



PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
3201 SCHERER DRIVE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33716  
[WWW.PSTA.NET](http://WWW.PSTA.NET) 727.540.1800 FAX 727.540.1913

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 27, 2019**

---

Chairperson Janet Long called the February 27, 2019 Board meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Members present: Janet Long, Chairperson; Joe Barkley, Vice-Chairperson; Pat Gerard, Secretary/Treasurer; Dave Allbritton, David Banther, Richard Bennett, Vince Cocks, Gina Driscoll, Dave Eggers, Heather Gracy, Patricia Johnson, Charlie Justice, Darden Rice, and Josh Shulman. Members absent: Samantha Fenger. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; Nikki Day, PSTA General Counsel; PSTA staff members, and members of the public.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Robin Shaw, Seminole resident, spoke about the possible elimination of Route 58 and how it will affect riders who use that route. She provided the Board with a petition with 101 names in support of keeping the route.

### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

Marketing Award – Alissa Kostyk, Digital Marketing Manager, said that PSTA was awarded three First Place American Public Transit Association's (APTA) AdWheel Marketing Awards. She indicated that the AdWheel Awards recognize the marketing and communications efforts of public transit systems across the nation. Ms. Kostyk reported that the Authority received the three awards for the Clearwater Beach Spring Break Park & Ride campaign, the Appy Hour event to introduce the Transit app, and the Transit Riders Advisory Committee's (TRAC) STAR award.

### **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

TRAC Update – Mark O'Hara, Committee Chair, provided an update from the February 19th TRAC meeting.

Forward Pinellas Local Coordinating Board (LCB) – Ms. Johnson said that the Forward Pinellas LCB met on February 19th and provided some highlights. She and Mr. Bennett also updated the Board on a recent Legislative trip to Tallahassee.

Forward Pinellas Update – Mr. Eggers reported on the Forward Pinellas Board meeting that took place on February 13th.

Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) Update – Chairperson Long reported on the February 22nd Board meeting.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard, to approve the Consent Agenda. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda which included the approval of the January 23, 2019 Board meeting minutes, the maintenance hardware contract, and the Duke Energy agreement.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

CEO Performance Evaluation/Compensation – Chairperson Long outlined the process for the annual CEO Evaluation and Compensation Adjustment. She reported that the Personnel Committee met on February 15th and is recommending a 3% increase. There was discussion regarding the amount of the increase due to the expected budget shortfall. Board members expressed their opinion that the CEO is doing an outstanding job and the Authority is highly regarded in the transit industry for its innovative programs. After Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, answered a question regarding the budgeted amount, Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard, to approve an annual compensation adjustment of 3%. There were no public comments. Motion passed (10:4) with Mr. Shulman, Mr. Justice, Mr. Eggers, and Mr. Banther dissenting. Ms. Rice made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard, to receive the CEO Performance Evaluation. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Appointments – Mr. Miller said that the Nominating Committee met and is recommending the following appointments: Ms. Johnson to the Executive Committee; Ms. Gracy as a full member on the Legislative Committee; Ms. Driscoll as an alternate on the Legislative Committee; Ms. Fenger as an alternate on the Planning Committee; Ms. Driscoll on the Personnel Committee; and Ms. Rice on the Nominating Committee. Mr. Miller said the Finance Committee has an alternate position available, but it will be left vacant for now. Ms. Gerard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shulman, to approve the appointments. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Electric Bus Program – Henry Lukasik, Director of Maintenance, indicated that in 2017, PSTA applied for a grant under the Federal Transit Administration’s (FTA) Low or No Emission Program and was awarded \$1 million. He said that in 2018, PSTA again applied for a Low-No grant and again was awarded \$1 million to purchase two more all-electric buses and the required charging equipment. Mr. Lukasik stated that the total number of all-electric buses purchased utilizing Low-No funding will be four, bringing the all-electric bus fleet to six. He also showed the Committee a computer program that PSTA utilizes to track and compile data in real time on the electric buses that are in service in downtown St. Petersburg.

After Mr. Lukasik answered a few questions regarding costs, maintenance, safety, and life expectancy, Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Shulman, to approve a contract with BYD Motors for the purchase of two 35’ all-electric/zero emission, low floor buses and two depot chargers, with a total not to exceed contract cost of \$1.7 million (for the buses and charging equipment), and a total not to exceed project cost of \$1.9 million. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

Service Adjustments Analysis – Mr. Miller indicated that last month, the Board approved a tentative list of bus and paratransit adjustments to get public comment on prior to implementation. He explained that these adjustments could assist in closing the adopted budget gap of \$1.7 million in FY2019. Mr. Miller gave a presentation on the work involved in determining service adjustments, stating that staff from PSTA, Forward Pinellas, and the County all have a part in this process. Questions and comments were raised about funds, Demand Response (DART) services, and cost savings.

Non-Member Cities – Mr. Miller provided information and a history on the seven non-member cities. He indicated that the fiscal impact if they were to join PSTA is approximately \$4 million annually. Questions were asked about the ballot and whether cities can opt out of the PSTA ad valorem. In addition, there were comments on both sides whether pursuing this endeavor is prudent.

### **REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Enhanced Spring Break Services 2019 – The presentation was included in the packet.

Performance/Updates – The information was included in the packet. Mr. Miller noted that ridership has increased in four out of the last five months.

## **FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS**

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

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Miller said that once again, PSTA and Clearwater will partner for a Spring Break Park and Ride to Clearwater Beach from March 1st – April 30th. He noted that there will be a Rider Town Hall on Friday, March 1st at the Clearwater Beach Transit Center. Mr. Miller also reported that PSTA and Dunedin will partner again for a Toronto Blue Jays Park and Ride for spring training. He reminded everyone about the Central Avenue Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Open House immediately following the Board meeting.

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Eggers would like a discussion about utilizing bus pullovers.

Chairperson Long informed the Board that this would be Mr. Banther's last Board meeting as he is being termed off the Tarpon Springs Board of Commissioners.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairperson Long adjourned the meeting at 11:25 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for March 27th at 9:00 AM.

---

Chairperson