



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY
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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 30, 2015**

The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors met in regular session in the Board Room at PSTA Headquarters at 6:00 PM on this date with the following members present:

Bill Jonson, Chairperson
Julie Bujalski, Vice-Chairperson
Janet Long, Secretary/Treasurer
Joseph Barkley
Doug Bevis
Mark Deighton
Ben Diamond
Dave Eggers
Pat Gerard
Curtis Holmes
Patricia Johnson
Wengay "Newt" Newton
Darden Rice
Brian Scott
Kenneth Welch

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO
Alan Zimmet, PSTA General Counsel
PSTA Staff Members
Members of the Public

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Jonson called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM and the Board was led in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

[Mr. Long entered the meeting at 6:03 PM.]

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vivian Peters, Largo resident, stated that the shelter cleaning service is very bad and the shelters are dirty and litter is strewn around.

Chari Mercier, Pinellas County resident, agreed with Ms. Peters about the uncleanliness of the shelters. She also expressed concern about the WiFi service, fare increases, and wait times for the Route 75.

Carl Heissenbuttel, Clearwater resident, said that the bus system has not changed in ten years. He said that there were three public surveys conducted, adding his belief that the Board did not take into account the public comments about the routes. Mr. Heissenbuttel also commented on the need for more frequent routes.

Tom Rask, unincorporated Seminole, stated his belief that the Board acts reactively. He spoke about the 80 riders using the 10-day TD pass, noting his opinion that they should just be given a 30-day pass. He also remarked on the bus purchases and advised the Board to take a vote.

Rick Smith, Chief of Staff for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), speaking on behalf of other individuals, talked about being allies and partners with PSTA. He said the union members are interested in peace, stability, and fairness. He indicated that Mr. Miller and James Bradford, Chief Operating Officer, have been very supportive of beginning a new relationship with the union workforce. Mr. Smith spoke about the Path Forward and shared some goals for the upcoming contract. He also mentioned wages and added that he is looking forward to the best of relationships.

Phil Compton, Sierra Club, thanked the Board for postponing the vote on the bus purchase. He spoke about eliminating all emissions as well as climate change. He suggested PSTA speak with Star Metro in Tallahassee who has electric buses.

NON-BOARD COMMITTEES

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – Ms. Bujalski reported on the September 9th and 21st MPO meetings. She said that there was general support by the MPO Board for the potential allocation of Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds. Ms. Bujalski said that the MPO Board will hold a second workshop on December 4th, and there will be a joint PSTA Board-MPO Board meeting on January 22, 2016.

MPO's Local Coordinating Board (LCB) – Ms. Johnson indicated that the MPO's Local Coordinating Board met two weeks ago. She stated that the LCB received a good presentation from CareerSource. They also received a presentation on PSTA's 10-day

TD bus pass. Ross Silvers, PSTA Mobility Manager, said the 10-day pass will continue to be offered until further notice and there will be a follow-up survey in November.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items 4B, 4C, and 4F were pulled for further discussion. Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barkley to approve the remaining Consent Agenda items. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda, which included the approval of the August 26, 2015 Board meeting minutes, the FY 2016 insurance premiums, and the transit shelter cleaning service/supplies contract.

Mr. Miller indicated that item 4B is an extension of the AT&T WiFi bus service. Item 4C is a capital project for upgrading the WiFi service in PSTA's headquarters. Mr. Newton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Welch to approve items 4B and 4C. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Relating to item 4F, members of the Board suggested that they receive a detailed comparison of all the technologies prior to the Board vote next month. Mr. Miller said that this will be the main topic at the next Finance Committee meeting with Board approval at the October Board meeting. Mr. Scott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bevis to continue the 2016 bus replacement discussion at the October Board meeting.

In response to Chairperson Jonson's call for public comment, Mr. Rask stated that the electric buses can only go 150 miles before a recharge is necessary and the Agency would have to purchase at least five buses to get federal funding. He also spoke about fossil fuels. There were no further public comments and the motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

CEO 2015 Evaluation – Chairperson Jonson indicated that the Personnel Committee met on August 13th to review the CEO's evaluations. He said this was also discussed at the Executive Committee. They reviewed three possible scenarios and made a slight change to the Personnel Committee's recommendation. Mr. Newton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rice to approve the recommendation as amended.

In response to Chairperson Jonson's call for public comment, Mr. Rask spoke about comments that were made at the June 24th Personnel Committee meeting and urged the Board to vote on this motion today.

There was much discussion about when the new evaluation would be due and the motion was amended to reflect an evaluation due date of April 29, 2016. There were no further public comments. Motion passed (14:1), with Mr. Eggers dissenting.

[A break was taken from 7:56 – 8:03 PM]

Revised Legislative Agendas – Ms. Rice reported that the Legislative Committee met on September 2nd and voted to recommend two additional PSTA legislative priorities. Ms. Rice made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bevis to accept the additional priorities. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

PSTA Transit Development Plan (TDP) – Ms. Borchers explained that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) requires all transit systems in Florida to adopt a 10-year TDP to be eligible for State Block Grant funding. Ms. Bujalski mentioned that the Planning Committee discussed this and is recommending approval. Ms. Rice made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bevis to approve the TDP. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

PSTA Performance Report/Updates – The report was included in the Board packet.

DART Customer Service Planning Committee Presentation – Mr. Miller provided an update on the DART service and the steps PSTA has taken to improve DART customer service. A full presentation was provided in the Board packet.

Capital Projects Update – The list of projects was included in the Board packet.

FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS

The Board received a schedule of future meeting subjects. Mr. Miller provided additional information on upcoming Legislative trips.

Mr. Miller indicated that a Personnel Committee meeting will be scheduled in January, 2016 to review the new CEO evaluation form. Chairperson Jonson requested that this process start before the end of the year.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Bujalski mentioned the October 28th Nominating Committee meeting and requested the meeting take place earlier to allow this item to be placed on the October Board meeting agenda. There was some discussion and it was decided not to move the

meeting. Mr. Eggers suggested the Nominating Committee send a letter to the City of Dunedin with their recommended slate of nominations after the October 28th meeting.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Welch stated that this is Mr. Holmes' last Board meeting and he thanked him for his service. He sent his thoughts and prayers to Terry Parks' family (retired PSTA employee).

Mr. Deighton thanked Ms. Borchers for attending and presenting at the Barrier Island Governmental Council (BIG-C) meeting.

Mr. Diamond thanked the Board members who serve on the MPO, adding that he is pleased that the two Agencies are working together. He also thanked the Legislative Committee and staff for their good work on the legislative priorities, adding that he feels more confident moving into the legislative process this year.

Ms. Rice mentioned Mr. Smith's positive comments regarding the union and believes it signals a new era between labor relations and PSTA.

Mr. Newton read the passenger commendations for the Bus Operators and Customer Service Representatives (CSR) and thanked them for their service.

Mr. Holmes said it was a pleasure serving on the Board and thanked everyone.

Ms. Johnson thanked Bob Lasher, External Affairs Officer, for reaching out and working with the residents of the Mainlands.

Chairperson Jonson expressed his appreciation for the support of Whit Blanton, MPO Executive Director, and the U.S. 19 Accessibility Committee for looking ahead at the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairperson Jonson adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for October 28th at 9:00 AM.

Chairperson