

**BERKS AREA REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES**

DATE: July 17, 2015

TIME: 6:10 p.m.

PLACE: BARTA
1700 N. 11th St.
Reading, PA 19604

PURPOSE: Regular Monthly Public Board Meeting

ATTENDANCE: **Members:** Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt, Jayne Dieruff, Dennis Rex,
James Schlegel, and Timothy Snyder

Solicitor: Jill E. Nagy, Summers Nagy Law Offices

Staff: David W. Kilmer, Jeffrey Glisson, Laura Hopko, and Melanie Heffner

Guests: Mark Glatz – Easton Coach, William Frees and John Doerrman –
Amalgamated Transit Union #1345, and Liam Migdail-Smith - Reading
Eagle Company

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

1. Call to Order

Chairman Kevin S. Barnhardt called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

2. Public Comment on Agenda Items

None

3. Approval of Minutes of the May 20, 2015 Regular Public Meeting.

Upon motion by Mrs. Dieruff, seconded by Mr. Rex, the Board approved the May 20, 2015 minutes.

4. Bills and Communications

None

5. Reports of Committees

A. Personnel Committee

No report

B. Operations Committee

No report

C. Finance Committee

No report

D. Marketing Committee

No report

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

A. Resolution 4-15 Approval of Management Agreement with SCTA

Mr. Kilmer mentioned a copy of the proposed Management Agreement with SCTA for FY 2016 was included in the packet. As part of the merger and the designation of SCTA as the recipient for state and federal funds, the management agreement has been modified from the current agreement with SCTA now contracting with ARTA to provide all drivers, mechanics, including all benefits, and vehicles, and will reimburse BARTA's monthly deficit for those costs. SCTA will lease the facilities from BARTA and will be responsible for all operating costs and any maintenance of the facilities. The Management Agreement is structured to be a four year agreement, subject to amendment, as required.

Upon motion by Mr. Snyder, seconded by Mrs. Dieruff, the Board approved Resolution 4-15 Management Agreement with SCTA.

B. Approval to Provide Shuttle Bus Service on Experimental Basis

Mr. Kilmer mentioned with the expected closure of the Buttonwood Bridge in July and the subsequent traffic congestion to downtown Reading, BARTA is proposing to provide an experimental shuttle service from the VF Outlets to downtown Reading for a three month period to determine demand for such a service. The proposed route would make a loop in the downtown area to serve major employers. A proposed schedule was included in the packet. Staff is currently finalizing an agreement with VF to utilize a vacant parking area off of Park Road behind Willowby's Restaurant. The service is expected to start by the

first week in July and a recommendation to continue the service would be presented at the September Board meeting. There would be 11 trips in the morning and afternoon. Also they could use current Routes throughout the day to get back over to the parking lot when needed. We would offer the service the first week for free. Then passengers could purchase a Park-N-Ride pass for \$31.00 for the month. We have not received the notice to proceed from the contractor. Once we get the official closing date from PennDOT we will have a separate brochure going out to riders and offices downtown and the advertisement will start running. We are also going to promote the Park-N-Ride at the Municipal Stadium as well. Staff recommends approval for a three month trial basis.

Upon motion by Mr. Schlegel, seconded by Mr. Snyder, the Board approved to provide shuttle bus service on an experimental basis.

C. Approval of Emergency Repair Service

Mr. Kilmer reported due to a leak in the underground piping for the sprinkler system on June 4, 2015, emergency repairs were needed to the system. This was a 6" water line that fed the sprinkler system in the maintenance area that caused some minor damage and S&L Plumbing was contacted as the contractor for the system to make the repairs. After excavation of the section that leaked was replaced, the contractor tried to pressurize the system that resulted in the failure of the next section of piping. All of this underground piping was part of the original construction of the facility in the mid-70's and it was clear from visual inspection the cast iron pipes have corroded through where the leak occurred and the rest of the piping has corroded enough for the system not to hold pressure. As a result, the entire line has been replaced in order to restore service with the sprinkler system for the entire system. The total cost is roughly \$112,023 and while insurance will pay for the cost of the initial leak damage, it will not pay for the replacement of the entire piping. Since S&L was already on-site with their equipment, they were requested to continue to perform the work in order to get the system back on line as soon as possible. Requesting approval for this work as an emergency service due to the safety related issues with the sprinkler system.

Upon motion by Mrs. Dieruff, seconded by Mr. Rex, the Board approved the Emergency Repair Service.

D. Proposed Route & Schedule Changes

Mr. Kilmer gave the board a proposed listing of route and schedule changes. A special Rider Notice and a Public Hearing on the proposed changes will be scheduled to solicit input from our customers on Monday, July 13, 2015 at 5p.m. at BARTA. The following are the proposed changes:

1. Eliminate the Route 6-Crosstown service.
2. Propose to add Sunday Service from 11a-7p on Route 1, 4, 8, 10, 15, 16, 18 and 19.
3. Change route alignment on Route 21 Morgantown Express to travel Rt. 10 to Joanna Rd. to Thousand Oak Road to Morgan Way to Main Street then regular route.

4. Eliminate three morning school trippers to Reading High School.
5. Eliminate one morning school stripper to Riverside Elementary School.
6. Minor time point adjustments on all routes to improve on-time performance.

Staff will be scheduling a meeting with the Operations Committee to review the proposal in more detail. Approval of the changes will be presented at the July Special Board meeting. The changes will be implemented on August 24, 2015. Mr. Kilmer mentioned that we will have to hire two drivers in addition for the Sunday service.

E. Financial Statement Approval for May, 2015

For the month of May 2015, total ridership decreased by 11.3% with a 12.0% decrease in fixed-route and a 3.3% decrease in shared-ride for the month. Financially, operating revenues of \$501,291 combined with operating grants of \$1,117,462 for total revenue of \$1,618,753, against expenses of \$1,618,751.

Upon motion by Mr. Rex, seconded by Mr. Snyder, the Board accepted the May 2015 Operating Statements, subject to audit.

7. Public Comment

None

8. Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m., upon motion by Mr. Snyder, seconded by Mr. Rex.

Respectfully submitted,



Jayne L. Dieruff
Secretary