

LUZERNE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OCTOBER 23, 2012

PRESENT:

PAUL MAHER, CHAIRMAN
MARY SUSAN RICCETTI, VICE-CHAIRMAN
SALVATORE LICATA, TREASURER
PATRICK CONWAY, SECRETARY
ROSEMARY LOMBARDO, ASST SECRETARY
ANTHONY BALDO, MEMBER
ROBERT CHEPALONIS, MEMBER
VALERIE KEPNER, MEMBER
ATTORNEY JOSEPH BLAZOSEK, SOLICITOR

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

STANLEY STRELISH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RENEE CRAIG, HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR
FRED BROWN, MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR
THERESA CHAPMAN, GRANTS CO-ORDINATOR
MOHAMMED NAJIB, CONTROLLER
LEE HORTON, OPERATIONS/ROAD SUPERVISOR
ROBB HENDERSON, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
LOU URITZ, PROCUREMENT MANAGER
JOSEPH ROSELLE, I.T. DIRECTOR
JAMES DARR, DIRECTOR, SHARED RIDE DIVISION
JOHN ALU, FISCAL OFFICER, SHARED RIDE DIVISION
THOMAS LANDON, FLEET MANAGER, SHARED RIDE DIVISION

OTHERS:

PAUL JASON, LCTA DRIVER AND UNION REPRESENTATIVE
LOU ROMAN, LCTA DRIVER
GLEN BARBER, LCTA DRIVER
JUSTIN DAVIS, LCTA DRIVER
COLLEEN HORST, LCTA DRIVER
ERIC TURINSKI, LCTA MECHANIC
ROBERT DELESCAVAGE

MEDIA:

STEVE MOCARSKY, TIMES LEADER
MIKE BUFFER, CITIZENS VOICE
JIM MURDOCH, WNEP-TV
SUE HENRY, WILK RADIO
JULIE STEFANOWITZ, WYLN RADIO
GARY PERNA, WYLN RADIO

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance:** Chairman, Mr. Maher welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- 2. Roll Call:** The following Board members were present for the meeting: Mr. Baldo, Mr. Chepalonis, Mr. Conway (via telephone), Ms. Kepner, Mr. Licata, Ms. Lombardo, Mrs. Riccetti and Mr. Maher. No one was absent from the meeting.
- 3. Public Comments Notice:** Chairman Mr. Maher invited comments from those in attendance. Mr. Eric Turinski addressed the Board regarding the fact that the Maintenance Department employees utilize a time clock for accounting for their work hours and the bus drivers time is specifically recorded by the Dispatchers and then questioned the accountability of management's work time. Mr. Turinski stated that management employees come in late, leave early, leave during the day and are seen at different locations during work hours and questioned why there is no accountability in place for management employees. Attorney Blazosek questioned Mr. Turinski as to how he would know if an employee is seen at varying locations if he, himself is at work on a daily basis. Mr. Turinski responded that he is informed by other employee(s) who see the management employee(s) at different locations. Attorney Blazosek asked Mr. Turinski who the specific employee is and Mr. Turinski responded that it "starts at the top" and when questioned further by Attorney Blazosek, identified the employee as Mr. Strelish, Executive Director. Mr. Strelish strongly remarked to Mr. Turinski that there is no credibility to his accusation, that he, Mr. Strelish is at work every day. Mr. Strelish responded stating there is accountability not only for himself but for all management employees stating he himself always informs other employees when he is leaving the building and also that he spends a great deal of time handling Authority business and matters when he is on his own personal time. Ms. Chapman, Grants Co-Ordinator spoke on behalf of Mr. Strelish and the management staff reinforcing the fact Mr. Strelish is at work all day and represents the Authority during his own time and disagreed with Mr. Turinski's accusation that Mr. Strelish is not accountable for his time. Ms. Chapman continued stating that this has been a difficult year for everyone at LCTA including Shared Ride due to the consolidation of the systems and the management staff has put in extra time by coming in early, staying late and working on weekends in order to complete their work. Mr. Licata stated that as a Board member he will take Mr. Turinski's comments under advisement and also stated that as Treasurer he has been at the Authority after work hours while employees remain as well. Mr. Licata also stated he has no question about the accountability of the management staff regarding the work they do and the job that is done. At this point Mr. Licata asked the Board to end this matter and to continue with the meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes: September 25, 2012

After review of the minutes of the September 25, 2012 meeting Mr. Maher asked for a motion to approve at which time a motion was made by Mr. Chepalonisi and seconded by Mr. Licata. Motion carried.

5. Accounts Payable: September, 2012

Upon review of the September, 2012 Accounts Payable a motion to approve was made by Mr. Licata and seconded by Mrs. Riccetti. Motion carried.

