



**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
d/b/a THE COAST RTA  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Wednesday, July 26, 2023  
12:00 PM**

**Board Present:** Katharine D'Angelo  
Darrell Eickhoff  
Marvin Keene  
Elijah Metherd  
Nicholas Twigg  
Robert Sheehan  
Bernard Silverman  
Randal Wallace

**Staff Present:** Brian Piascik, General Manager/CEO  
Ron Prater, CFO  
Candace Brown, Senior Planner/Special Projects  
Ann-Martin Buffkin, Board Liaison  
Lauren Morris, Director of Strategic Communications

**Visitors:** Robert Pawlowski, Joesph Lazarra, Jason Orning

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the 2023 meeting schedule was provided to the press at the beginning of the 2023 fiscal 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 July 26, 2023.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Keene called the meeting to order at 12:01 PM and welcomed everyone.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Dr. Keene gave the invocation, then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the agenda was approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the minutes were approved unanimously.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:** Dr. Keene greeted and introduced Robert Pawlowski and Joseph Lazarra.

Robert Pawlowski introduced himself and began speaking on budget. He stated that the wage increases as outlined in the FY2024 budget were needed. Mr. Pawlowski stated that while riding Coast RTA buses, he noted customer service was excellent. He stated increasing service on the Myrtle Beach entertainment shuttle and the new North Myrtle Beach entertainment shuttle is a must. Mr. Pawlowski stated that state funding is “a joke” and asked the board members to talk more with State Legislators regarding state funding for the Authority.

**SERVICE/PAC COMMITTEE:** Mr. Piascik stated that service changes will be discussed in the General Manager’s report and the By-Laws will be voted on in the AD-Hoc section.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Mr. Silverman began by noting there will be a Resolution to pass the FY2024 budget. The finance committee unanimously recommended approving the FY2024 budget in the last committee meeting.

Prior to the resolution, Mr. Piascik presented a summary of the FY2024 budget. In that summary, he pointed out that the overall budget increases approximately 6% (mainly labor, vanpool program, and commitment to put \$140,000 in LGIP). On the revenue side, there is an increase in formula funding (SCDOT 2 for 1 deal), a reduction in one time money by \$346,000 which will be used in Operations. Mr. Piascik states our capital program is mid-size. The Authority will need to replace transits (5 of the 6 vehicles have met useful life as related to mileage). Additionally, a new shop truck is in the works.

**Resolution:** Resolution #JUL2023-09 – Approval of FY24 Budget. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the resolution passes unanimously to approve the FY2024 Budget.

Mr. Silverman provided a recap from the finance committee meeting. Beginning with the income statement, Mr. Silverman stated expenses are higher in facility maintenance because of roof repairs. Additionally, expense is higher in telecommunications because of new phones, IT expense, and Motorola (operations radios). Mr. Silverman pointed out that expenses have steadily increased over the year, which is a concern. He asked the board and administrative staff

what measures can be put in place to combat this trend. Additionally, Mr. Silverman asked why expenses in administration have increased by 7.3%. Mr. Piascik stated he would be presenting a zero-dollar budget revision (adjustment) in the next finance committee meeting that will smooth some of these variances out. Mr. Piascik explained the 7.3% overage in administration salary and benefits expense also includes expenses from telecommunications and other expense categories. He also explained the steady increase in expenses over the last year is primarily due to wage increases. Dr. Keene stated he would like to see a trend graph for revenue that compliments the 12-month rolling expense trending graph. Mr. Prater stated that the graphs as shown are through June 2023. He stated there will be several supplemental grants that hit the books in July 2023 that will dramatically adjust the graph trends and lessen the gap between the overages and shortages in the current budget. He states this is just a timing issue more than anything else.

Regarding cash requirements, Mr. Prater stated that getting grant money monthly rather than quarterly could rectify the cash crunch. Additionally, Mr. Prater noted that we are getting revenue in arrears. For example, our July 2023 operations money will not be granted until September 2023. Mr. Piascik and Mr. Prater will be working on the budget, specifically cash requirements.

**COMPENSATION COMMITTEE:** Dr. Sheehan stated at the next board meeting, he will request an executive session. During that session, he will ask to change the General Manager's terms of employment. This change will include replacing the 1-year succession term to 5 years.

**AD HOC COMMITTEES:** Ms. D'Angelo asked the board if any changes are needed to the revised by-laws; no one had changes.

Ms. D'Angelo asked about expense reimbursement for board members. There was a discussion regarding this matter. Finance will create a quarterly expense report for board members to complete for reimbursement.

**Motion:** A motion by Mr. Sheehan and seconded by Dr. Twigg to approve Resolution #JUL2023-10 – Approval of the Updated Bylaws. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the resolution passes unanimously to approve the Updated Bylaws.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Coast RTA will be having its' 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on August 30, 2023 from 10am to 2pm. Mr. Piascik invited all the board members. The plan is to have the celebration and then the August 2023 board meeting. Location and more details forthcoming.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Piascik began the General Manager's report by providing a facilities update. He stated our consultants are working on environmental clearance for the lot

on Grissom Parkway. Mr. Piascik has reviewed and commented on the environmental checklist, as well as the traffic impact analysis. These documents will be delivered to FTA by the first week of August 2023. The review will be about 30 days and then we will be able to acquire the property (by end of calendar year 2023). Local money is in tack and the state will cover the rest. This is a \$3.3 million dollar project, \$1.6 million from state and rest from local money.

Regarding passenger facilities, Mr. Piascik stated he would like to take pressure off the existing Conway building by expediting the new Conway facility. After speaking with the owners of the Powell Street lots, they are willing to cooperate with us. They are interested in building an administrative building in which we will be able to co-habitat. Also, we will be re-establishing the lease for parking and security.

Mr. Piascik stated that the Authority will have to move our existing transit center by May 2024 due to construction from the City of Myrtle Beach. This means, we could move our facility to the Grissom Parkway lot or expedite building by pursuing state money to build the transfer center sooner rather than later.

Coast RTA will begin looking for a temporary interim facility. This may be a split operation plan or for the whole authority. Mr. Piascik states the biggest issue will be fueling. Mr. Piascik explained the grant is still in place to pay on a lease.

Mr. Piascik stated that staff is working hard, long hours and hot days. He states that regular service is running well and on-time performance is improving despite traffic; safety numbers are good. The ridership for our entertainment shuttles is lower than expected in both Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach. Maintenance continues to struggle to find parts as they are extremely hard to get. Additionally, our trolleys are breaking down and we are having to supplement trolleys with cutaways. Genfare is back up and running; however, the cash box safe failed but has been fixed. Marketing is working on bus stop wraps for the entertainment shuttle. Other updates included, the Authority will be self-insuring our underground storage tanks and push to talk radios are getting up and running. Finally, Mr. Piascik stated our FY2023 audit will be emailed out to the board next week for review and will be discussed in the next finance committee meeting. It was a clean audit and has been turned into the clearing house.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** There was a motion by Ms. D'Angelo and a second by Mr. Silverman to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Keene adjourned the meeting at 1:36 PM.