



**WACCAMAW REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
d/b/a THE COAST RTA  
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Wednesday, May 31, 2023  
12:00 PM**

**Board Present:** Darrell Eickhoff  
Lillie Jean Johnson  
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  
Tom Burda, Maintenance Supervisor

**Visitors:** Robert Pawlowski

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 May 31, 2023.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Keene called the meeting to order at 12:02 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:** Dr. Keene noted that an executive session needs to be added after announcements. There was a motion by Mr. Eickhoff and a second by Dr. Twigg to approve the agenda. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard; the revised agenda was approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** There was a motion by Dr. Sheehan and a second by Mr. Eickhoff to approve the April 2023 meeting minutes. A voice vote was taken; no nays being heard, the minutes were approved unanimously.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:** Mr. Piascik greeted and introduced Robert Pawlowski.

Mr. Silverman thanked Brian Piascik for his leadership as TASC President and all he has done for transit in South Carolina and Coast RTA.

**SERVICE/PAC COMMITTEE:** Mr. Piascik stated service changes went into effect the last week of May 2023 and the entertainment shuttles went into service May 30<sup>th</sup> 2023. Trolleys are currently being wrapped and will be cycled through until they are all complete. Once trolleys are wrapped, there will be a photo op and a formal grand opening with the City of North Myrtle Beach.

July 4<sup>th</sup> 2023, will be Coast RTA's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There will not be a meeting in June 2023.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Mr. Silverman began by speaking on fares. Fare revenues are down, and recovery rate is 6%. Mr. Silverman stated his hope is that the fare study will help with an increase in taps and help us decide if we need to rely on Genfare. Regarding budget, most categories are close to budget; maintenance overtime is 200% over budget, telecommunications is over budget, but overall salaries are still under budget. The overall budget for all departments only shows a 1.1% variance. Mr. Silverman requested Mr. Piascik provide an explanation of telecommunications and what they entail. Mr. Silverman stated cash requirements go down in July 2023 but does not cause concern as the balance of the O&M reserve shows an increase. Mr. Silverman remarked that there will not be a need for a FY23 revised budget.

Mr. Silverman stated that the FY24 budget and 6-year plan are comingled. Mr. Silverman reminded everyone that the Board is required to pass the budget in July 2023 but there is not a June 2023 board meeting. Mr. Silverman requested a review of the budget during the June 2023 finance committee meeting so that the deadline is met.

Mr. Piascik explained telecommunications expenses. This expense category includes Horry Telephone (cable/internet), Ride Systems, Segra (phones), ATT/Verizon, Ecolane, KubaPay, and

New Flyer Diagnostics. Overall, going forward with all the changes the Authority is making in telecommunications, there will be a decrease in expense, averaging \$427.59 less monthly.

Mr. Piascik informed the Board that the Authority invested in employee uniforms. This includes new shirts for drivers. These shirts are of better quality and will have our logo embroidered on rather than patched on. The Authority will be taking uniforms out to bid and this will only include pants for drivers; maintenance uniforms will remain as is. This will be about \$600 savings per month for uniform expense. Additionally, the Authority will be replacing copiers. The copier replacement will provide a decrease of approximately \$281.37 in expense.

Finally, Mr. Piascik provided a Genfare update. Due to the flooding the Authority sustained in April 2023, there is no ridership data for May 2023. Personnel is trying to troubleshoot the Genfare machine but has not been successful. Several parts have been replaced. There has been a lot of time spent on the phone with Genfare who is also at a loss but has escalated the problem. The back up plan is getting another laptop, which has been ordered.

**COMPENSATION COMMITTEE:** None

**AD HOC COMMITTEES:** Ms. D'Angelo requested pushing by-laws until July 2023.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** None

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT:** Mr. Piascik stated the Authority's underground fuel storage tanks are not to be insured any longer due to their age. DHEC requires this insurance. We are in the process of examining options. The Conway building roof repair required environmental clearance. Once that is cleared, we will be moving forward on repairs.

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Dr. Keene reminded the Board that there will be nominations for vice-chair in August 2023, voting in September 2023 and the vice-chair will take their seat effective October 2023.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** There was a motion by Dr. Sheehan and a second by Mr. Wallace to move to executive session at which time the recording session ended. A motion to come out of executive session was made by Mr. Eickhoff with a second by Dr. Twigg. No decisions were made and no votes were taken.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There was a motion by Mr. Wallace and a second by Dr. Sheehan to adjourn the meeting.to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Keene adjourned the meeting at 1:24 PM.