

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF Tuesday, July 26, 2016

Board Members Present: Maureen Martin; Director Peter Alviti; Princess Sirleaf Bomba; Stephanie Ogidan Preston; Wayne Kezirian; Joshua Brumberger, Mark Susa.

Absent: Karen Santilli

Also Present: Raymond Studley, CEO; Benjamin Salzillo, In-House Legal; Christian Capizzo, Outside Counsel; Victoria Catalano, Recording Secretary; and other members of RIPTA's staff, and members of the public.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of the June 26, 2016 Board Minutes

Ms. Martin makes a motion to approve the June 26, 2016 Board meeting minutes as presented, Ms. Preston seconds and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 2: Public Comment

Chairman Kezirian discusses the public comment session held on Monday, July 25 at 6:00 p.m. Four people signed up for public comment. Ms. Emily Jones of the Rhode Island Interfaith Coalition to Reduce Poverty spoke on her concerns regarding the Senior Disabled Bus Pass Program and offered to help strategize ways to find funding through the state to keep the program; Ms. Lee Ann Burns, Policy Director of the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, states that she is present to provide the specific information asked for by the Chairman at the last board meeting; Mr. Randall Rose a member of the RIPTA Riders Alliance spoke about his concerns regarding limiting public comment at board meetings and also that the early hour is not a good time for their members, and says that the state has historically funded the free bus pass program.

Director Peter Alviti arrives to the meeting.

Mr. Grant Dulgarian, Ecology Action for Rhode Island, states that he is there to say he is not in favor of the board meetings starting at 8:00 a.m.

Agenda Item 3: CEO Report

Mr. Studley presents the CEO report and states the year was finished with a slight surplus in operations, revenues were down for the entire fiscal year, the majority of that is passenger revenues. Mr. Studley states that the past Sunday was the Governor's Bay Day for which RIPTA provided free transportation on the 66 and 60 lines to the beaches where busses were

added for this historically very busy day. Mr. Studley states that he and Karen DiLauro have a meeting this afternoon at the State Budget office.

Agenda Item 4: Capital Budget

Karen DiLauro presents the revised Capital Budget which has grant funding pulled out leaving only capital projects in the report and states that some of the projects are contingent upon match source funding from the state.

Ms. DiLauro and Mr. Studley answer questions from Chairman Kezirian, Ms. Preston, Mr. Brumberger and Director Alviti about the Capital Budget.

Mark Susa arrives to the meeting.

Ms. Preston makes a motion to approve the Capital Budget, Mr. Brumberger seconds and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 5: Amend RIPTA's Current Procurement Authorization Level

Chairman Kezirian presents this item and states that in 2004 the CEO authorization level was increased to \$50,000. Mr. Studley answers questions from the Board. After discussion by the Board members, it is decided to pass on amending the authorization level and leave it as it currently is. No vote is taken.

Agenda Item 6: RFP 16-28 Ultra Low Sulfur Fuel

Mr. Mencarini presents this item to request the award of a contract in the amount of \$4,811,520 to Sprague Operating Resources of Portsmouth, NH for one year to supply ULSD fuel to RIPTA's Providence and Newport facilities. Mr. Mencarini, Mr. Studley and Ms. DiLauro answer questions from Mr. Brumberger and Chairman Kezirian. After discussion, Mr. Brumberger makes a motion to approve the item as presented; Ms. Martin seconds and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 7: RFP 16-25 VOIP Phone System

Ms. LeClerc presents this item to request the award of a contract in the amount of \$226,000 to Econotel Business Systems for the purchase and installation of a Shore Tel IP phone system, which includes a 5 year maintenance plan. Ms. LeClerc answers questions by Chairman Kezirian. After discussion, Mr. Brumberger makes a motion to approve the item as presented; Ms. Martin seconds and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 8: RFP 16-35 Workers Compensation Third Party Administration

Mr. Salzillo presents this item to request the award of a contract in the amount of \$145,235 for one year to Beacon Insurance to act as a third party administrator (TPA) for RIPTA's workers' compensation claims. After discussion, Ms. Martin makes a motion to approve the item as presented; Director Alviti seconds and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 9: Downtown Transit Connector – Program Management Contract

