

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of Meeting held Friday, February 25, 2011 @2:30 p.m.

Present: Edward Field, Chairperson; Thomas Deller; and Rochelle Lee.

Absent: Jerome Williams.

Also Present: Charles Odimgbe; Maureen Neira; Mark Therrien, Ed Scott; Roger Mencarini; Ellen Mandly and other members of RIPTA's staff and members of the public whose names are on the sign-in sheet.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of Minutes of September 17, 2010 Meeting

Mr. Field called the meeting to order at 2:44 and asked if the members had an opportunity to review the minutes of the September 17, 2010 Finance Committee meeting. The members indicated they had and Mr. Deller moved that the minutes be approved with two changes made by Ms. Mandly on page two. Mr. Field seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 3: FY 2011 Budget Analysis

Noting that Ms. Lee had not yet arrived, Mr. Field moved ahead to agenda item 3 so that she could be present for the pension and benefits discussion. Mr. Field said the Committee deemed it appropriate that the Finance Committee review the pension and benefits request for Messrs Moscola and Kinch to ensure their accuracy prior to the presentation of the pensions for approval at Monday's Joint Pension Board Meeting.

Mr. Field asked Ms. Neira to give the FY 2011 Budget Analysis. Ms. Neira and staff discussed the rising cost of fuel and the options available for bulk diesel fuel storage in Rhode Island. Hearing there was no facility capable of storing number one diesel fuel in the state the committee suggested that staff investigate the possibility of locating and/or creating such fuel storage.

Ms. Neira said that the cost of diesel fuel that day was \$3.45 and the cost to lock-in is currently at \$3.53. The rise in fuel costs has caused us to go over budget by approximately \$700,000. There was further discussion of fuel prices and the pros and cons of locking in. Mr. Field said that we need to lock-in the purchase of fuel as soon as we are able.

Ms. Neira discussed other cost savings measures being implemented such as deferring certain open positions and Mr. Odimgbe's directive to each department head that each department must reduce their

budget by 1%.

Agenda Item 4: Paratransit Building Punch-list & Financials

The Committee reviewed the Elmwood Paratransit Facility punch list and outstanding bills for same. They talked about outstanding issues in the building, such as the roof leaks during heavy rain. The Committee suggested that staff meet with Mr. Burke the Clerk of the Works during the building phase to make arrangements for completion of any outstanding punch list work, and also to document any issues before the end of the one-year warranty period.

Agenda Item 5: ATMS Consultant Spending

Next Mr. Field and the committee heard a report from Paul Laflamme, Director of IT. Mr. LaFlamme gave the ATMS status report and distributed a revised timeline for the project. Mr. Field asked Mr. LaFlamme how much money had been spent on IT consultants and he reported that approximately \$60,000 - \$70,000 had been spent on consultants. This amount of money is what remained from the total amount approved by the Board about a one year ago. Mr. LaFlamme answered various other questions from the committee regarding the ATMS project.

Agenda Item 2: Review of Moscola/Kinch Pension & Benefits

The committee members went over the pension request memos for Alfred Moscola, General Manager employed at RIPTA for 10 years and 8 months with a monthly pension benefit of \$2,179.86 and Henry Kinch, Assistant General Manager who was employed at RIPTA for 22 years and 10 months with a monthly pension benefit of \$3,960.97. Mr. Moscola's retirement is as of February 1st and Mr. Kinch is as of March 1st.

Ms. Lee arrived and joined the discussion and the committee members asked staff questions relating to vacation and sick payouts, and other questions regarding the pension applications. Following this discussion the committee said it was satisfied that the pension requests were correct and ready to go before the Joint Pension Board and that the pension request for Mr. Moscola was consistent with his contract.

Agenda Item 6: Old Business

No old business was discussed.

Agenda Item 7: Adjournment

There being no further business Mr. Deller made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Field seconded the motion to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen M. Mandly

Recording Secretary