

WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
d/b/a THE COAST RTA
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2020
9:30 AM

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

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

Visitors: None Known

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 April 25, 2020. Due to the Coronavirus and social distancing, this meeting is being held remotely.

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

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

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – There was a motion and a second that the agenda be approved. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the agenda was approved with the addition.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – There was a motion by Dr. Keene and a second by Ms. D'Angelo to approve the February minutes. There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the motion passed.

There was a motion by Ms. Johnson and a second by Ms. D'Angelo to approve the March minutes.

There was no discussion. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the motion passed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: Mr. Eickhoff recognized the entire staff for their efforts during this time. Mr. Piascik mentioned the interview with Gary Bradley (driver) and the piece will be in The Sun News.

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: Mr. Eickhoff announced that the new representative for City of Myrtle Beach, Mr. Greg James, will be sworn in during the May meeting. He was not available for the April meeting. Mr. Eickhoff thanked everyone for their willingness to hold meetings remotely.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Committees did not meet in April.

Mr. Piascik gave a brief review of the February financials. In the Cash Requirements, we were cutting it a little close in June, leading up to the county payment in July. Then we assume we are going to start up a new 5307 program which would smooth things out and get us through June, so we're in pretty good shape. That grant was actually executed a couple of days after the CARES Act fell in, so we're ready to move forward and had a handle on cash; there again, things have changed. Mr. Piascik then called attention to the page showing the status of all of our grants. He then asked for questions regarding the February financials. Mr. Eickhoff asked about the total budget variance – Mr. Piascik stated that we were pretty good at the end of February.

We then moved to the March financials – fares start to take a hit; COVID-19 hit the state March 13th, when the Governor declared the state of emergency. From that point until the end of the month, ridership dwindled. We had about 43,000 trips. The Street Rodders event, where we normally get 4,000-5,000 rides didn't happen. From a budget perspective, we are able to pull things down a little, even though overtime was up. Operations went down about \$5,000 and Admin is reining in pretty well, even though we were still paying the PIO. We're over budget in Telecommunications – due mostly to the changes in our Push-to-Talk system that our drivers use. We had a lot of old equipment on old plans. We got all new phones at no cost, but the monthly plan amount increased and the data plans added to the expense. HTC was not billing us for the internet at the Transfer Center in Myrtle Beach. Long term, we're going to have to do something about the Push-to-Talk system. Training expenses kicked in, mostly the TASC Conference, we had five (5) drivers compete in the State Rodeo. All three (3) of our drivers competing in the 35' category were in the Top Ten! We were excited about that. We're still under budget \$38,000 for the entire month. He asked Mr. Prater if we took credit for any CARES Act money in the March financials. Mr. Prater shared that we did take \$156,761 state 5311 money (\$80,000 Operating and \$76-\$77,000 of Preventive Maintenance) we booked to CARES Act money on the state side. The state gave us partial funding, under the CARES Act, that allowed us to go back to February. On the state grant, we ran out of operating money in

February; PM money in January and still had some Admin money that we were spending down. Our state grant is completely spend down at the end of March. What we were able to do, with CARES Act money, was come back in and get 100% money for Preventive Maintenance for February and March, and Operating in February. We had already billed Admin to the old grant. We should receive a check for the \$156,761 in the next week; you'll see an influx of money in that amount when it comes in. Dr. Keene asked how that money comes in. Mr. Piascik shared that we get it just as we would through a grant. We get reimbursed 100% of expenses. Mr. Eickhoff asked about how the CARES Act money rolls into our financials. Fares are not included in the equation. Ms. Johnson asked that we show CARES Act money as we would any of the grants. Mr. Piascik called attention to Page 14 of the March financials, showing what we are pulling from CARES Act. No local funds are required for CARES Act money. He then called attention to the Cash Requirements (in the March financials). Mr. Prater shared that there were some audit adjustments regarding the disposal of the two (2) Internationals.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT: Mr. Piascik gave a slide presentation (which is included in these minutes). During his presentation of the slides, we experienced some cutting out when Mr. Piascik was speaking. There was some discussion regarding the County Emergency Management Evacuation/Relocation Agreement (Page 5 of the presentation) as to keeping our drivers safe and building good will with the county. Ms. Johnson asked if this might be something that could come up in Georgetown County. Mr. Piascik said that he hasn't spoken with anyone at this point, but it certainly could come up at some point in the future. We will not be transporting anyone who is on a ventilator. Should a person that we are transporting require an aide, we will require that their aide accompany them. Dr. Keene asked where we stand with the Road Use Fee amount that we receive from Horry County. Mr. Piascik shared that we were a little down on the last payment due to people not being able to pay; however, that should pick back up.

Mr. Eickhoff asked Mr. Piascik if he is sure we are using the CARES Act money as we should. Mr. Eickhoff went on to say that he wants to be sure that the Authority is squeaky clean and we are in compliance with ALL expenditures for CARES Act dollars. Mr. Piascik shared that he is comfortable that we are in compliance with the expenditures of the CARES Act funds.

Mr. Silverman asked about the audit. Mr. Piascik asked Mr. Prater if it has been sent out. It has not been sent to the board. The audit was clean, for the third year in a row. The audit has been submitted to the clearinghouse. The final version will be sent out to the board and a resolution will be presented for board approval at the May meeting.