

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE BARTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July 28, 2014

The monthly meeting of the Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority was held at BARTA headquarters located at 1700 N. 11th Street, Reading, Pennsylvania.

The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt, Chair. The following Board members were present: Timothy Snyder, Vice Chair, Jayne L. Dieruff, Secretary, Dennis Rex, Treasurer, Alice Kutz, Michael Roeberg, James Schlegel, and Ronald Seaman.

Others attending the meeting were: David Kilmer, Executive Director, Ryan Furgerson, Director of Planning and Procurement, Melanie Heffner, Executive Assistant, Laura Hopko, Director of Administration and Human Resources, Robert Rimby, Manager of Special Projects and Systems, Daniel Russell, Director of Maintenance, Vicki Weidner, Director of Special Services, Janet Weiss, Manager of Programs & Marketing and Richard L. Orwig, Solicitor. Also present were William Frees and John Doerrman of the Amalgamated Transit Union #1345, Liam Migdail-Smith, Reading Eagle Company and Alan Piper, Berks County Planning/Reading MPO, and Liz Kilmer, WFMZ- Berks News.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of June 23, 2014, BARTA Board of Director's meeting was approved as presented.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report:

The previous report balance as of June 13, 2014 was **\$382,805.77**. The current cash receipts are **\$859,763.07** ACH/Transfers into Checking Account were **\$1,207,253.00**. Interest earned was **\$129.80**. Total receipts: **\$2,067,145.87**. Total Funds available were **\$2,449,951.64**. Current checks issued were **\$922,474.27**. Checks outstanding were: **(\$326,419.72)**. EFT/Transfers from checking account total **\$1,207,703.85** for a disbursement of **\$1,803,758.40**. Balance reported as of July 18, 2014, was **\$646,193.24**. Payment history for during this time was included in the Board packet.

A motion was made by Mr. Seaman to accept the Treasurer's Report as written and was seconded by Mr. Roeberg. A vote was taken and with no opposing votes, the motion was passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE REPORT

Mrs. Hopko presented Mr. Hessler's report as follows:

The operating revenue for year-to-date ending June 29, 2014, was **\$6,845,830** versus the budget amount of **\$6,975,994** which is **\$130,164** or **1.9%** under budget. Our total operating expenses for the same period was **\$16,983,025** versus the budgeted amount of **\$17,296,573** which is **\$313,548** or **1.85%** under budget. The operating deficit for the year-to-date was **\$10,137,195** which is **\$183,384** or **1.81%** under budget.

COMMITTEE & STAFF REPORTS

Operations Report

Mr. Kilmer presented Mr. Fletcher's report as follows:

The operating data for June 2014 indicates that the total system ridership increased by **6.4%** when compared to June 2013. There was a **7.1%** increase in the fixed route passengers and a **0.8%** decrease in special service passengers. For the month of June on the fixed route service, we experienced an **8.7%** increase in the revenue passengers, and a **1.4%** decrease in senior citizen rides.

In the fixed route division there were 21 weekdays and 4 Saturdays operated in June 2014 as compared to 20 weekdays and 5 Saturdays in June 2013. In the special services division there were 21 weekdays operated in June 2014 as compared to 20 weekdays operated in June 2013.

The average weekday ridership for June 2014 was 10,871 as compared to 10,215 in June 2013. For the fiscal year, the total system ridership has increased **1.2%**. The fixed route ridership has increased **1.6%**. This is composed of a **2.3%** increase in revenue passengers and a **2.2%** decrease in senior citizen passengers. The special service passengers decreased **4.4%**.

In the fixed route division there were a total of 254 weekdays and 52 Saturdays, operated this Fiscal Year as compared to 254 weekdays and 52 Saturdays operated last Fiscal Year. In the special services division there were a total of 254 weekdays operated this Fiscal Year as compared to 254 weekdays operated last Fiscal Year.

Mr. Roeborg questioned the ridership numbers on the Crosstown, East Penn and Morgantown Routes. Mr. Kilmer explained that it is time for us to look at the routes and look at the true picture. By the August meeting Mr. Kilmer will have numbers for the Board to look at on the BARTA routes.

Special Services Report

Ms. Weidner presented her report as follows:

The total Special Services Division ridership for June was **20,220** a **0.8%** decrease compared to the same month of 2013. Year-to-date figures show a **4.4%** decrease when compared to the last fiscal year. There were 21 operating days, an average of **962** passengers were transported per day.

Mr. Roeborg mentioned that BARTA decreased in passengers for the year to date and Easton Coach increased. Mr. Roeborg wanted to know if it is time for us to look at possibly not using an outside source. Mr. Kilmer mentioned that the bottom line is to not miss any trip which is what we are doing. This is something that we can look into in the future.

Mr. Roeborg also questioned why diesel consumption is down 55%. Mr. Kilmer stated that the diesel special service vans are being replaced with gasoline vehicles because we are able to get gasoline a lot cheaper and diesel vehicles cost BARTA \$5,000-\$7,000 more.

