

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF Monday, December 20, 2010 MEETING

Board Members Present: John Rupp, Chair; Thomas Deller; Jerome Williams; Stephen Durkee; Michael Lewis; William Kennedy; and Rochelle Lee.

Absent: Edward Field

Also Present: Charles Odimgbe, Chief Executive Officer; Susan DeBlasio Leach, (Outside Counsel); Andrew Prescott (Labor Counsel); James Ruggeri (Outside Counsel); Alfred Moscola; Henry Kinch; Maureen Neira; Mark Therrien; Ellen Mandly and other members of RIPTA's staff and members of the public whose names are on the sign-in sheet.

Mr. Rupp called the meeting to order and announced that Eugenia White a member of the ATAC Committee and longtime advocate for transportation for the elderly and disabled had passed away unexpectedly. On behalf of the Board of Directors Mr. Rupp expressed their condolences to Eugenia's family and circulated a sympathy card to be signed and sent to the family.

Agenda Item 1: Vote on November 20, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Rupp asked if the Board members had an opportunity to review the minutes of the meeting held November 20, 2010. The members indicated they had and Mr. Kennedy made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The minutes of the meeting were unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 2: Chief Executive Officer's Report

Mr. Rupp asked Charles Odimgbe to give his first Chief Executive Officer's report to the Board. Mr. Odimgbe began his report by saying how glad he is to be at RIPTA and that his first two weeks on the job have been very busy.

Mr. Odimgbe said he is fully aware of the impact of the arbitrators' award to the Authority and in response he has asked staff to prepare our solution to maintaining a balanced budget despite the ruling. Mr. Odimgbe pledged to have information ready for the Board in the next sixty days along with implementation timelines. His goal is to present measures that will assist the Authority with coping with increasing costs with little or no adjustment to service levels.

Next the CEO said he is working on the Kennedy Plaza resurfacing issue with the project leaders and he believes there is a solution to our concerns and his objective is to find a true and tested industry

solution.

Mr. Odimgbe reported on the transition briefing held with the Governors' transition team saying it went well, but RIPTA still needs to work to ensure the Governor's Office is fully aware of our concerns and predicaments. He thanked staff for their efforts in preparing for this meeting and particularly Henry Kinch.

He said his first two weeks were quite productive and he focused on rebranding the agency. He said he wants to get the information out about the good work we do and our value to the community and other ancillary benefits.

He said his first two weeks were spent gathering information from staff and he will soon begin to form a plan of action. His initial impression is that a total rebranding of RIPTA is needed. He also stated his intention to revise and simplify the way Board meeting information is disseminated and formatted, and he will do this in collaboration with the Board members.

Mr. Odimgbe announced that he was invited to be a part of the Transit Research Board for APTA and he asked for the Board's support of his participation because he is confident that RIPTA will benefit from involvement.

Finally, he said he feels very good about the support he has received from the Board and staff and is looking forward to working with

everyone as he methodically tackles the challenges facing RIPTA as it emerges as a model transit authority. Mr. Odimgbe completed his report and asked Mr. Moscola to report on operations and fuel.

Mr. Moscola reported that the current price of fuel is \$2.80 per gallon versus a budgeted price of \$2.60 and a yearly average of \$2.58. The lock in price is still too high at \$3.03 and no action has been taken.

Mr. Moscola said ten 41ft BRT buses were delivered and five have been put into service, along with six hybrid trolleys. Additionally, eight 35 ft. clean diesels have been delivered and one has been put into service. He said the energy efficient lighting replacement project is going well and he listed the areas where replacement has been completed and those left to do. Mr. Moscola finished his report by giving an update on the bus storage parking lot which he said is 98% complete and all that is left is the wiring of the security gates and the overhead light poles.

Next Mr. Odimgbe asked Paul LaFlamme to give the ATMS report. Mr. LaFlamme noted that the contract had been executed since the last Board meeting which is a major accomplishment. They are now working on the purchase order and notice to proceed and there will be a kick off meeting for the project in mid-January. He said the first milestone will be the preliminary design which will be done by the end of April. Finally he said an updated project schedule will also be done by mid-January.

Mr. Odimgbe commented that his vision is to consolidate all information technology under one umbrella and tie in all IT solutions seamlessly. He said he intends to be active in the ATMS project and is hoping to make the timeline more aggressive.

