



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINUTES – JANUARY 28, 2015

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The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors met in regular session in the Board Room at PSTA Headquarters at 9:00 AM 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  
Pat Gerard  
Curtis Holmes  
Patricia Johnson  
Wengay "Newt" Newton  
Darden Rice  
Brian Scott  
Kenneth Welch

Absent:

Dave Eggers

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 9:00 AM and the Board was led in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

**[Ms. Bujalski entered the meeting at 9:03 AM.]**

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Employee Commendations – Eliseo Roman & Kersten Chadwick – Jeff Thompson, Director of Transportation, presented commendations to two Bus Operators, Mr. Roman and Mr. Chadwick, for their heroic efforts in pressure situations to ensure the safety of their passengers.

**[Mr. Newton entered the meeting at 9:05 AM.]**

Outgoing Board Member – Susan Latvala – Former Commissioner Latvala was recognized for her service on the PSTA Board from June 2006 to December 2014. She received a plaque and a lifetime pass.

**[Ms. Long entered the meeting at 9:06 AM.]**

Incoming Board Members – Dave Eggers, Pat Gerard, Curtis Holmes – Chairperson Jonson introduced and welcomed new Board members: Commissioner Gerard, Commissioner Holmes, and Commissioner Eggers (not present).

## NON-BOARD COMMITTEES

Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC) – Elaine Mann, Committee Chair, reported on the January 20th TRAC meeting. She informed the Board that the Committee recommended bus seating options for customers, and discussed the following information items: TRAC membership terms, By-Law clarifications, fare collections survey results, and homeless initiative. Ms. Mann said the next TRAC meeting is scheduled for February 17th.

Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Local Coordinating Board (LCB) – Ms. Johnson, Chairperson of the LCB, gave an update on a recent meeting and activities. She indicated at the last meeting, the LCB approved the annual evaluation of Transportation Disadvantaged (TD) services provided by PSTA, and reported that the Agency met or exceeded every goal in the TD plan. She said that the LCB received updates on the creation of a Tri-County TD Board with representation from Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Pasco Counties to promote improved regional planning efforts.

## CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Welch requested that items 5C and 5D be pulled from the Consent Agenda. Ms. Rice made a motion, seconded by Ms. Johnson to approve the remaining items 5A, 5B, and 5E. There were no public comments. The Board unanimously approved the remaining items which included the approval of the December 10, 2014 Board meeting minutes, the ICAR (MPO) Agreement, and the Committee appointments.

Mr. Welch had a few questions on items 5C and 5D. Debra Woodward, Director of Information Technology (IT), and Walt Lenz, Senior Project Director - Technology, explained the numerous advantages of the upgrade to the Clever Works data management software package which includes bringing all the services in-house, and described the one-year annual support agreement with Clever Devices. Mr. Welch made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bevis to approve items 5C and 5D. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

## ACTION ITEMS

Florida Public Service Union (SEIU) Negotiations – James Bradford, Chief Operating Officer, along with Rick Smith, SEIU Chief of Staff, and Local Union representative, Gary Morris, explained that collective bargaining negotiations began on September 10th and a new three-year agreement had been ratified on January 26th. Mr. Bradford highlighted some items in the new agreement such as increased responsibilities for the Supervisors and an improved “step” compensation plan, and Mr. Smith spoke about the negotiating process. Mr. Bradford stated that the Finance Committee recommends approval. Ms. Bujalski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Scott to approve the three-year labor agreement with SEIU. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Bus in Express Lanes – Mr. Miller explained that FDOT is proposing to implement express lanes on the Howard Frankland Bridge into Pinellas County along I-275 down to Gandy Boulevard, and indicated that these express lanes will have a toll. Mr. Miller introduced Scott Pringle, Consultant/Project Manager from Jacobs Engineering, who also gave this presentation on the Express Lanes Study to the Planning Committee. The Planning Committee had some concerns with the study and staff developed a draft letter to FDOT for the Board’s approval.

Mr. Pringle introduced Lee Royal, FDOT's Project Manager, and they presented an overview of the Express Lanes Study. The Board had numerous questions for Ms. Royal regarding the study.

In response to Chairperson Jonson's call for public comment, Dan Harvey of St. Petersburg, spoke about the reasons why bus express lanes would not work going to downtown St. Petersburg.

Ms. Bujalski made a motion, seconded by Mr. Newton to endorse the letter to FDOT. After questions from Board members, and no further public comment, the motion passed unanimously.

**[Mr. Barkley entered the meeting at 10:30 AM.]**

Revised PSTA Financial Forecast Development – Mr. Miller reported that this presentation was also given to the Finance and Planning Committees and will be given to the Legislative Committee on February 4th; he stated that the presentation is to help the Board prepare for the workshop on February 18th. He explained that the workshop facilitator, John Streitmatter, will have one-on-one interviews with all 15 Board members before the workshop. Mr. Miller reviewed the current financial forecast and the adopted No New Revenue Scenario. He also discussed bus replacement funding and additional ways to maintain base service.

**[Ms. Johnson left the meeting at 11:03 AM and did not return.]**

There were many comments and questions from the Board members regarding the presentation, and Ms. Bujalski gave an overview of the Planning Committee's discussion about the financial forecast.

**[Mr. Zimmet left the meeting at 11:29 AM and Nicole Nate from Bryant Miller Olive replaced him as General Counsel.]**

#### **REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

PSTA Performance Report/Updates – The report was included in the Board packet. Mr. Miller said that ridership was another record in December. Ms. Bujalski requested a 2014 analysis of the performance of the North Coastal Jolley Trolley.

**FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS**

The Board received a schedule of future meeting subjects, and Mr. Miller reported that there is a PSTA Executive Committee meeting immediately following the Board meeting. He announced that the Finance and Planning Committee meetings in February have been cancelled due to the workshop.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

The entire Board welcomed Commissioners Gerard, Holmes, and Eggers, and Mr. Newton recognized 48 Bus Operators, six Customer Service Representatives (CSR's), and one Transportation Supervisor for passenger commendations.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairperson Jonson adjourned the meeting at 11:43 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for February 25th at 9:00 AM.

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Chairperson