

LUZERNE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NOVEMBER 22, 2022

PRESENT:

CHARLES SCIANDRA, CHAIRMAN
MICHAEL CEFALO, VICE-CHAIRMAN
VALERIE KEPNER, PH.D., TREASURER (By Phone)
JOHN YOUNG, ASST. TREASURER
DENNIS DRISCOLL, ASST. SECRETARY
TOM BINDUS, MEMBER
JOSEPH PADAVAN, MEMBER
GARY POLAKOSKI, MEMBER

ATTORNEY JOSEPH BLAZOSEK, SOLICITOR
ATTORNEY MATTHEW CARMODY, ASST. SOLICITOR

ABSENT:

LYNETTE VILLANO, SECRETARY

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

ROBERT FIUME, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LEE HORTON, ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JOE ROSELLE, DIRECTOR ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES/I.T.
RANDY LISMAN, FINANCE DIRECTOR
VINCE COVIELLO, MAINTENANCE DIRECTOR
DENISSE BATISTA, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR
DEBBIE DENNIS, SHARED RIDE DIRECTOR
TRACY KLINE, ACCOUNTING MANAGER
KATHY BEDNAREK, GRANTS COORDINATOR
FRANK KNOREK, COMPLIANCE ANALYST

OTHERS:

PAUL JASON, BUS OPERATOR

1. Pledge of Allegiance: Board Chairman, Mr. Sciandra, welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited those present to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call: The following Board Members were present or available by phone for the meeting: Mr. Bindus, Mr. Cefalo, Mr. Driscoll, Dr. Kepner, Mr. Padavan, Mr. Polakoski, Mr. Young and Mr. Sciandra.

3. Public Comment: None.

4. Approval of Minutes: Board Chairman, Mr. Sciandra asked for approval of the board minutes from October 25th, 2022 and November 9th, 2022. A motion was made by Mr. Padavan and seconded by Mr. Young. Motion carried.

5. Treasurer's Report: Dr. Valerie Kepner, Chairperson

Dr. Kepner made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, pending audit. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cefalo. All members present voted yes; motion carried.

6. Chairperson's Report: Mr. Charles Sciandra

Mr. Sciandra congratulated everyone on a nice 50th Anniversary Luncheon, adding that everyone did an exceptional job.

7. Solicitor's Report: Attorney

Atty. Blazosek noted for the record that there was an executive session from 4:02 p.m. until approximately 4:45 p.m. He said during that time the board was updated on personnel matters and the status of union negotiations with the local ATU. He stated that it would be a matter for board action but the opportunity was presented to the board to get more information along with materials that were previously submitted by the staff. Atty. Blazosek said no action was taken but there was discussion so everyone prior to a vote will be familiar with the issues that are covered in the new proposed contract.

8. Executive Directors Report:

Mr. Fiume said we completed negotiations with the ATU.

He said we are moving forward with our Transit Development Plan. He explained that our application has been submitted to PennDOT and they will be assigning planners to us. Mr. Fiume said he expected to begin right after the holidays.

He stated that work continues to move forward at the Murray Complex and the estimated time of completion right now is the spring of 2024.

Mr. Fiume commented that he and some of the staff members attended the PPTA conference in Harrisburg last week. He said it was a great conference and everyone got a lot out of it.

Mr. Fiume presented the following motions:

Motion to approve the updates to the LCTA Public Transit Agency Safety Plan. A motion was made by Mr. Bindus and seconded by Mr. Driscoll. All members present voted yes; motion carried.

Motion to approve the new Collective Bargaining Agreement with ATU Local 164. A motion was made by Mr. Padavan and seconded by Mr. Bindus. All members present voted yes; motion carried.

Motion to approve the health care contract for 2023 with Highmark. A motion was made by Mr. Driscoll and seconded by Mr. Cefalo. All members present voted yes; motion carried.

Motion to approve the execution of bus shelter agreement with PennDOT. A motion to table until the December meeting was made by Mr. Young and seconded by Mr. Bindus. All members present voted yes; motion carried.

9. Committees:

Public Transit Ridership Forum Committee- Valerie Kepner, Chairperson

Dr. Kepner said the next ridership meeting is on Wednesday, November 29th.

Operations/Safety Committee- Tom Bindus, Chairperson

Mr. Bindus said there was a safety meeting on November 10th that he was unable to attend. He explained that Mr. Horton gave him a summary which he went over on November 15th. He said he and Mr. Horton discussed the stolen catalytic converters in Susquehanna County while the vans were out for maintenance in the yard. Mr. Bindus said they looked over options of getting a motion detector or something and they also went over all the procedures.

Strategic Planning Committee- Michael Cefalo, Chairperson

Mr. Cefalo said everyone got a chance to look at the key processing indicators that are out of our strategic plan. Mr. Sciandra commented that they are fantastic. Mr. Cefalo said we will continue to refine these for Fixed Route and Shared Ride. He said to let him know if someone sees something or thinks a threshold needs to be different. He explained that we now will be able to tell a story of how well the place operates and what we can do to make improvements.

Mr. Sciandra said the number one complaint was rude drivers and that we definitely need to address it, as we are a customer service organization. He stated that he was very confident it would go down in future because they will be looking at it every month, adding that he knows the union will assist us in working to make that happen.

Mr. Bindus asked if it was addressed or a memo was put out to drivers. Mr. Fiume said we will take a couple different steps.

Personnel Committee- Joe Padavan, Chairperson

Mr. Padavan said we are hiring part-time drivers and mechanics. He said Mr. Fiume mentioned looking at apprentice programs. Mr. Padavan commented that we did a great job with the contract and thanked Mrs. Batista, Mr. Lisman and Mr. Fiume for all of the work they have done. He said the board did a good job working hard to make sure everything got passed. Mr. Padavan stated that we were looking good for next year but have to make sure the hiring is there because we have some issues with possible retirements and we have to get ahead of the curve.

Mr. Sciandra led a round of applause for the completion of the union contract.

10. Old Business: No old business was discussed.

11. New Business: None

12. Remarks: No remarks were made.

13. Adjournment: With all business completed, Mr. Driscoll made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Young. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

BY: Tracy Kline, Secretary to the Board