Ms. Pettine and Mr. Nordin present this item to request the award of a contract in the amount of \$2,473,698 to WSP|Parsons Brinckerhoff for the program management, design, branding and engineering of the Downtown Transit Connector Project. Ms. Pettine, Mr. Nordin and Mr. Studley answer questions from Mr. Brumberger and Chairman Kezirian. After discussion, Mr. Brumberger makes a motion to approve the item as presented; Ms. Martin seconds and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 10: Spring 2016 Customer Satisfaction Survey

Ms. Pettine and Ms. Polichetti present this item to update the Board on the American Bus Benchmarking Group (“ABBG”) Spring 2016 Customer Satisfaction Survey. Ms. Pettine states that the ABBG is made up of a 20 member group of mid-sized bus agencies throughout the country of which RIPTA is a member and among other things the members share data and then benchmark against each other. The ABBG Annual Gathering will be hosted by RIPTA this year and is scheduled in October at the Viking Hotel in Newport. Ms. Polichetti describes the survey process and outreach that was used to obtain the data for this Customer Satisfaction Survey and a handout is given to board members. Ms. Pettine, Ms. Polichetti and Mr. Studley answer questions from Mr. Brumberger, Director Alvit and Chairman Kezirian about the survey results and customer service processes in general.

Agenda Item 11: Update on Labor Negotiations

Mr. Salzillo presents this update to the Board on labor negotiations and states there are three unions at RIPTA, Amalgamated Transit Union 618 which represent bus operators, mechanics, utility personnel, and paratransit drivers; and 618A which represents the supervisory positions and operations; and the 808 Laborer’s union which represents the white collar professional personnel. The collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with 618 and 618A expired on June 30, 2016 and RIPTA has been in negotiations since April regarding on the new contract provisions discussing a number of items, including wages, pension, healthcare and sick leave provisions. There is another meeting scheduled this week and it has been agreed to extend the current contract until a resolution is reached. Mr. Salzillo responds to questions from Chairman Kezirian.

Agenda Item 12: Chairman’s Report

Chairman Kezirian presents this item and states he has been speaking with staff and was in the process of preparing a report, but states that what is clear is that the Authority is very complicated, there are a lot of regulatory requirements, making it difficult to encapsulate where we are and where we need to go. Some recurring themes are related to match funding and whether it will be there in order to do the projects which are necessary. Need to identify RIPTA’s mission, identify goals and then look at the project opportunities. RIPTA’s mission statement was adopted in 1994 when society, technology and funding opportunities were very different – now need to look at RIPTA’s mission statement and decide what the mission is to get

to where we need to be. Chairman Kezirian states that from meetings he has had with the state he does not think there will be continued state funding unless there is a goal and a mission. Chairman Kezirian talks about customers who are our riders and customer satisfaction, other customers are RIPTA's labor force and finally the customers who are the taxpayers of the State of Rhode Island who have been funding RIPTA. Some items to note:

- Benchmarking metrics need to be synthesized and presented to the board;
- The net financial position is around \$39 million and there is not of lot of cushion;
- OPEB is not being fully funded; pension is \$49 million underfunded;
- Labor union contract is 190 pages and very nuanced;
- Major public relations issue is how to pay or provide funding for people who are homeless or disabled, and consider whether it is RIPTA's mission to be a transit agency or social service agency; but at the same time we are the state's mobility manager;
- Chairman Kezirian discusses an observation he made he made while riding the R-line concerning a recently released inmate;
- Leverage funding in ways to incentivize private development;
- The bus tunnel project – generate excitement and creativity.

There was discussion among the board members for the potential of a board retreat.

Agenda Items 13 & 14: Adjournment

Chairman Kezirian asks the board members if anyone has an issue that they would like to discuss in Executive Session. There being no affirmative response, Chairman Kezirian asks for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Alviti makes the motion to adjourn, Ms. Martin seconds and it passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Catalano
Recording Secretary