

LUZERNE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

SEPTEMBER 27, 2011

PRESENT:

SALVATORE LICATA, CHAIRMAN
DR COREEN MILAZZO, PH.D., VICE-CHAIRMAN
ROSEMARY LOMBARDO, ASST SECRETARY
ROBERT CHEPALONIS, ASST TREASURER
PAUL MAHER, MEMBER
ANTHONY BALDO, MEMBER
PATRICK CONWAY, MEMBER
WILLIAM JOSEPH, MEMBER
ATTORNEY JOSEPH BLAZOSEK, SOLICITOR

ABSENT:

MARY SUSAN RICCETTI, TREASURER

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

STANLEY STRELISH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ROBB HENDERSON, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
THERESA CHAPMAN, ADMIN. ASST./ GRANTS CO-ORDINATOR
MOHAMMED NAJIB, CONTROLLER
LEE HORTON, OPERATIONS/ROAD SUPERVISOR
EDMUND BROOKS, PURCHASING AGENT

OTHERS:

BILL MACLUNNY, LCTA UNION REPRESENTATIVE
LOU ROMAN, LCTA UNION REPRESENTATIVE
VALERIE KEPNER, BUS PASSENGER
BILL WELLOCK, CITIZENS VOICE

1. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman Mr. Licata called the meeting to order and invited everyone 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, Mr. Joseph, Ms. Lombardo, Mr. Maher, Dr. Milazzo and Mr. Licata. Absent was Mrs. Riccetti.

3. **Public Comment Notice:**

A regular bus passenger, Valerie Kepner was in attendance and asked permission to address the Board for a few minutes. Ms. Kepner stated she is a member of a Passenger Advisory Committee established for the purpose of working with LCTA to identify concerns of bus passengers and to help LCTA promote safe transportation while also helping to increase ridership.

Ms. Kepner offered several suggestions from the Committee which include signs directing passengers to stay away from the rear of the buses; working together to increase ridership; the opportunity to purchase bus tickets at Barnes and Noble on South Main Street and greater police presence in the areas of the Intermodal Center. Ms. Kepner complimented the Authority on the new schedules which were printed in a larger format, making them easier to see.

Mr. Strelish thanked Ms. Kepner for attending the meeting and expressing her concerns and ideas to the Board and Authority. He responded to her ideas and was appreciative to the fact that passengers had formed the Advisory Committee and are willing to work with LCTA to improve the system and the passengers' riding experience.

Union representative, Mr. MacLunny addressed the Board and acknowledged he had attended a few meetings of the Advisory Committee over the past several months and complimented the Committee on their willingness to assist LCTA.

Mr. MacLunny also thanked Mr. Strelish for allowing the bus drivers to acknowledge the industry wide "Don't Wipe Out Transit" drive by placing red "X's" on the buses. The "Don't Wipe Out Transit" was an awareness drive to protect federal funding for transit.

4. **Approval of Minutes: August 23, 2011**

A motion to accept the minutes from the meeting of August 23, 2011 was made by Dr. Milazzo and seconded by Mr. Maher. Motion carried.

5. **Accounts Payable: August 18, 2011 – September 21, 2011**

Upon review of the Accounts Payable for the period of August 18, 2011 – September 21, 2011, a motion to approve was made by Mr. Chepalonis and seconded by Ms. Lombardo. Motion carried.

6. Financial Statement: August, 2011

The Financial Statement for the month of August, 2011 was then presented to the Board for review after which a motion to approve was made by Mr. Maher and seconded by Mr. Chepalonis. Motion carried.

7. Chairman's Report: Mr. Licata

Chairman Mr. Licata welcomed three (3) new members to the Board of Directors, Mr. Anthony Baldo, Mr. Patrick Conway and Mr. William Joseph and wished them well as they serve on the Board. Mr. Licata also thanked retiring Board members, Mrs. Valenti, Mr. Frascella and Mr. McCormick for their many years of service to the Board as they worked diligently for improvements to the Authority. Mr. Licata stated plaques would be presented to the past members at a future meeting.

Mr. Licata continued, explaining that due to the change of Board members, changes would need to be made to the Committee listing. New Committee listing is attached.

