

Meeting Minutes – August 27, 2020

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
TRANSIT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF OMAHA
2222 Cuming Street
Omaha, Nebraska, 68102
August 27, 2020
MINUTES**

The Transit Authority of the City of Omaha Board met in Regular Session on Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 8:30 a.m., in the Authority's Administration Building, 2222 Cuming Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68102. Notice was given in advance of the meeting by publication in the Omaha World Herald. For the benefit of the public in attendance, a copy of the Open Meetings Law is posted in the meeting room and the Agenda is published on the display in the facility lobby. The following persons were in attendance at the meeting:

Authority Board:

Mr. Jay Lund, Chair
Ms. Julia Plucker, Vice Chair (Absent)
Ms. Amy Haase, Secretary/Treasurer
Mr. Daniel Lawse
Mr. Othello Meadows

Authority Staff:

C. Simon, Executive Director
E. Simpson, Legal/Human Resource Director (Absent)
D. Finken, Finance Director
D. Jameson, Safety Director
K. Shadden, Operations Director (Absent)
L. Barritt, Marketing Director
G. Bradley, Maintenance Director
K. Pendland, IT Director
J. Willoughby, Senior Project Manager Engineering/Transportation/Planning (Absent)
J. Rumery, Grant Administrator

Others Present:

Other Metro staff
Marisa Martinez
Lee Meyer

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Agenda Item #1: Call to order

Mr. Lund called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. For the benefit of the public in attendance, a copy of the Open Meetings Law has been posted in the meeting room and the Agenda is published on the display in the facility lobby.

Agenda Item #2: Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Mr. Lund entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the Board Meeting on July 30, 2020.

Motion by Mr. Meadows; Second by Mr. Lawse

ROLL CALL:

UNANIMOUS; MOTION CARRIES.

Agenda Item #3: Succession Task Force Update – Resolution – Request Approval of CEO/Executive Director Employment Contract

(J. Lund)

The employment contract for the incoming CEO/Executive Director, Lauren Cencic, was provided to the Board under separate cover, prior to the Board meeting. The contract was vetted by both Board members of the Executive Search Task Force, Amy Haase and Jay Lund. The contract is for a 5-year period, commencing on Monday, September 14, 2020.

Discussion was had regarding missing amount for liquidated damages and missing number for PTO hour maximum accrual. Mr. Simon agreed to ensure appropriate numbers are calculated, and Board members agreed to approve pending the calculation of these missing figures.

Motion by Mr. Meadows; Second by Ms. Haase

ROLL CALL:

UNANIMOUS; MOTION CARRIES.

Agenda Item #4: Request Approval to Award Contract to New Flyer Parts for 42 Operator's Barriers

(D. Jameson)

As part of our on-going response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are recommending we purchase and install permanent plexi-glass shielding as protection for our Operator from the public.

Staff is requesting authority to award a contract to New Flyer Parts in an amount not to exceed \$270,338 to purchase forty-two (42) Operator's Barriers. Metro will retrofit all existing Gillig buses with the same style Barrier as was installed in the new ORBT buses.

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We are negotiating final pricing and delivery schedule with the manufacturer. The Barriers will be programmed and funded using the existing 2020 CARES ACT Grant, (in the amount of \$270,338 at an 100% rate), This purchase will not require any commitment in local match.

This item was reviewed with the Procurement Committee prior to the Board Meeting.

Discussion was had.

Motion by Mr. Meadows; Second by Mr. Lawse

ROLL CALL:

UNANIMOUS; MOTION CARRIES.

Agenda Item #5: Request Approval of Contract Modification Award to New Flyer Industries for New Transit Buses

(D. Jameson)

Staff requests authority to award a contract to New Flyer Industries in an amount not to exceed \$658,302.

You'll recall that in March, The Board authorized staff to enter into a contract with New Flyer Industries for eleven replacement buses. The total authorized was an amount not to exceed \$5,458,094. Five of these were to be 35' CNG vehicles with the remaining six to be 30' clean diesel.

The extended and on-going COVID-19 pandemic has caused the transit bus manufacturing industry to curtail its production of new buses as a result of deferments of orders by many transit agencies. Alexander Dennis, a subsidiary of New Flyer Industries, who was to build the 30' clean diesel buses made a corporate decision this month to cease their single deck assembly line production of this particular model for an undetermined amount of time.

Metro contacted New Flyer Industries and verified that they had the additional capacity to add (6) six CNG buses to its present Metro build with minimal production delay.

The total price difference to change the order to 35' buses with CNG propulsion is an additional \$658,302. Year 2020, 5307 Federal grant funds will be used to augment the original amount authorized. This will encumber \$131,660 in local match funding. As was the case with the original award, pricing includes purchase and installation of AVL & other sub-systems.

This item was reviewed with the Procurement Committee prior to the Board Meeting.

Discussion was had.

Motion by Mr. Lawse; Second by Ms. Meadows

ROLL CALL:

UNANIMOUS; MOTION CARRIES.

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Agenda Item #6: Request Approval to Rescind Resolution No. 413 – CY 2021 Preliminary Tax Levy

(D. Finken)

Staff is requesting approval of a resolution to rescind Resolution No. 413 Preliminary Tax Levy allocation for CY 2021, which was approved at the July Board meeting. The 2020 certified property valuation will be used to calculate the CY 2021 Final Tax Levy Rate.

Discussion was had.

Motion by Mr. Lawse; Second by Mr. Meadows

ROLL CALL:

UNANIMOUS; MOTION CARRIES.

Agenda Item #7: Request Approval of Resolution No. 414 – Final CY 2021 Tax Levy Allocation

(D. Finken)

Staff is requesting approval of a Resolution No. 414, Final Tax Levy for CY 2021. The approved resolution is then sent to the City of Omaha and Douglas County for approval by each of their Boards in September. The 2020 Certified Property Valuation was received and a copy is included in the Board packet. Also included in the Board packet is a Final Mill Levy calculation using the 2020 Certified Property Valuation. The Final Mill Levy rate is .04777. This is a decrease from the 2020 Final Mill Levy rate of .04953 and the preliminary rate of .04811 that was adopted at the July Board meeting. There was no change in the dollar amount that Metro will receive as revenue in 2021. Resolution No. 414 is included in the Board packet for your review. The City of Omaha and Douglas County will equally split the tax levy rate of .04777 or .02388 each.

Discussion was had.

Motion by Mr. Lawse; Second by Mr. Meadows

ROLL CALL:

UNANIMOUS; MOTION CARRIES.

Agenda Item #8: Administrative Report

(C. Simon)

Mr. Simon informed the Board that ORBT construction is going as planned. The new ORBT line should be launched in late October. All downtown stations have been completed except for installation of guide strips and concrete sealing. Technology and electronic components will be installed in September. Transit Signal Priority and the queue jump eastbound at 90th and Dodge will also be installed in September.

Mr. Simon updated the Board that the replacement MOBY vans have been delivered and are being prepared to go into service. Metro previously also ordered 40 new cordless lifts that are being delivered this week. These lifts will allow for safer access to ORBT buses during maintenance once ORBT launches.

Mr. Simon informed the Board that Metro has also received new grant money for buses and upgrading of the bus wash. This grant will help keep the average age of the fleet low.

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Discussion was had.

Agenda Item #9: Executive Session

No Executive Session this month.

Agenda Item #10: Date, Time and Place of Next Board Meeting

Thursday, September 24, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. at Metro Transit Authority's Administrative Building.

Agenda Item #11: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was entertained to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Motion by Mr. Meadows; Second by Ms. Haase.

ROLL CALL:

UNANIMOUS; MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Jay Lund – Chair

Recording Secretary