



Cape Fear Public Transportation Authority

**MINUTES OF THE
CAPE FEAR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
August 27, 2009
Mr. Don Betz, Chair, Presiding**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Don Betz, Chairman
Mr. George Dolan, Vice Chairman
Mr. Andrew Koepfel, Secretary
Mr. Henry Adams
Mr. William Bryden
Ms. Christine McNamee
Ms. Laura Padgett
Mr. David Scheu

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Mr. Jonathan Barfield
Mr. Euran Daniels

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Albert Eby, Director
Ms. Cathy Beasley, Finance Director
Mr. Matthew Kunic, Planner
Ms. Kathy Williams, Administrative Assistant

CONTRACT MANAGEMENT STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Andrew Olsen, Attorney
Mr. Irvin Cure, General Manager, PTM

GUESTS PRESENT

Mr. Ricky Meeks, Citizen
Mr. Chris Hawkins, Citizen
Mr. Denise Freund, W.K Dickson

CALL TO ORDER

- Chairman Betz called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm
- Mr. Betz opened the meeting with a moment of silence

CONSENT AGENDA

- Mr. Betz presented the August 27, 2009 consent agenda
- Mr. Dolan stated that there were some minor typographical errors in the policy manual revision
- Mr. Eby stated that staff would correct the errors
- Mr. Bryden made a motion to accept the August 27, 2009 consent agenda as amended
- Mr. Scheu seconded and carried unanimously

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. Betz opened the public comment period
- Mr. Hawkins stated that the cleanliness on the buses has improved although the wheelchair tie downs are still collecting dirt, causing the drivers to have a hard time buckling in wheelchairs

- Mr. Hawkins also stated that the wheelchair ramps are difficult to open and at times the operators have to operate them manually
- Mr. Hawkins also inquired about the cause of the bus fire on unit 704
- Mr. Eby stated that after the investigation, the cause was not determined
- Staff was working with NCACC to see the investigator's full report
- Engine compartment fire suppression systems have been installed in the light transit vehicles to minimize the risk of a vehicle becoming fully destroyed by fire
- Mr. Meeks suggested that in designing the new facility a designated smoking area be identified
- Mr. Meeks also stated that drivers and passengers smoke too close to the bus entrance and the air conditioners do not work on all the buses

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Mr. Betz stated that the committee did not meet and had no report

ROUTE COMMITTEE

- Mr. Betz recognized Mr. Koepfel to give the report for the route committee
- Mr. Koepfel stated that the authority is beginning to renovate some of the old bus shelters and is currently making adjustments to route 205

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Mr. Betz recognized Mr. Dolan to give the committee report
- Mr. Dolan stated that the authority was exposed to increased expenses for maintenance due to poor maintenance by PTM in FY 2008-09
- Mr. Eby stated that the major issues were expected to be resolved by the end of the quarter
- Mr. Dolan stated that PTM failed to bill the correct amount of worker compensation insurance in FY 2008 resulting in an additional charge of an estimated \$177,000
- Mr. Dolan stated that PTM was not billed the properly and the error was found during the audit
- Mr. Dolan stated that because of the error, the authority has withheld the PTM monthly management fee until the amount of overages can be determined by staff and the auditors
- Mr. Dolan stated that legal counsel was working with PTM to resolve the issue
- Mr. Eby stated that PTM also failed to properly withhold benefit payments from their employees
- Staff is requiring PTM to be responsible for retrieving the funds
- Mr. Eby said that Mr. Olsen is working with staff and PTM to resolve the issue
- Mr. Eby stated that the FY 2009-2010 budget will need to be adjusted to properly reflect the new worker compensation premium
- Mr. Eby stated that at the request of the authority, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Liability Insurance will take over the Workman's Comp insurance on 09/01/09
- Mr. Dolan said that fares are 8% higher from last year and passengers are buying more passes vs. paying cash

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- Chairman Betz recognized Ms. Padgett to give the committee report
- Ms. Padgett stated that the committee did not meet
- Mr. Eby updated the authority on the Cando Street extension project, and the transfer center design

STAFF REPORT

- Chairman Bryden recognized Mr. Eby to present the staff report
- Mr. Eby presented the PTM quarterly report
- Mr. Eby stated that the report was very critical of the service provided by PTM

- Mr. Eby said that since Mr. Cure's arrival many issues have improved
- Mr. Eby stated that as mentioned in the finance committee report, several vehicles have been found to be in need of repair
- Mr. Eby stated that he was working with Mr. Cure to address all major vehicle issues and staff would reevaluate the maintenance budget once the fleet was returned to a state of good repair as required by FTA
- Staff is continuing to work with within the confines of the management agreement with PTM to ensure that the authority receives value for management services
- Mr. Eby recognized Mr. Kunic to give the Beach Blast update
- Mr. Kunic stated that the 2009 annual UNCW Beach Blast went very well and there were no complaints
- Mr. Kunic said that an estimated 2,000 students were taken to Wrightsville Beach
- Mr. Eby stated that the Governor has signed the Congestion Relief Intermodal Transport Fund Bill into law
- Mr. Eby said the law allows all counties to call a referendum for a ¼ cent sales tax with the proceeds directed to public transportation
- The bill also allows county commissioners to levy an annual vehicle registration fee for transit up to \$7.00 per vehicle
- Mr. Eby said staff is working on a financial plan to build support for the authority to take to the county commissioners
- Mr. Eby stated that this could create a fund balance, a capital fund and provide additional or improved service offerings
- Mr. Koeppel suggested speaking with each County Commissioners to notify them about the bill and what it could do for public transportation
- Ms. McNamee stated that the planning committee could assist with the project
- Mr. Eby stated that the financial plan would go through the finance committee and once finalized, a plan could be developed by the planning committee to build support for the initiative
- Mr. Eby said that the award for Daimler Bus had been rejected and that Daimler had filed an official protest
- Mr. Eby said the protest committee of the authority (director, finance director and legal counsel) had denied the protest

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

- Ms. Padgett stated that there are issues involving the bus not going to McMillan Ave and Kmart anymore
- Mr. Kunic stated that the UNCW shuttles now serve the McMillan area and anyone can use them
- Mr. Kunic stated that the housing developments around the McMillan Ave and all the buses have notices stating that anyone can ride the UNCW shuttles

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING

- Hearing no further business, Mr. Dolan made a motion to adjourn the meeting Ms. Padgett seconded and carried unanimously
- The Authority's next meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2009 at 12:00 pm in the Castle Street Board Room

Respectfully Submitted,



Albert Eby
Director
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