



**PINELLAS SUNCOAST TRANSIT AUTHORITY**  
**3201 SCHERER DRIVE, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33716**  
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**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**JULY 31, 2019**

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Chairperson Janet Long called the July 31, 2019 Board meeting to order at 9:01 AM. Members present: Janet Long, Chairperson; Joe Barkley, Vice-Chairperson; Pat Gerard, Secretary/Treasurer; Richard Bennett, Vince Cocks, Gina Driscoll, Dave Eggers, Heather Gracy, and Keith Sabiel. Members absent: Dave Allbritton, Samantha Fenger, Charlie Justice, Darden Rice, Dan Saracki, and Josh Shulman. Also present: Brad Miller, CEO; Nikki Day, PSTA General Counsel; PSTA staff members, and members of the public.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Schwechel, Largo resident, spoke about his past experience as a rider on the Milwaukee transit system. He said he currently uses the bus to get to the Veteran's Administration (VA), the grocery store, and Largo Mall. He stated his concern regarding the elimination of Routes 59 and 18 from the Publix and Beall's in the Largo Mall saying that it would be inconvenient for those who cannot walk far.

Chairperson Long welcomed Pinellas Park's Vice-Mayor Sabiel to the PSTA Board. He will fill the remainder of Councilwoman Patricia Johnson's term which began on October 1, 2016 and ends on September 30, 2019.

**PRESENTATION**

Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) – James Bradford, Chief Operating Officer, spoke about the recent COMTO national conference in Tampa, which PSTA co-hosted. He also showed a short video about the event.

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

TRAC Update – Elisabeth Olden, Committee Chair, provided an update from the July 16th TRAC meeting.

Forward Pinellas Update – Mr. Eggers reported on the Forward Pinellas Board meeting that took place on July 10th.

Tampa Bay Area Regional Transit Authority (TBARTA) Update – Chairperson Long reported on the July 26th Board meeting.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Ms. Gerard made a motion, seconded by Mr. Barkley, to approve the Consent Agenda. The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda which included the approval of the June 26, 2019 Board meeting minutes; the printing services contracts; the internet, ethernet, and telecom contract; the diesel fuel and unleaded gasoline contract; and the Direct Connect program amendments.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

FY20 Truth in Millage (TRIM) Notice – Debbie Leous, Chief Financial Officer, said staff is asking for approval of the proposed millage rate of 0.7500 to be transmitted to the Property Appraiser. Ms. Leous indicated that it is estimated that maintaining the property tax rate at the current rate of 0.7500 will result in a \$3,881,050 increase in property tax revenues in FY 2020. Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cocks, to send the proposed millage rate of 0.7500 to the Property Appraiser. There were no public comments. Motion passed unanimously.

Premium Transit Vehicles Analysis – Abhishek Dayal, Director of Project Management, gave a presentation on the premium transit vehicle options for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project. He said staff is recommending 40-foot buses for this route. Questions were raised regarding bikes on buses, discussions with St. Pete Beach, the cost, use of existing buses versus purchasing new, fare collection, wheelchairs on buses, and type of bus (hybrid/electric, full electric, diesel). After Mr. Dayal and Mr. Miller addressed their questions, Ms. Gerard made a motion, seconded by Ms. Driscoll, to approve the use of 40-foot buses for the Central Avenue BRT route. There were no public comments. Motion passed (8:1), with Mr. Bennett dissenting.

October Service Changes – Bob Lasher, External Affairs Officer, spoke about the October service changes that will affect the Dunedin/Palm Harbor Connector, the Countryside/Oldsmar/Tampa Connector, and the Safety Harbor Connector. After Mr. Lasher answered a question about the length of time lost due to the current flex deviations, Ms. Driscoll made a motion, seconded by Ms. Gerard, to approve the service adjustment

recommendations. There were no public comments. Motion passed (7:2), with Mr. Cocks and Mr. Sabiel dissenting.

Financial Audits and Related Services – Ms. Leous indicated that staff is recommending approval of a contract amount increase of \$150,000 for Clifton, Larson, Allen LLP for financial audits and related services. She explained that the increase is for additional services performed over the years such as the auditing of the Procurement files prior to the Triennial Audit, telecom services and contracts review, and the paratransit assessment. Board members commented on the increase stating that they would like a cost benefits savings for the additional cost. Mr. Barkley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cocks, to approve the contract increase of \$150,000 for Clifton Larson Allen. There were no public comments. Motion passed (8:1), with Mr. Eggers dissenting.

## **REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Performance Updates – The information was included in the packet.

## **FUTURE MEETING SUBJECTS**

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

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Miller mentioned the electric vehicle display in St. Petersburg that Chairperson Long attended. He thanked Ms. Gracy and Mr. Cocks for participating in the mobile food pantry event held at PSTA on July 30th in partnership with Feeding Tampa Bay. Mr. Miller also mentioned that Heather Sobush, Director of Planning, has been selected for the Leadership American Public Transportation Association (APTA) program.

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Mr. Eggers commented on the Jolley Trolley contract and possibly expanding the route.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairperson Long adjourned the meeting at 10:49 AM. The next meeting is scheduled for August 28th at 9:00 AM.

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Chairperson