a vendor who will honor the same pricing and the program should be implemented next week. Mr. Piascik will write a letter to FTA

explaining the issues we had and that should resolve the situation.

Internal – We will be distributing a new Employee Manual in the next couple of weeks, with the main changes being the accrual of PTO (Paid Time Off). We're paying out hours to those who are over the accrual rate. State Ethics – everyone on the board should have their Conflict of Interest forms completed and turned in. We are about to release a small RFQ for website development. It will be less than \$25,000, so it's in the works. Hill South is out. The Public Transportation Safety Plan is required by FTA and we are trying to include the succession plan in that. Advertising – there are a few irons in the fire. We have taken delivery of three (3) long cutaways and two (2) 40' coaches. We will be rolling out a more comprehensive training program for new drivers. New drivers will learn all of our routes and all of the various vehicles prior to being put on the road.

**APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:** Mr. Eickhoff is going to send out the Project List to everyone. He would like to prioritize the items into three (3) categories. Category A will be those that can be completed in 1-6 months; Category B – 7-12 months; Category C – other items. He would like to have this information prior to the February board meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The decision was made to reschedule the February board meeting to Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 11:00 AM.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**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 at 12:25 PM.