Last, Mr. Licata stated that retired Board member Mrs. Valenti served as Secretary and a new Secretary would be appointed at the next meeting. Ms. Lombardo is presently Assistant Secretary who would authorize any documents needed in the meantime.

8. Solicitor's Report: Attorney Joseph Blazosek

Attorney Blazosek stated for the record the public work session stopped at 3:20 in order to hold a Personnel meeting which continued until 4 P.M. Attorney Blazosek stated Mr. Strelish updated the Board on several matters with further reports to be made to the Board.

Attorney Blazosek also noted that during the recent tragic accident at the Intermodal Center, Mr. Strelish and the staff all worked together to do whatever was necessary to deal with the accident.

Motion to accept Attorney Blazosek's report was made by Dr. Milazzo and seconded by Mr. Maher.

9. Executive Director's Report: Mr. Stanley Strelish

Before beginning his report, Mr. Strelish also welcomed the three (3) new members to the Board mentioning this is an exciting time for LCTA as we look into regionalizing our services with Hazleton Public Transit and the Luzerne/Wyoming Counties Transportation Dept.

LUZERNE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2011 COMMITTEE LISTING

UPDATED 9/27/2011

UNION GRIEVANCES

1. DR. COREEN MILAZZO, PH.D.
2. ROSEMARY LOMBARDO
3. MARY SUSAN RICCETTI

INSURANCE

1. DR. COREEN MILAZZO, PH.D.
2. ROSEMARY LOMBARDO

PERSONNEL

1. ROBERT CHEPALONIS
2. PAUL MAHER
3. MARY SUSAN RICCETTI

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

1. ROSEMARY LOMBARDO
2. PATRICK CONWAY
3. ANTHONY BALDO

BUDGET

1. PAUL MAHER
2. WILLIAM JOSEPH
3. ANTHONY BALDO

OPERATIONS

1. ROBERT CHEPALONIS
2. DR. COREEN MILAZZO, PH.D.
3. PATRICK CONWAY

PURCHASING

1. ROSEMARY LOMBARDO
2. PAUL MAHER
3. WILLIAM JOSEPH

RIDERSHIP

1. MARY SUSAN RICCETTI
2. ROSEMARY LOMBARDO
3. ROBERT CHEPALONIS

A. Ridership – August, 2011

Mr. Strelish presented the ridership for the month of August, 2011 which showed a total of 145,178 as compared to August, 2010 ridership of 142,199 a decrease of approximately 3,000 passengers which was largely in the full fare and 31 day ticket categories.

B. Resolution #1-12 to Union Employees Pension Plan

Mr. Strelish then asked for a motion to adopt a resolution to reduce the amortization rate in the Unionized employees Pension Plan. Attorney Blazosek advised the changes were recommended by the Pension Plan consultants to make the plan compliant with current laws. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Dr. Milazzo and seconded by Mr. Maher. Motion carried.

C. Resolution #2-12 to Non-Union Employees Pension Plan

Mr. Strelish then asked for a motion to adopt a similar resolution for the Non-Union Employees plan. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Ms. Lombardo and seconded by Mr. Chepalonis.

D. Poems in Transit Presentation at 5:30 PM, Friday, September 30, 2011 at Intermodal

Mr. Strelish mentioned the Poems in Transit Program, co-ordinated by Dr. Mischelle Anthony of Wilkes University would be presented at 5:30 PM on Friday, September 30, 2011 at The Intermodal Center and invited everyone present to attend the event.

E. Permission for Employees to attend PPTA Winter Meeting at Monroe County Transit November 2 and 3, 2011

Mr. Strelish then asked for permission for a maximum of four (4) employees to attend the PPTA Winter Meeting being held on November 2 and 3, 2011 at Monroe County Transit. Motion was made by Dr. Milazzo and seconded by Mr. Maher. Motion carried.

At this time, Mr. Strelish talked of the recent flood evacuation and commended the entire Staff for working through adverse and unsafe conditions to make the entire evacuation possible. Mr. Strelish stated the drivers moved residents from high rises and nursing homes, and moved the buses to higher ground while the maintenance department moved shop equipment to a tractor trailer and staff filing cabinets to upper levels. Mr. Strelish also stated employees returned when the evacuation order was lifted to bring buses and equipment back in order to be operational on Monday, September 12, 2011. Mr. Strelish suggested paying the Administrative staff for work done on Saturday, September 10, 2011. Motion to approve payment was made by Mr. Maher and seconded by Dr. Milazzo. Motion carried.

