

# **RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2005 MEETING**

**Board Members Present: Thomas Deller, Chairperson, William Kennedy, Sharon Wells, Robert Batting and Chuck Alves.**

**Also Present: Alfred J. Moscola (General Manager), Lori Caron Silveira (General Counsel), Andrew Prescott, (Labor Counsel), Henry Kinch, Deborah Dawson, Maureen Neira, Mark Therrien, Ellen Farrell, other members of RIPTA's senior staff and the public whose names are listed on the meeting sign-in sheet.**

#### **Agenda Item 1: Approval of Minutes of August 26, 2005 Meeting**

**Mr. Deller requested comments regarding the minutes of the August 26, 2005 meeting. Hearing none, a motion was made for the approval of the minutes of the August 26, 2005 meeting by Mr. Kennedy, which was seconded by Mr. Batting. The Board unanimously approved the minutes as presented.**

#### **Agenda Item 2: General Managers Report**

**Mr. Deller asked Mr. Moscola for his General Manager's report. Mr. Moscola reported that 5 new buses have arrived, 5 more will arrive next week and 8 old buses are being retired. Mr. Moscola stated that the cost of fuel is still his main concern. Currently, ultra low sulfur fuel is \$2.38 per gallon; down from a high in September of \$2.90 and a July low of \$1.96, while the budgeted amount is \$2.20.**

**Mr. Moscola then discussed in detail RIPTA's involvement in transporting and assisting the displaced victims of Hurricane Katrina who were evacuated to Rhode Island.**

**Mr. Deller commented that based on the reported fuel prices, the average is currently over the budgeted amount per gallon, and expressed concerns in relation to the budget. He further stated that RIPTA should capitalize on the high cost of fuel to market the service and attract new riders. Mr. Deller asked Mark Therrien if RIPTA had experienced increased ridership, and Mr. Therrien replied that a full presentation would be made to the Board at the next meeting. Mr. Moscola noted that ridership has increased and buses are experiencing overcrowding on some of the busier routes. The overcrowding is being monitored closely. He also informed the Board that research is being conducted relative to alternative sized vehicles, especially for paratransit and in the future for fixed route, in order to reduce fuel usage and operate more efficiently.**

**Mr. Batting inquired if URI or Roger Williams University had been contacted regarding the study he requested, and Mr. Moscola responded that the project is moving forward and a meeting had been held with Dick Horn from URI to outline the scope of the project. He discussed that the scope of work will request that all options are researched.**

### **Agenda Item 3: Acceptance of FY 05 Draft Audit Report Presentation and Presentation of Audit Report by Prescott, Chatellier, Fontaine & Wickinson, LLP**

**Representatives from Chatellier, Fontaine and Wilkinson joined the meeting and addressed the Board with the results of the FY 2005 audit. Jim Prescott reviewed the information included in the packet, and provided the Board with an overview of the audit. After Mr. Prescott had answered various questions from the Board members, Mr. Kennedy moved that the Audit report be approved as presented. Mr. Batting seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Mr. Prescott noted that the audit would need final approval from the Auditor General.**

### **Agenda Item 4: Demolition of Building 705-769 Elmwood Avenue (McKendall Property)**

**Mr. Deller moved on to the next agenda item, the demolition of the building on the McKendall Property. Mr. Batting asked if the master**

**plan for the property was completed, and Mr. Moscola reported that it is being compiled, and will be available for the October Board meeting.**

**Ms. Wells and Mr. Kennedy informed those present that they would not be able to attend the Board meeting scheduled for October 17th. Mr. Deller asked Ellen Farrell to canvass the Board members after the meeting and reschedule October's Board meeting to a more suitable date.**

**Roger Mencarini addressed the Board, provided details of the procurement process and the staff recommendation that the contract be awarded to the lowest responsible, responsive bidder, Bilray Demolition. Mr. Deller asked if all existing structures would be demolished, and Mr. Mencarini replied that they would. Mr. Deller inquired about asbestos abatement, and Mike McGrane replied that RI Analytical would prepare the asbestos abatement.**

**Ms. Wells asked questions regarding monitoring associated with the demolition. Mr. Moscola reported that everything required by law had been done, and groundwater testing has been completed, and a certificate of approval was received from DEM, who will continue to monitor the site. Mr. Kinch advised the Board that an abatement plan has been filed with the state and approved by the DEM.**

**Mr. Moscola indicated that Ms. Lori Caron Silveira, RIPTA's Outside General Counsel had just advised him of some information she had regarding Bilray Demolition, and he requested that the Board consider Ms. Silveira's comments. She stated that several years ago a client of hers (Miriam Hospital) had sued a construction firm by the name of Bilray and won a judgment, which was never paid. A lengthy discussion ensued amongst the board members, Ms. Silveria and staff regarding the company in question and the prudence of awarding the contract if, in fact, this is the same firm Ms. Silveria had dealings with. Mr. Deller pointed out that many of the companies have been sued for one reason or another. Mr. Moscola advised the Board that since this information had just been brought up, the Board could opt to table the matter and RIPTA staff would research it further.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Batting to table the award and staff was directed to review the bid specifications and proposal from Bilray more closely and report back to the Board at the next meeting. Mr. Kennedy seconded this motion, which passed unanimously.**

**At the conclusion of the discussion related to this issue, Mr. Moscola informed the Board that if there is ever a situation where a Board Member, attorney or any other interested party has a concern with an item on the agenda, he will always ensure that the Board is aware of such concern.**

## **Agenda Item 5: Detroit Diesel and Allison Transmission Parts**

**Mr. Mencarini addressed the Board regarding the next procurement for Detroit Diesel and Allison Transmission Parts. Mr. Mencarini gave the particulars of the procurement process and indicated that staff recommends the award of a one year contract, with four one year renewals to New England Detroit Diesel-Allison, Inc. to supply and deliver parts. Mr. Kennedy made a motion to award the contract as recommended by staff. Mr. Batting seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

## **Agenda Item 6: Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel**

**Mr. Mencarini then discussed the recommendation to award the contract to Sprague Energy Corporation to supply and deliver ultra low sulfur diesel fuel to RIPTA's Providence and Newport facilities. Mr. Batting made a motion to award the contract as recommended by staff. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

## **Agenda Item 7: Workers Compensation Insurance (Paratransit Division)**

**Mr. Mencarini then requested the contract for the provision of Workers' Compensation Insurance coverage for the Paratransit**

**Division be awarded to Beacon Mutual Insurance Company. Mr. Kennedy made a motion to award the contract as recommended by staff. Mr. Batting seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

### **Agenda Item 8: Presentation of FY 07 Budget Assumptions**

**The next informational item on the agenda was the presentation of the FY 07 Budget Assumptions. Maureen Neira addressed the Board and discussed the assumptions for the FY 07 Budget. RIPTA is required to submit the FY 07 Budget to the State Budget Office. Ms. Neira stated that there are several items that are difficult to forecast. Such items include the unresolved medical co-pay issue, rising fuel costs, and arbitration costs. Further, two out of three of RIPTA's collective bargaining agreements are scheduled to be renegotiated during FY 07.**

### **Agenda Item 9: Public Comment Period**

**Mr. Deller requested public comments and recognized Almas Kalafian, a paratransit rider and public transportation advocate. Ms. Kalafian had a prepared statement regarding the understanding and awareness of RIPTA's services by the general public. A copy of the statement was provided to board member, and to the board secretary to attach to the record of the meeting. The statement was read in full**

by Mark Therrien.

Mr. Deller then recognized Stephen Farrell, President of the Amalgamated Transit Union. Mr. Farrell asked if the Authority would consider adding bus service to cover the proposed cut in the Trolley service headway. Mr. Deller indicated that the Board would wait to receive the comments from the public hearings on this matter before any action is taken.

#### **Agenda Item 10: Adjournment**

Ms. Wells moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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**Ellen M. Farrell**

**Secretary to the Board**