Public Information

Public Information was included in board packet compiled by Mrs. Weiss.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution for Management Contract Extension

Commissioner Barnhardt mentioned the initial contract extension for Management Services with RRTA for the three month period of May to July will soon expire. The contract was written to enable extensions under current terms and conditions for additional three month or less period. The RRTA Board has approved an extension for three months that would expire October 31, 2014, pending approval by the BARTA Board.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dieruff to approve the Resolution for Management Contract Extension and was seconded by Mrs. Kutz. A vote was taken and with no opposing votes, the motion was passed unanimously.

Resolution for the Potential Merger of BARTA and RRTA

Commissioner Barnhardt mentioned that BARTA and RRTA have shared management services and have appointed a Joint Committee to study the potential merger of the two transit authorities. The Joint Committee has met on three occasions to review and evaluate background materials and the potential cost savings of a potential merger. The BARTA Board of Directors desire to move forward with the potential merger with RRTA, pending final approval of the Board of Commissioners of Berks County, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, and the Federal Transit Administration. Commissioner Barnhardt mentioned that the BARTA Board had a special retreat on Thursday, July 24, to discuss issues and items regarding the potential merger and options if the merger did not proceed.

Mr. Roeberg stated that he is opposed to the merger. He stated that he had a meeting with Commissioner Leinbach who appointed him to the BARTA Board. Mr. Roeberg stated his and Commissioner Leinbach's pros and cons for the merger. Mr. Roeberg stated that he doesn't feel the merger would do justice for Reading and Berks County. Mrs. Dieruff just wanted to clarify to the Board that this merger is not Red Rose taking over BARTA. BARTA is not losing its mission. Commissioner Barnhardt stated that this is a resolution to start the process to move forward and Red Rose will also have to approve a resolution to move forward with the process. Mr. Kilmer mentioned that Red Rose Transit Authority will be holding a special meeting on July 31, to consider the plan. Once Red Rose approves a resolution to move forward the Joint Committee will begin to draft an agreement that would create the new agency. The document of the new agency will have to be approved by the two boards, two sets of Commissioners, PennDOT and FTA. Mr. Roeberg did mention that he would like to continue to serve on the Joint Committee for the merger.

A motion was made by Mr. Seaman to approve the Resolution to move forward with the potential merger with RRTA and was seconded by Mr. Rex. A roll call vote was taken and with one opposing vote by Mr. Roeberg, the motion was passed 7 to 1.

BTC Lease Space

Mr. Kilmer mentioned at the last Board meeting, the local Bike Group has requested a three month lease for the vacant space at the BTC. Since it will be a limited time and BARTA will not have to make any improvements to the space, the proposed lease will be in the \$3.00/sq. ft. range. The Bike Group will also have to provide all necessary insurance and agree to the lease terms. The exact lease amount will be known by the Board meeting. Since the space has been empty it will help to show some activity and hopefully attract a longer term lease in the future. Staff recommended approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Seaman to approve the Bike Group to lease the space at the BTC for three months and was seconded by Mr. Roeberg. A vote was taken and with no opposing votes, the motion was passed unanimously.

Vehicle Disposal Bids

Mr. Kilmer mentioned for the first time, obsolete vehicles were placed on the internet for disposal through Public Surplus an auction website that has attracted a greater number of bidders and an increase in the dollar amount of the bids, usually two to three times more than what has been traditionally collected by just bidding locally. The Public Auction will collect the funds and then distribute to BARTA, so BARTA is fully protected and any bidder that does not follow through, will lose their money. A listing of the bids was included in the Board packet. Mr. Kilmer also mentioned that on the list you will see vehicles A-74, A-76, A-78 and A-81, these are the Red Rose vehicles given to BARTA for Easton Coach until the new ones arrived. The money collected for these vehicles will be given to Red Rose. Staff recommended approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Roeberg that bids be awarded as listed and was seconded by Mrs. Dieruff. A vote was taken and with no opposing votes, the motion was passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Wireless Electric Vehicle Project Update

Mr. Kilmer mentioned after months of trial and error on the charging system, one of the electric vans was returned to BARTA for testing in revenue service in early July. Testing is continuing to ensure that the vehicles are properly charging and that the range is acceptable for service. We had one of the vehicles in service last week and it was averaging 50-60 miles/4 hours a day. We will continue testing to see if we can get it to 100 hours per day.

Board Resolution to File Application to Certify Local Match

Mr. Kilmer mentioned that the Board approves this resolution every year for BARTA to file the application to the state.

A motion was made by Mr. Seaman to approve the resolution to file application and was seconded by Mrs. Dieruff. A vote was taken and with no opposing votes, the motion was passed unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

ADJOURNMENT - There being no further business a motion was made by Mrs. Dieruff to adjourn at 3:50p.m. and was seconded by Mr. Rex. A vote was taken and with no opposing votes, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie A. Heffner

Melanie A. Heffner, Executive Assistant for
Jayne L. Dieruff, Secretary, Berks Area Regional Transportation Authority