Mr. LaFlamme answered questions regarding final comments and changes to the contract and the payment terms.

Ms. Lee asked the CEO if he intended to reorganize the IT department, and if so what his suggestions were and what his big picture looked like. Mr. Odimgbe said he has met with Ed Scott regarding our software inventory and is taking a broad look at the system and his initial impression is that it is not effective to have the various parts so segregated. Ms. Lee asked for specifics and he noted the phone system, security, CAD, AVL, and radio systems should not be isolated from each other and need to operate in concert. By way of example he described a bomb scare at RIPTA the prior week and the inability of the phone and/or PA system to alert the employees.

Mr. Williams asked if the revised project timeline would be ready for the January project kickoff and Mr. LaFlamme said it would. Mr. Williams asked that he make the revised timeline available to the Board.

Mr. Odimgbe asked Ms. Picchione to give the ARRA report and Ms. Picchione discussed several updates listed on the November 30th

budget vs. actual report in the Board package. Updates included an increase in the amount of ARRA funds being spent on the bus purchases, the issuance of the bus wash purchase order, and the finalization of project administration costs due to the State's Office of Economic Recovery. Ms. Picchione explained that the increase in the amount of ARRA funds being spent on bus purchases does not indicate an increase in the price of the vehicles. The change is due to an increase in the percentage of the bus purchase price associated with the hybrid upgrade.

Mr. Odingbe finished his report by assuring the Board that he has a great deal of experience with CAD AVL systems having overseen three such projects of this nature in his career and he has a good knowledge of the process and will develop a clear group of deliverables.

Agenda Item 3: Strategic Planning Committee Report

Thomas Deller addressed the Board to give a report of the Strategic Planning Committee meeting held Thursday, December 2nd and Mr. Deller said the committee heard the results of briefings held throughout the state on the draft strategic plan and Mr. Therrien said the committee was also briefed on the start of the South County and Blackstone Valley service plans.

Mr. Therrien said that overall the committee is very pleased with the

progress of the projects, although they have offered specific comments and suggestions. Mr. Deller said the committee also talked about the next steps as it relates to creating the standards by which we evaluate our systems and how we create implementation plans for the different documents.

Mr. Deller said staff will soon finish receiving public comment on the plan and then the final strategic plan would be put before the Board at the January 2011 meeting for approval. He noted that this plan, once approved, will be the standard by which we evaluate our system. Mr. Deller said it became clear at the last meeting that we have a service plan and once that is updated these will be the standards we use to make decisions on how we service the state.

Agenda Item 4: House Committee on the Environment Testimony

Next Mr. Deller reported on the testimony given to the House Committee on the Environment which testimony was prepared by the Coalition for Transportation Choices (CTC) and was presented by him and Chairman Rupp. He added that Michael Lewis was also in attendance and presented on behalf of RIDOT. He said Mr. Rupp's testimony was an overview of the RIPTA structure and budget and the search for a RIPTA CEO while his testimony was focused on the new strategic plan and RIPTA's financial issues due to the way it is funded by the gas tax. Mr. Deller thought their testimony was well received.

Mr. Rupp agreed that he thought their testimony went well overall and he added that this platform provided RIPTA the opportunity to put in context RIPTA's value to the state from both an environmental and business standpoint and it highlighted the importance of mobility management to the economy.

Mr. Deller opined that from comments received at the hearing it is clear RIPTA needs to get more information out about our Flex service.

Agenda Item 5: Commuter Rail Bus Connection

Mr. Rupp asked Mr. Lewis to comment on the startup of commuter rail service which became available on December 6th. Mr. Lewis said that the service is currently operating in a startup phase and will grow over the next 12 months.

Mark Therrien distributed and elaborated on a two page handout detailing RIPTA's marketing efforts for this RIDOT operated service and highlighted the RIPTA bus service in place to support commuter rail. A Warwick train station destination based schedule is being designed listing bus and train times and fares and will be printed in January 2011. He said RIPTA will also provide advertising of the service on buses and our customer service phone operators will be able to provide information.

Mike Lewis described the startup service in place and said it would grow from six to ten trips per day by years' end and he said a study of the next phase and possible extensions is underway and the service may eventually go further south than the Wickford station. He noted that it is important for RIDOT and RIPTA to work together to integrate service and not duplicative. He then answered questions regarding marketing of the commuter rail service and the various participants.

