

LUZERNE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
June 10, 2014

PRESENT:

SAL LICATA, CHAIRMAN
DR VALERIE KEPNER, PH.D., VICE-CHAIRMAN
ANTHONY BALDO, TREASURER
DR SID HALSOR, PH.D., ASST TREASURER
ARTHURE BOBBUINE, MEMBER
DR JOHN KOCH, PH.D., ASST SECRETARY
ROBERT CHEPALONIS, MEMBER
PATRICK CONWAY, MEMBER
ATTORNEY SEAN ROBBINS, MEMBER

ATTORNEY JOSEPH BLAZOSEK, SOLICITOR

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

FRED BROWN, MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR
MOHAMMED NAJIB, CONTROLLER
LEE HORTON, OPERATIONS/ROAD SUPERVISOR
JOE ROSELLE, I.T. DIRECTOR
JOHN ALU, FISCAL OFFICER, SHARED RIDE
VINCE COVIELLO, MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR
TRACY KLINE, ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
JAMES DARR, OPERATIONS MANAGER, SHARED RIDE

MEDIA:

DAVE BOHMAN- WNEP
STEVE MOCARSKY- TIMES LEADER
SUE HENRY, WILK RADIO
ANDY MEHALSHICK, WBRE

OTHERS:

BOB CARUSO, LINDA SLATER, ED CHESNOVICH
PAUL JASON, LOU ROMAN, SANDY KING-HORST

1. Pledge of Allegiance: Chairman, Mr. Licata welcomed everyone and invited those present to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call: The following Board members were present for the meeting: Mr. Baldo, Mr. Chepalonis, Mr. Conway, Dr. Halsor, Dr. Kepner, Dr. Koch, Mr. Bobbouine, Attorney Robbins and Mr. Licata.

3. Public Comment:

Mr. Licata then invited comments from anyone in the audience.

Bob Caruso, PTAC member, explained the need for expanded Saturday and Evening service. He stated that the impediment to these advancements in operations is now gone. He asked the board to make a motion, and asked for a show of hands of who is in favor of expanded service in the evening and Saturdays, saying the riders want to know who is on their side.

Linda Slater, PTAC chairperson, said that if you go into the intermodal things are not working correctly and stated that she needs the sign to work because she is legally blind and needs to know the time to catch a bus. She also said the bus schedule times are different than what is stated at the intermodal. She went on to say the system is undependable and we should stop paying for it and get rid of it. Linda Slater said she is grounded at 5:30 p.m. because there is no van or bus service and is unable to attend public meetings. She also said that we need spotters at the intermodal. She said she doesn't care for the service announcing the bus stops and stated the system is not necessary and does not work, adding we should get rid of these things and put the money into night service and Saturday service. Lastly, she added that expanded service would allow people to work and get jobs as many cannot afford cars.

Mr. Licata responded saying that all board members would like to see expanded service but there is a financial impediment. He said the board would work to solve that problem.

Ed Chesnovich said he found out about the meeting on the radio, and questioned why the meeting was not posted on the county website. He also asked why the personnel committee is able to put employees on administrative leave without the whole committee. He added that in the corporate world they would not be paid until they are acquitted and then would get back pay. He noted that these are tax payer dollars.

Mr. Licata said we would work to make sure all the meetings are posted on the county website.

4. Chairman's Report: Mr. Licata

Mr. Licata thanked the board members for opening their schedules to attend the meeting. He also thanked the public and LCTA employees who were there on their own time. He then welcomed new board member, Arthur Bobbouine.

Mr. Bobbouine stated that he is from Pittston and is currently an instructor. He said he wanted to give back to the community and was appointed to the LCTA Board. He also noted that many of his students are bus riders.

Mr. Licata stated that Mr. Bobbouine would be a valuable addition to the board.

Mr. Licata also recognized former board member, Rosemary Lombardo, who was appointed in 1999 and has been a valuable member of the board. He noted that Ms. Lombardo spent 15 years making sure she was at the meetings and was a tremendous advocate for the handicapped and those with special needs. He wished her well and thanked her for all of her service.

Dr. Kepner noted that Ms. Lombardo has agreed to come to the ridership meetings and continue giving her input. She invited the public to attend the meetings held the 3RD Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. at the LCCC Corporate Learning Center on Public Square.

Mr. Licata asked that a letter of thanks or plaque be given to Ms. Lombardo to recognize her years of service. The board members agreed.

5. Solicitor's Report: Attorney Joseph Blazosek

Attorney Blazosek asked that a board member request an executive session to discuss personnel matters with the full board present. The motion was made by Mr. Bobbouine, and seconded by Dr. Halsor.

The board reconvened at approximately 7 p.m.

Attorney Blazosek noted the Board broke for a personnel/executive session and brought in some key staff. He said the time was needed to discuss personnel matters, those currently on leave and staffing needs. Also, the time and effort taken was to assure that we have in place the necessary steps for the Authority to continue the operation and make sure service needs are met.

A motion to accept Attorney Blazosek's report was made by Dr. Koch and seconded by Mr. Baldo. A roll call of the Board resulted in all affirmative votes accepting Attorney Blazosek's report.

6. Action Items

Attorney Blazosek explained the need to adopt a resolution to authorize LCTA signatories for Penn Dot grants and submissions, at Penn Dot's request. Listed on the resolution are approved signatories for invoices, grant applications, agreements and legacy reports. Atty. Blazosek noted that it was necessary to expand the positions that are authorized to make submittals on behalf of the Authority.

A motion was made by Mr. Chepalonis and seconded by Dr. Halsor. A roll call of the Board resulted in all affirmative votes.

Atty. Blazosek asked for a resolution to authorize the Grants Coordinator or Controller to execute the proper title documents needed to transfer vehicles from the Shared Ride to another service provider. The motion was made by Atty. Robbins and seconded by Mr. Conway.

Attorney Blazosek gave a status report on local funding coordination stating that John Alu, Mohammed Najib and Ray Distasio met with Brian Swets from the county this past Friday. Mr. Najib noted that the meeting was for clarification and that they wanted to be sure they are on the same page regarding the time of funding disbursement. Atty. Blazosek confirmed that the disbursements would mesh with our submissions to Penn Dot and state funding.

11. Personnel Committee- Mr. Robert Chepalonis, Chairman

Mr. Chepalonis put forth a motion to be ratified, stating that Mr. Stanley Strelish and Mr. Robb Henderson be placed on administrative leave beginning 6/7/14. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bobbouine.

Mr. Chepalonis asked for a motion to put Mr. Strelish on administrative leave exhausting any accrued benefit time. Motion was seconded by Dr. Kepner.

He then put forth a motion for Mr. Henderson's administrative leave also exhausting any accrued benefit time. Motion was seconded by Atty. Robbins.

Mr. Chepalonis noted that they have received applications and will be conducting interviews for the Human Resource Director next week. The motion to accept was made by Dr. Kepner and seconded by Atty. Robbins.

Mr. Licata stated that the Luzerne County Council meeting is on the same day as the LCTA's next scheduled board meeting. He said it was recommended by staff to change the board meeting from Tuesday, 6/24/14 to Wednesday, 6/25/14, so we will know the outcome of the local funding. The meeting will be held at 5 p.m. with the work session beginning at 4 p.m. Mr. Licata then asked for a motion to accept the meeting change. Motion was made by Dr. Kepner and seconded by Dr. Koch.

Mr. Licata also noted that due to time constraints, the board would not name an interim director at this meeting.

15. Adjournment:

With all business having been completed and no remarks, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Baldo and seconded by Mr. Chepalonis. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

BY: Tracy Kline, Secretary to the Board