6. Financial Statement: August, 2012

The Board then reviewed the Financial Statements for the month of August, 2012 after which a motion to approve was made by Mr. Chepalonis and seconded by Mr. Baldo. Motion carried.

7. Chairman's Report: Mr. Paul Maher, Chairman

Chairman Mr. Maher stated he was pleased to read in two newspapers that PennDOT had closed the investigation regarding ghostriders.

8. Solicitor's Report – Attorney Joseph Blazosek

Attorney Blazosek stated he had updated the Board on several issues during the Executive Session from 3:40 P.M. until 4:00 P.M. with no further action or decisions taken at the time. Motion to accept Attorney Blazosek's report was made by Mrs. Riccetti and seconded by Ms. Lombardo. Motion carried.

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

A. Ridership – September, 2012

Mr. Strelish began by reviewing the ridership for the month of September, 2012 which showed total passengers of 112,517 which showed a decline in almost every category. Mr. Strelish stated the ridership in August, 2012 was 120,243, a decrease of approximately 6% for September. Mr. Strelish also stated senior ridership in Lackawanna County (COLTS) decreased by approximately 28% during the month.

B. FY2012-13 Unified Planning Work Program Agreement

Mr. Strelish then asked for a motion to accept the annual agreement for the Unified Planning Work Program for FY2012-13 which is a joint agreement with Luzerne County Planning Commission. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Licata and seconded by Mr. Chepalonis. Motion carried.

C. Change Dental Insurance to Assurant Dental at Annual Savings of \$10,819.44

Mr. Strelish then stated proposals were received for dental insurance coverage. Mr. Strelish stated the present provider, Guardian submitted a proposal in the amount of \$85,305.60 and a second proposal was received from Assurant Dental in the amount of \$74,486.16, an annual savings of \$10,819.44. Mr. Strelish stated the Union had reviewed the coverage that would be provided by Assurant and agreed it would be comparable to Guardian. Mr. Strelish then asked for a motion to approve. Motion was made by Mrs. Riccetti and seconded by Mr. Baldo. Motion carried.

D. Approve 2 Maintenance Employees to Attend Alignment Class at LCCC November 5-6, 2012

Mr. Strelish then asked for approval to send 2 maintenance employees to an alignment class at Luzerne County Community College on November 5-6, 2012. Mr. Strelish stated the class would be conducted by Hunter and would be beneficial to the maintenance employees to attend since we will be purchasing an alignment machine for use on the Shared Ride vans. Motion to approve the employees to attend was made by Ms. Lombardo and seconded by Mr. Chepalonis. Motion carried. Mr. Strelish stated that Maintenance Supervisor, Mr. Brown will determine which employees will attend. Cost is \$350 per person.

E. Mr. Strelish also informed the Board we will be doing requests for proposals for banking and advertising services. Mr. Strelish stated the RFP for banking is done on an annual basis and allows us to secure the best rates for available surplus funds. Mr. Strelish also stated the advertising proposals will be opened prior to the November meeting for approval at the Board meeting in November.

F. Reports by Operations Supervisor and Maintenance Supervisor

Operations Manager Mr. Henderson had no report to give at this time.
Maintenance Supervisor Mr. Brown had no report to give at this time.

G. Report by Shared Ride Division Executive Director

Mr. James Darr, Director stated the Shared Ride drivers are in the middle of driver training which is being held at LCCC. Mr. Darr stated half of the drivers had received training with the others to be completed in the coming week. Mr. Darr stated drivers receive training in such things as defensive driving, sensitivity training and emergency evacuation. Mr. Darr also stated this is the second year that Shared Ride has participated in the training at LCCC and complimented the quality of the course. He also stated that all 15 vans have been received.

Motion to accept Mr. Strelish's report was made by Mr. Chepalonis and seconded by Mr. Baldo.
Motion carried.

10. Operations Committee – Mr. Bob Chepalonis

Chairman of the Operations Committee Mr. Chepalonis had no report to give at this time.

11. Personnel Committee – Mr. Bob Chepalonis

Chairman of the Personnel Committee Mr. Chepalonis asked for a motion for the following:

- A. To hire Jovan Scrutchins as a part-time bus operator effective October 15, 2012 at a training rate of \$7.25 per hour.
- B. Hiring of Christopher Whitesell as full-time maintenance employee effective October 23, 2012 with wages as per contractual agreement

C. Hiring of Michael Redguard as full time maintenance employee pending drug and alcohol screening results with wages to be set as per contractual agreement.

D. To promote Crystal Robinson and Taquana Chapman from part time driver status to full-time driver status effective November 11, 2012 with pay scale as per contractual agreement.

A motion to approve all of the above was made by Mrs. Riccetti and seconded by Ms. Lombardo. Motion carried.

Union Representative Paul Jason questioned the seniority of Ms. Robinson and Ms. Chapman and it was determined that since Ms. Robinson is a member of the Union and Ms. Chapman is not in the Union that Ms. Robinson would be the more senior employee.

A second motion to approve the hirings was made by Mrs. Riccetti and seconded by Ms. Lombardo. Motion carried.

12. Old Business

There was no Old Business to discuss at this time.

13. New Business

At this time Board member Patrick Conway stated his request to have Mr. Stanley Strelish Executive Director and Mr. Robb Henderson, Director of Operations placed on administrative leave. Attorney Blazosek and Mr. Maher asked Mr. Conway what his reason is for this request and he responded he feels it should be done until the investigation is finished on the sexual harassment charge. Attorney Blazosek, Mr. Conway and Board members continued in conversation exchanging different views on several current public issues going on within the Authority such as the sexual harassment charge, ridership and discussing matters with the Board before taking concerns to the newspapers.

Mr. Chepalonis referred to the motion by Mr. Conway requesting Mr. Strelish and Mr. Henderson to be placed on administrative leave asking if anyone wants to take action on the motion stating he did not want to and each member also individually indicated they do not want to take action on Mr. Conway's motion.

Due to the length and complexity of this discussion additional specific notes will not be included in these minutes however, the entire meeting is available as recorded on tape as well as on a CD.

Ms. Kepner asked for the record, she would like to see the PennDOT report on the alleged ghostriders when it is available. Mr. Strelish stated he would provide it when it is received in the next few days. Ms. Kepner said she feels she has not yet had enough time as a Board member to make an informed decision to remove someone from the Board without learning more of the situation.

At this time, bus driver, Ms. Colleen Horst asked for permission to address the Board describing what has become the sexual harassment charge.

Due to the length and complexity of Ms. Horst's address to the Board and follow-up comments from Attorney Blazosek and Board members Mr. Maher and Mr. Licata additional specific notes will not be included in these minutes however, the entire meeting is available as recorded on tape as well as on a CD.

Mr. Licata mentioned he had attended the September meeting via telephone and made a proposal to have Mr. Strelish co-ordinate with our IT department to look into an improved system of communication that would better serve the Board when someone cannot attend the meeting in person.

Mr. Strelish stated he and Mr. Roselle, I.T. Director would look into Mr. Licata's proposal and also informed the Board the Authority will be conducting a security evaluation of the Authority which should be performed in December with a report to the Board in January, 2013.

Mr. Licata re-addressed the subject of accountability of the Administrative staff as mentioned earlier in the meeting stating the staff are salaried employees, not hourly wage employees and complimented the staff as being second to none with all work being done efficiently and promptly and does not see any kind of accountability issue from anyone on the staff. Mr. Strelish reinforced the issue by stating that the Management Performance Review conducted by PennDOT also notes the Authority is considered understaffed but also considered to be a very productive and efficient Administrative staff. Mr. Strelish also mentioned the Triennial Review conducted by the Federal Transit Administration which also finds the Authority and staff to be in compliance with Federal requirements and guidelines. Mr. Strelish also mentioned both reports are available for review if anyone is interested .

14. Remarks

Representative of the Ridership Committee, Ms. Kepner stated the committee met on Tuesday, October 16, 2012 and Ms. Kepner requested the dates, times and location of the Pennsylvania Transportation Advisory Council meetings as well as the Ridership Committee be posted on the LCTA website and also for the record to reflect that LCTA will print flyers that are needed for the PTAC Committee. Mr. Strelish said this could be done without a problem.

15. Adjournment

With all business having been conducted motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Licata and seconded by Mrs. Riccetti. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

BY: Theresa Chapman, Secy to the Board
FOR: Patrick Conway, Secy of the Board

REVISED MINUTES OF
OCTOBER 23, 2012
LCTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

13. New Business:

Paragraph 4: Revise to Read:

Ms. Kepner stated for the record, she would like to see the PennDOT report on the alleged ghostriders when it is available. Mr. Strelish stated he would provide the report when it is received from PennDOT , which is expected in the next few days. Ms. Kepner said, with due diligence being on the Board and wanting to see that report she is still asking questions trying to find out what the typical process would be if sexual harassment allegations are brought up at this point but as a Board member she feels she hasn't had enough time to do that sort of research before she would ever make a vote to remove individuals from their position and she also noted the riders rely on the buses to get where they need to go and the riders have had nothing to do with this entire matter.

14. New Business:

Line 5: Change PTAC Committee to PTAC Council

Respectfully Submitted by: Theresa Chapman
Secretary to the Board