Mr. Therrien said staff has reached out to the MBTA to get initial information on how to get the different farebox systems integrated. Mr. Lewis noted that the more flexible and convenient and publicized the service is the more people will use it.

Mr. Odimgbe said RIPTA must work to determine how to best support the new system and that synergy is important between RIDOT and RIPTA's planning departments. He then reported on a meeting he had with Mike Lewis and Phil Kydd the previous week where this issue was briefly discussed.

Agenda Item 6: RFP 11-16 Actuarial Review of Pension Plan

Mr. Mencarini addressed the Board to discuss the details of the staff summary relating to the Actuarial Review of the Pension Plan. He said the contract is for actuarial valuation services for the RIPTA pension plan and other post-employment benefits and other technical assistance. The contract is for one year with up to four annual

renewal options to be exercised at the discretion of the Authority and the annual cost for this contract is \$26, 250. Mr. Mencarini said staff recommends the award of the contract to the Angell Pension Group of East Providence, RI.

Mr. Lewis moved for approval of the award of the contract to Angell Pension Group as recommended by staff. Mr. Deller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 7: IFB 11-13 “Genuine” Mack Truck Parts

Next Mr. Mencarini discussed the procurement for Genuine Mack Truck Parts and elaborated on the staff summary saying there were two bidders for this contract to supply and deliver parts for Mack Trucks owned by RIDOT and serviced by RIPTA. This is a one year contract with up to four annual renewals and the estimated annual cost is not to exceed \$25,000. Mr. Mencarini said staff recommends the award of the contract to Ballard Mack Truck Sales and Service of Johnston, RI.

Mr. Deller moved for approval of the award of the contract to Ballard Mack Truck Sales and Services as recommended by staff. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 8: IFB 11-14 “Genuine” International Truck Parts

Finally Mr. Mencarini presented the procurement for the supply and delivery of Genuine International Truck Parks for International Trucks owned by RIDOT and serviced by RIPTA. Mr. Mencarini elaborated on the details in the staff summary and said that based on historical usage the annual cost of this one year contract with up to four annual renewals should not exceed \$75,000. Mencarini said staff recommends the award of the contract to Dattco, Inc. of New Britain, CT.

Mr. Kennedy moved for approval of the award of the contract as recommended by staff to Dattco, Inc. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 11: Public Comment

Mr. Rupp moved ahead in the agenda and asked for public comment.

Mr. Rupp recognized Stephen Farrell President of the Amalgamated Transit Union 618 and 618A. Mr. Farrell asked for more information about the award of the contract to Angell Pension Group for actuarial and other technical services. Ms. Neira explained that the services of Angell Pension were needed to assist RIPTA with the interpretation and implementation of any changes due to the recent interest arbitration award.

Next Mr. Rupp recognized Jim Celenza of the CTC who said they

appreciate the Senates leadership for addressing the state's challenges in making the necessary investments in transportation, and they were pleased to see the passage of the Special Legislative Commission to Study Sustainable Transportation Funding.

Mr. Celenza referenced the 2008 Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel report and warned that we must act now or future costs to rebuild infrastructure as well as costs to our economy will only be higher. He urged the Commission to appoint members in adequate time for the group to review possible funding streams and make recommendations to the General Assembly in time for the coming session.

Randall Rose from the RIPTA Riders Association spoke next regarding the new commuter rail service and he said combined rail and RIPTA bus schedule information is important as well as information on MBTA service to Boston. He also suggested that this information be listed on RIDOT, RIPTA and MBTA websites and Mr. Therrien said website information is being planned.

Finally Anna Liebenow from the ATAC group commented that she is very happy to hear about the start of commuter rail service and this completed the public comments.

Agenda Item 9: Executive Session Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) to Discuss Collective Bargaining and Potential Litigation Matters

Mr. Deller made a motion to convene an executive session as noticed on the agenda under RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) to discuss collective bargaining and potential litigation matters. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion to convene an executive session and a roll call vote was taken. The motion to convene to executive session under RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) passed unanimously.

Following the Board's return to open session Mr. Deller made a motion to seal the minutes of the executive session. Ms. Lee seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 10: Report of Board Action Taken in Executive Session if Any

No Board action was taken.

At this point Mr. Deller left the meeting.

Agenda Item 12: Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Williams. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M. Mandly

Recording Secretary