

PORT AUTHORITY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
FRIDAY, MARCH 25, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Port Authority of Allegheny County was held on Friday, March 25, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., at the Authority's Administration Offices, 345 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 15222-2527, pursuant to due public notice given as required by law.

The following members were in attendance in person: Jeff Letwin, Chair, Ann Ogoreuc, Michelle Zmijanac and Stephanie Turman. The following members were in attendance virtually: Senator Jim Brewster, John L. Tague Jr., Jessica Walls-Lavelle, Gerald Delon, Jennifer Liptak and Representative Austin Davis. Board Solicitor Sandy Garfinkel attended in-person.

The Chair called the February March 25, 2022 Regular Meeting to order and requested everyone stand for the pledge of allegiance and a moment of silence for the people of Ukraine.

A recommendation was made for approval of the minutes of the February 25, 2022 Regular Meeting. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed.

The Chair called on Ms. Katharine Kelleman for a report of the Chief Executive Officer.

Ms. Kelleman first asked for a moment of silence for the retired employees who passed away in January and February. They were: Operators Robert Hamer, William Bush, Jr., Roger Maceno, Harry Spath, and Edmund Paszkowski; senior project engineer Ward Reighard; Technician Richard Jones; Administrative Assistant Marion Clark; Traffic Receipts Collector Frank Evankovich; and Plumber and Building Equipment Repairperson Richard Crowley.

Ms. Kelleman reported that Port Authority's commitment to this community is to provide transit services safely and efficiently. After two years of COVID, and the likelihood of yet another strain in the U.S., our riders want to know that we're doing everything in our power to keep them safe. Our employees, too, want to work in a safe environment.

Ms. Kelleman stated that part of her job is to do everything possible to protect those who work here and the riders who rely on our services. The last two years have not been easy for anyone. The pandemic has been tragic.

Ms. Kelleman added that the decision to implement an employee vaccine policy was rooted in a desire to protect employees and customers who rely on bus, rail, and ACCESS services each day. She stated that Port Authority will always err on the side of safety.

That concluded the report of the Chief Executive Officer.

The Chair called on Ms. Zmijanac for a report of the Performance Oversight Committee.

The Performance Oversight Committee met during the prior week and she had two resolutions for the Board's consideration.

The Committee reviewed six procurement items and determined the bids to be in accordance with the Authority's procurement policies and procedures, the prices fair and reasonable, the bidders to be responsible and the bids responsive.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommended the award of bids listed in the resolution for the total amount of approximately \$7.6 million.

On behalf of the Performance Oversight Committee, Ms. Zmijanac respectfully requested approval of the resolution. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

The next resolution presented was seeking authorization to award a construction contract for the South Busway Rehabilitation project.

It was reported at the Performance Oversight Committee meeting that to perform the work for the contract, bid documents were prepared and publicly advertised and three bids were received. After review of the bids, it has been determined that the bid of Lindy Paving, Inc., is the lowest responsive bidder meeting the Authority's requirements for the contract.

The Performance Oversight Committee recommended awarding the contract to Lindy Paving, Inc, in the amount of \$6,693,326.40, subject to completing all pre-award requirements.

On behalf of the Performance Oversight Committee, Ms. Zmijanac respectfully requested approval of the resolution. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

Finally, the Ms. Zmijanac advised that the Committee was provided with a report concerning the FY 2021 Modified Physical Inventory.

That concluded the report of the Performance Oversight Committee.

The Chair called on Mr. Tague for a report of the Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee.

Mr. Tague reported that the Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee met last week and he had three items for the Board.

At the Committee meeting staff provided an overview of the April 2020 service changes. It was reported that there are six bus routes that will have service changes on weekdays only and three bus routes that will have changes on weekdays and weekends.

Mr. Tague noted that there are seven bus routes where the routing has been adjusted, each for different reasons. One being that the McKeesport Transportation Center has reopened and another was due to ridership. Also, there are 12 bus routes that will have adjusted schedules to help improve reliability.

Next Mr. Tague gave a report concerning the Allegheny County Transit Council and Committee for Accessible Transportation. He reported that ACTC held a hybrid meeting in March. They received updates on the April service changes and a liaison report. Ralph Williams, President of ACTC, provided the President's report and distributed ACTC shirts to members. An April meeting has been scheduled.

The CAT Committee did not meet this month. Their next quarterly meeting is scheduled for May 5 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. As of right now, that meeting is expected to be virtual.

That concluded the report of the Planning and Stakeholder Relations Committee.

The Chair called on Ms. Ogoreuc for a report of the Finance Committee.

Ms. Ogoreuc reported that the Finance Committee met during the prior week and she had one resolution for the Board's consideration.

This resolution authorizes the Authority to enter into a four-year U-Pass agreement with Carlow University and any other eligible university in 2022. An eligible university is defined as a university or college that is nationally or regionally accredited by a United States Department of Education-recognized accrediting agency with its main physical campus located in Allegheny County and a student body of at least 2,000 students. This agreement would enable the Authority to charge the respective university 60 percent per tap during the pilot period and 63 percent per tap at the start of year one of the agreement, or Fall 2022, increasing three percent each year for the remainder of the agreement. In this agreement, the university agrees to use Ready2Ride, Port Authority's mobile ticketing services as the fare medium.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Ms. Ogoreuc respectfully requested approval of the resolution. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

Also at the meeting, the February 2022 financial results were reported.

It was reported that Total Operating Income for the month of February was \$4.3 million and was under budget by \$3.9 million. Total Operating Income for FY 2022 is \$30.35 million under budget for the fiscal year due to lower Passenger Revenue and ACCESS Shared Ride Revenue.

Ms. Ogoreuc noted that Federal ARPA funding will be utilized to make up for this revenue shortfall.

It was also reported that Total Operating Expenses in February were \$4.2 million below budget due to lower Materials & Supplies, Purchased Services and Employee Benefits.

Total Operating Expenses year-to-date continues to trend below budget by \$33.9 million.

Total Subsidy for FY 2022 is \$4.2 million below budget due to lower State Operating Assistance and Vehicle Overhaul Subsidy.

Federal Stimulus invoicing for FY 2022 is at \$28.2 million. This is in addition to the \$105.4 million invoiced for FY 2020 and FY 2021.

Finally, Ms. Ogoreuc reported that the Authority ended the month of February with approximately \$169 million in cash reserves.

That concluded the report of the Finance Committee.

The Chair called on Ms. Liptak for a report of the Technology Committee.

Ms. Liptak reported that the Technology Committee met on Thursday, March 17, and she had one resolution for the Board's consideration.

Ms. Liptak reported that as noted during the January Committee meeting, and again in March, the video wall within the Operations Control Center requires upgrades to both the equipment and underlying programming.

The Authority desires to utilize the Commonwealth of PA's Costars purchasing agreement to procure equipment from Visual Sound, Inc. in the amount of \$800,775.32

The Technology Committee recommended that a contract be authorized under the terms and conditions of Pennsylvania Department of General Services Contract # 034-023.

On behalf of the Technology Committee, Ms. Liptak respectfully requested approval of the resolution. It was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed that the resolution be approved as presented.

Ms. Liptak concluded the report by thanking Port Authority's Chief Information Officer, Jeffrey Devlin, for providing a brief review of the annual technology work plan, which includes both current and long-range projects.

That concluded the report of the Technology Committee.

There was no new business to conduct, so the Chair moved on to the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

There were six members of the public who addressed the Board at the meeting. The first speaker, Ms. Laura Perkins, who works with the advocacy group Casa San Jose, reported that due to the closure of the Saw Mill Run Boulevard Bridge, there are delays of up to two hours in the Beechview area. Ms. Perkins noted that it has been particularly hard on the Spanish community because many of them don't have an alternative to public transit. She urged the Board to provide additional signage in Spanish to help these residents.

There were three additional speakers, Ms. Susan Padilla, Ms. Charlene Saner and Ms. Marilyn Brown who urged the Board for upgraded shuttle service for Red Line Trolley riders. Their concerns included frequent wait times of 45 minutes or more; shuttle service stopped altogether for several hours during the day and passengers are not notified of extreme delays; passengers are denied boarding if not a designated stop despite all stops not being clearly marked; and no scheduling or stop information available.

Mr. Ross Nicotero, President of ATU, Local 85, also addressed the Board regarding Port Authority's employee vaccine mandate. Mr. Nicotero criticized Port Authority for keeping more than 300 employees off work because they haven't been vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. He noted that the result has been a substantial increase in the number of service trips the agency has missed because operators aren't available.

Mr. Nicotero stated that for nearly two years his workers were called "heroes" for reporting to work during the pandemic and now members are facing termination if they don't receive the vaccine. He noted that the Authority and the Union had worked together through most of the pandemic to reach agreement on a number of items and then management just jammed the mandatory vaccinations down their throats. He urged Port Authority to bring back those employees who want to work.

City Councilman, Anthony Coghil, was also available to address the Board. As Councilman of District 4, he serves the neighborhoods of Beechview, Brookline, Carrick, Bon Air, Overbrook, and Mt. Washington. The Councilman thanked Ms. Kelleman and the Port Authority for their diligence during these challenging times. He noted that no one could have anticipated the Bridge closure, but he wants to work with Port Authority to alleviate the inconsistencies and frustrations this has caused, especially for the Spanish speaking residents of his district.

The Chair announced the next Regular meeting of the Board will be Friday, April 29, 2022.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.