E. Report by Operations Supervisor

Operations Supervisor Mr. Henderson thanked Ms. Kepner for attending the meeting and presenting her concerns to the Board.

Luzerne County Transportation Authority Union Employees' Pension Plan

RESOLUTION NO. 1-12

A Resolution of the **Luzerne County Transportation Authority**, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, adopting the reduced amortization option according to Chapter 6 of Act 205 of 1984 (P.L. 1005, No.205), as amended by Act 44 of 2009. In calculating the 2012 Minimum Municipal Obligation, **Luzerne County Transportation Authority** elects to utilize the 75% amortization option as allowed by Act 44 of 2009 for the **Luzerne County Transportation Authority Union Employees' Pension Plan**.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved and enacted by the **Luzerne County Transportation Authority** that the reduced amortization be adopted for the Plan, effective with the 2012 Minimum Municipal Obligation calculation.

I do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct excerpt from the minutes of the **Luzerne County Transportation Authority Board** meeting held on SEPTEMBER 27, 2011.

9/27/11
Date

Rosemary Lombardo
Authority Secretary

Luzerne County Transportation Authority Non-Union Employees' Pension Plan

RESOLUTION NO. 2-12

A Resolution of the **Luzerne County Transportation Authority**, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, adopting the reduced amortization option according to Chapter 6 of Act 205 of 1984 (P.L. 1005, No.205), as amended by Act 44 of 2009. In calculating the 2012 Minimum Municipal Obligation, **Luzerne County Transportation Authority** elects to utilize the 75% amortization option as allowed by Act 44 of 2009 for the **Luzerne County Transportation Authority Non-Union Employees' Pension Plan**.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved and enacted by the **Luzerne County Transportation Authority** that the reduced amortization be adopted for the Plan, effective with the 2012 Minimum Municipal Obligation calculation.

I do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct excerpt from the minutes of the **Luzerne County Transportation Authority** Board meeting held on SEPTEMBER 27, 2011.

Date

9/27/11

Rosemary Lombardo
Authority Secretary

F. Report by Maintenance Supervisor

Mr. Strelish explained that Maintenance Supervisor, Mr. Brown was taken to the hospital earlier in the day and unable to attend the meeting, therefore, no maintenance department report would be offered.

A motion to accept the Executive Director's report was made by Mr. Chepalonis and seconded by Dr. Milazzo. Motion carried.

10. Operations Committee: Mr. Bob Chepalonis

Mr. Chepalonis had no report at this time.

11. Personnel Committee: Mr. Bob Chepalonis

Chairman of the Personnel Committee, Mr. Chepalonis asked for a motion to approve the hiring of Theodore Bowman as a part time driver effective September 19, 2011 at minimum wage for training. Thereafter, wage to be set as per the Union contract. Motion to approve was made by Dr. Milazzo and seconded by Mr. Maher. Motion carried.

Mr. Chepalonis then asked for a motion to approve the hiring of Slobodan Nikolic as a part time driver effective September 26, 2011 at minimum wage for training. Thereafter, wage to be set as per the Union contract. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Lombardo and seconded by Dr. Milazzo. Motion carried.

12. Old Business:

There was no Old Business to discuss at this time.

13. New Business:

Chairman, Mr. Licata referred back to the idea of selling bus tickets in more locations and asked Mr. Strelish to look into the idea of selling them through ticket vending machines. Mr. Strelish stated he had previously looked into that idea but it would require the use of credit cards which would result in a loss of revenue for the Authority. Mr. Strelish said we would once again look into the possibility of the machines or possibly have an employee available a few days a week at the Intermodal to sell tickets.

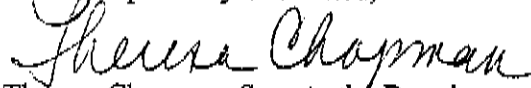
14. Remarks:

There were no remarks offered at this time.

15. Adjournment:

With all business having been conducted, motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Milazzo and seconded by Mr. Chepalonis. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Theresa Chapman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and roles.

BY: Theresa Chapman, Secy to the Board

FOR: Antoinette Valenti, Secy of the Board