



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 22, 2017**

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The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) Board of Directors met in regular session in the Board Room at PSTA Headquarters at 9:00 AM on this date with the following members present:

Darden Rice, Chairperson  
Janet Long, Vice-Chairperson  
Joseph Barkley, Secretary/Treasurer  
Doug Bevis  
Mark Deighton  
Dave Eggers  
Samantha Fenger  
Pat Gerard  
Patricia Johnson  
Bill Jonson  
Charlie Justice  
Brian Scott  
Joshua Shulman  
John Tornga

Absent:

Lisa Wheeler-Bowman

Also Present:

Brad Miller, CEO  
Alan Zimmet, PSTA General Counsel  
PSTA Staff Members  
Members of the Public

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairperson Rice called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and the Board was led in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tom Rask, unincorporated Pinellas County, spoke about the Board's Rules & Regulations regarding boisterous comments made by Ms. Long. He also spoke about the decline in ridership.

**[Ms. Long and Mr. Jonson entered the meeting at 9:03 AM.]**

Carla Robinson talked about unsanitary conditions on the buses and bus shelters. She also mentioned how long her trip is because the Route 18 makes lengthy stops.

**[Ms. Gerard and Mr. Bevis entered the meeting at 9:05 AM.]**

## **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Outgoing Board Member – Mr. Miller recognized Mr. Deighton for his service on the PSTA Board. Mr. Deighton received a plaque and lifetime bus pass and said a few words thanking everyone, especially the Bus Operators.

Chairperson Rice introduced Joshua Shulman, St. Petersburg's citizen appointment to the Board. Mr. Shulman replaces Ben Diamond and will serve the remainder of the term which runs from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2018.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Transit Riders Advisory Committee (TRAC) – Gloria Lepik-Corrigan, Committee Chair, provided an update from the February 14th TRAC meeting.

**[Mr. Tornga entered the meeting at 9:11 AM.]**

Forward Pinellas – Mr. Jonson reported on the Forward Pinellas Board meeting that took place on February 8th.

**[Ms. Fenger entered the meeting at 9:13 AM.]**

Forward Pinellas Local Coordinating Board (LCB) Report - Ms. Johnson gave a report from the February 16th LCB meeting.

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## CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Scott made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bevis to approve the Consent Agenda. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda, which included the approval of the January 13, 2017 Board workshop minutes as well as the January 25, 2017 Board meeting minutes, and the liability claim settlement.

## ACTION ITEMS

HVAC Replacement Project - Henry Lukasik, Director of Maintenance, provided background information regarding the replacement of the HVAC system at PSTA's Scherer Drive facility. He indicated that the current system is 11 years old and has exceeded its useful life of 10 years. Mr. Lukasik stated that a Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued in July 2016 and the Agency received three proposals: IC Mechanical, Homeland Security Construction Corporation, and BCH Mechanical, Inc. He indicated that after a careful review, along with in-person presentations by each of the proposers, the Selection Team recommends awarding the contract to the highest ranked, lowest cost contractor, IC Mechanical, Inc.

Mr. Lukasik said staff is recommending approval of a contract with IC Mechanical, Inc. at a total cost not to exceed \$1,273,000, which is 100% funded by the Maintenance Department's operating budget. He noted that the remaining \$1,250,000 is federally funded by a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) grant and is included in the approved Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Mr. Lukasik added that staff had a meeting with Duke Energy and indicated that PSTA may qualify for as much as \$25,000 in one-time rebates for the new system.

In response to Chairperson Rice's call for public comment, Mr. Rask referred to an email he sent to the Board members relating to a report about the HVAC system and the expected life of 15 years. He said the Board needs to exercise oversight to make sure the new system lasts 15 years, not 11 years.

Mr. Jonson asked for clarification as to why the system did not last the expected life and what staff is doing to keep that from reoccurring. Mr. Lukasik explained the problems with the current system. Mr. Eggers said that it is unacceptable to only get eight or nine years out of the system and believes the units should last longer. Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Deighton to approve the contract with IC Mechanical, Inc. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

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Trolley Operations and Related Services - Cassandra Borchers, Chief Development Officer, gave a presentation on the trolley services procurement. She said staff is recommending a five-year contract with First Transit. She indicated that First Transit is proposing all new vehicles, side lifts, and new technology. Ms. Borchers talked about specific questions related to the transition and the overall service.

Mr. Barkley said that the Finance Committee reviewed this and is recommending approval. He pointed out that the Board asked staff to competitively procure this particular service. Mr. Eggers asked about the scores and Ms. Borchers said that Jolley Trolley did not have a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) partner listed in their proposal.

In response to Chairperson Rice's call for public comment, 42 people spoke against staff's recommendation to award the contract to First Transit and urged the Board to award the contract to Jolley Trolley. There was one comment suggesting the Board wait a month to make a decision on this procurement.

Mr. Zimmet outlined some aspects of the procurement process and clarified some comments made during the meeting. He said the Board has three options: 1) agree with staff recommendation and go with First Transit, 2) award the contract to Jolley Trolley, or 3) reject all bids and re-bid the procurement. Mr. Zimmet advised that the Board cannot negotiate material terms of the contract at this time with Jolley Trolley or First Transit, nor base the decision on a local preference. He indicated that the RFP was clear that a form must be completed for the DBE and Jolley Trolley did not submit one. He pointed out that the Board approved the DBE policy in 2010. Mr. Zimmet referred to the tabulation sheet and spoke on what would need to occur to award the contract to Jolley Trolley. He indicated that the Board is bound to the criteria within the RFP and said if the Board does not agree, then they can reject all bids and re-bid the contract.

Mr. Bevis questioned what occurred with the DBE issue and mentioned the scores for both vendors. He believes Jolley Trolley should receive a higher score based on their experience here. Mr. Bevis made a motion, seconded by Mr. Eggers to approve a five-year contract with Jolley Trolley. Many Board members expressed their opinions and support for the Jolley Trolley. After no further public comments, the motion passed unanimously.

**[A break was taken from 12:03 PM to 12:08 PM.]**

Electric Bus Pilot Program – Mr. Lukasik noted that in June 2016, the Board approved a pilot program to purchase two electric buses subject to Pinellas County providing funding for charging station infrastructure, which the County approved in December 2016. He

indicated that an RFP was issued in November 2016 for the two electric buses with the option to purchase up to 20 additional electric buses if funding is approved. Mr. Lukasik said that three proposals were received: BYD Motors, Inc., New Flyer, Inc. and Proterra, Inc. After a careful review and in-person presentations by each of the proposers, the Selection Team recommends approval of the contract to the highest ranked, lowest cost contractor, BYD Motors, Inc. He outlined BYD's background and the various components in an electric bus, as well as the charging equipment and process. Mr. Lukasik also presented the project costs, fiscal impact, and funding sources.

In response to Chairperson Rice's call for public comment, fourteen members of the public made comments with all but two being in favor of this item.

Mr. Barkley reported that the Finance Committee deferred the decision to the full Board meeting today and thanked the County Commission for the allocation of BP funds for the electric bus charging stations. Mr. Shulman expressed his support in moving this project forward and made a motion, seconded by Ms. Long to approve a contract with BYD Motors, Inc., for a not to exceed cost for two buses and charging equipment in the amount of \$2.2 million.

Mr. Jonson said this is all about supporting the riders and believes this is an emerging technology. He stated that this is a great partnership with the City of St. Petersburg. Mr. Scott noted that the capital budget goes into the red in 2020 and spoke about the aging fleet. He also mentioned a recent article about transportation in the *Tampa Bay Times*. Mr. Scott indicated that he will not support this item. Mr. Bevis stated that he has a concern about the uniformity of the charging station technology. Mr. Deighton expressed his belief that the Authority should wait because the cost of the electric buses may decrease. Mr. Tornga had some questions about the charging stations and the possible use on the Jolley Trolley as well, which Mr. Lukasik addressed. Mr. Eggers spoke about PSTA's fiscal, social, and environmental responsibilities to the riders and taxpayers. There were no further public comments. Motion passed (9:5) with Mr. Scott, Mr. Eggers, Mr. Bevis, Mr. Deighton, and Ms. Johnson dissenting.

Revised PSTA-Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority (HART) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Mr. Miller explained that the Board approved the MOU at their January 25th meeting and the HART Board then approved a similar MOU on February 6th. He noted that HART made two minor changes and the redlined version was included in the Board packet. One change was to make it an annually renewable MOU, and the second was to add a clause stating, "Nothing in this document constitutes HART's approval authorizing a merger or consolidation with PSTA or a regional tax measure."

In response to Chairperson Rice's call for public comment, Mr. Rask questioned which version of the MOU was discussed with the Legislature. He also reiterated his belief that this MOU is a backdoor to a merger. Mr. Jonson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Long to approve the revised MOU. The motion passed unanimously.

### **REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Performance/Updates – Mr. Miller reported that ridership in January was slightly better. He noted that a new report was included in the packet indicating ridership trends. He thanked Mr. Scott and Ms. Johnson for traveling to Tallahassee with him. Mr. Miller also mentioned two special promotions starting on February 24th – a free parking shuttle from downtown Clearwater to the beach and free Trolley rides from downtown Dunedin to the Blue Jays Stadium.

Major Capital Project Update – The list of capital projects were included in the packet.

### **FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS**

The Board was provided with a list of upcoming meeting subjects.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

The Board members welcomed Mr. Shulman to the Board. Everyone thanked and said goodbye to Mr. Deighton.

Mr. Jonson mentioned a few transit events that were recently held around the Tampa Bay area. He said it was great to see so many Clearwater and Dunedin people attend today's meeting.

Mr. Barkley referred to the *Tampa Bay Times* article and the issues with bus routes. He said that the problem is because transit is underfunded. He proceeded to share an article written by John Romano and read some bullet points from the article.

Ms. Johnson mentioned the importance of good transportation for those in need, especially riders who are on the Transportation Disadvantaged program. She indicated that 94% of the transportation needs are not being met because of lack of funding.

Mr. Tornga asked if PSTA has ever drawn up a plan that would include great bus transportation and what it would cost if we implemented more buses with more frequency, and what size of vehicles we would need.

Chairperson Rice welcomed Mr. Shulman and spoke briefly about Mr. Deighton and his service on PSTA.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairperson Rice adjourned the meeting at 1:30 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for March 29, 2017 at 9:00 AM.

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Chairperson