



**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
d/b/a THE COAST RTA
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, July 7, 2021
12:00 PM**

Board Present: Darrell Eickhoff
Dr. Marvin Keene
Joseph Lazzara
Bernard Silverman
Dr. Rob Sheehan
Greg James
Katherine D'Angelo
Lille Jean Johnson
Randall Wallace

Staff Present: Brian Piascik, General Manager/CEO
Ron Prater, Chief Financial Officer
Lauren Morris, PIO
Pamela Bellamy, HR Manager

Visitors:

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the 2021 meeting schedule was provided to the press at the beginning of the 2021 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 2, 2021.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Eickhoff called the meeting to order at 12:08 PM and welcomed everyone.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mr. Lazzara gave the invocation with a prayer, then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL/ANNOUNCEMENT OF QUORUM: Roll call was taken. A quorum was present. The Board Chairman and Past Board Chairman asked that those absent from board meetings be recognized as "Excused", only if that board member informs the Board Liaison, in advance, that they are unable to attend. Board members who do not attend the meeting and do not inform the Board Liaison that they will be absent will be recognized as "Absent".

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – There was a motion by Mr. Lazzara and a second by Mr. Silverman that the agenda be approved. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard the agenda was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – There was a motion by Mrs. D’Angelo and a second by Mr. Lazzara to approve the April minutes. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the motion passed unanimously.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CHAIRMAN’S CORNER:

- The Board discussed meeting logistics and contacts in the absence of a Board liaison. Mr. Piascik said that he, Lauren Morris and Pamela Bellamy would be “tag-teaming” on things for the Board and that those three individuals will maintain communication and will all serve as a resource to Board members.
- The GM Project Listing was posted during a brief discussion but with no updates.

SERVICE/PAC UPDATE: Ms. Johnson opened the discussion about the Service/PAC Committee. Mrs. Morris spoke about the marketing efforts for the southern Georgetown route added on May 1st (Route 14). The Southern Georgetown Coalition has helped with distribution and HGTC staff has worked with Coast RTA to get the word out about the route. Mr. Piascik added that we needed to reconnect with the City of Georgetown.

Mr. Piascik spoke about the Culture of Service Initiative. Staff has brought up a need to do something about farebox reliability, so staff will be taking on technology assessment. The fare structure analysis will stay with the MPO work and Horry County may be a source of funding for new technology. The Board discussed the considerations for cashless fare collection. The other item of concern was the workload for human relations department. One of the primary focal points for the Culture of Service initiative is to look at all functions to determine the need for new staff and balancing workloads of existing staff. Mr. Piascik also discussed the Solar Panel SWOT analysis. Several Board members expressed agreement that the farebox system should be addressed.

Mrs. D’Angelo asked about the NMB Chamber’s cooperation and assistance on marketing bus service. Mr. Piascik responded that the Chamber has not been as responsive but the real issue has been the delays in the additional service that would be part of a grander marketing effort. Mr. Piascik answered a number of questions about Route 17 NMB service and discussed the City’s desires for service and the communication to date between the City and Coast RTA.

Mr. Piascik discussed jurisdictional coordination which included, \$500,000 in facility funding from Horry County, Conway removed Coast RTA from their budget and there is still work to be done in Georgetown County.

Mr. Piascik spoke about several additional items including: Ridership increased in June; Ten drivers (2 paratransit & 8 transit) that will hopefully address our driver shortage were in training; and, New fixed route service implemented in May was incurring more mileage than expected meaning consumables expense such fuel and tires will be higher and will be adjusted in the FY 22 Budget. He gave an update on the fleet and facility, including consultant products like the RAISE grant, split operations and the slow process of acquiring the property. The Board asked several questions about moving forward and the financing of the project. There was a short discussion about the current facility.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Dr. Keene summarized the Finance Committee meeting. Monthly report shows stability and cash management is in good shape. Mr. Piascik discussed the Draft FY 2022. The budget is too high but still a work in the progress.

Mr. Piascik talked about changes on the revenue side. The County reduced their capital contribution for the facility. SCDOT has agreed unofficially to fund a radio system and potentially the vanpool.

Piascik informed the Board of a SC Supreme Court ruling in Greenville County declaring Road Maintenance Fees unconstitutional. Horry County is aware of the decision. There are implications for the budget and the need for a referendum for transit.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mrs. D'Angelo reviewed the Board Bylaws to run through the nomination and election of a Vice-Chairman. The Chair told the Board he would accept nominations at the August Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was a motion by Dr. Sheehan and a second by Dr. Keene to move to an Executive Session. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard the Board entered Executive Session.

There was a motion by Dr. Keene and a second by Mr. Lazzara to move out of Executive Session. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard the Board exited Executive Session. The Chairman stated for the record that no decisions were made and no votes were taken.

There was a motion by Dr. Sheehan and a second by Dr. Keene to extend Mr. Piascik's contract to five years, offer a 3% raise (1.5% effective May 1, 1.5% effective October 1), and a \$7,500 bonus. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard the Board approved the motion unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

There was a motion by Dr. Sheehan and a second by Mrs. D'Angeloe to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM.