

MACON-BIBB COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF MEETING

June 24, 2014

The regular called meeting of the of the Board of Directors of the Macon-Bibb County Transit Authority was held at 5:30PM on June 24, 2014 in the fourth floor conference room at Terminal Station at 200 Cherry Street, Macon, Georgia. Those present were: Chairman Craig Ross, Vice-Chairman Chuck Howard, Morris Cohen, Secretary and Members Jamie Kaplan, Violet Poe and Nettie Thomas. Also present were Rick Jones, General Manager and CEO, Andy Stroud, Director of Marketing, Rene Williams, Grants Manager for the Authority and F. Bradford Wilson, Jr., counsel for the Authority. A proper Quorum was present.

The meeting was called to order by Craig Ross and a moment of silent prayer was observed. The Minutes of the May 27, 2014 meeting were approved following a motion by Morris Cohen and a second by Violet Poe.

The Chairman then recognized the guests who were present and provided them an opportunity to address the Board. David Scott stated that he enjoyed riding the bus with the Board members on Saturday and appreciated that opportunity. Carl Brown then offered his praise for MTA Supervisor, William Stewart and Dispatcher, Joann Lamb. He would like to see Mr. Stewart promoted to a Manager and Ms. Lamb promoted to a Supervisor. No comment was offered by Cedric Andrews and Jada Robinson arrived at a later time.

No financial report was presented in Ms. Slagle's absence, since she was on vacation. The report was deferred to next month's meeting.

The Chairman then recognized the General Manager for the Operations Report and General Manager's Report. Mr. Jones noted that the fixed routes are continuing to operate on a 90% on-time performance while ParaTransit maintains its 95-100% level. Mr. Jones recently attended the Knight Foundation National Conference in Chicago representing transit. Efforts are still underway in improving the Bird Route and there is continued support in Warner Robins. During the month of May we noticed a 1% increase in fixed route passengers over last year and 41% in ParaTransit. There were a total of 1,000 riders in May utilizing the GEICO route and a Park and Ride may be established in Warner Robins during July. An estimated 1,000 GEICO employees live in that area.

The Chairman then informed the Board that he had been contacted in connection with a possible gift of two tracts of land to the Authority for establishing Park and Ride stops. One is located in the Bass and Bowman Road area in Bibb County and the other location is in Houston County. After viewing the "Park at your own Risk" proposed sign that will be placed on the Park and Ride locations Mr. Howard requested that it be amended to add that MTA is not liable for the vehicles parked thereon and such was approved. The Chairman then noted the significant number of repairs that had been made to the air conditioning units on the buses during the month.

The Chairman next recognized the Chairs of each Committee who were present for their respective committee reports:

- (a) Personnel – Sheddric Clark Chairman: No report.
- (b) Para Transit – Violet Poe-Chairperson: Ms. Poe attended the ADA meeting and the Chairman thanked her for doing so.
- (c) Terminal Oversight-Chuck Howard, Chairman: Mr. Howard pointed out to the Board the notation on the third page of the Operations Report of the number of events in 2014 and stated that events are already booked through August 2015. He noted Mr. Stroud is doing a great job and we need to locate tenants for the empty office space in Terminal Station. The Chairman then added that he and Mr. Jones and counsel met with the Mayor and City attorneys a couple of weeks ago to discuss Terminal Station. A request was made for the City to investigate the lease agreement with the Driver's License Bureau and it was discovered that a lease exist which requires a one year notice prior to termination. The Authority will need to consider notification following the transfer of title. The facility contains an estimated 7500 square feet.

Counsel then informed the Board that a Resolution would be submitted to the Commissioners during their first meeting in July to consider the transfer of title.

The Executive Committee and General Manager are headed to Atlanta on Friday along with the Mayor and several commissioners for a tour of the transit oriented development projects of MARTA.

- (d) Audit-Morris Cohen, Chairman: No report.
- (e) External Relations-Nettie Thomas-Chairperson: No report.

- (f) Marketing – Jaime Kaplan, Chairperson: Ms. Kaplan stated that efforts are underway to promote the GEICO route from Warner Robins in a manner that makes the most sense to potential riders. Based on the round trip mileage and current price of gas an individual could save an estimated \$4,000.00 a year by riding the bus.

The next item on the agenda was New Business and the Chairman reported a meeting has been scheduled with the representatives of GDOT on July 2 at 11:00 a.m. The Executive Committee Members, General Manager, Andy Stroud, Rene Williams and counsel will attend to discuss the maintenance facility and budget.

The General Manager was then recognized for a report on the budget. Mr. Jones stated we have now regressed to the Mayor's first budget with \$2,434,000.00 being budgeted for the fixed route and \$317,000.00 to ParaTransit. We are within approximately \$3,000.00 of the total from last year but unfortunately \$530,000.00 was spent on ParaTransit. Based on the steadily increasing ridership \$615,000.00 had been requested for ParaTransit. Mr. Jones added that ongoing efforts are being made to try to get our staff a 3% raise across the board. Our drivers are the lowest paid in the state and receive \$2.00 less than other similar employees in Macon. Hopefully those amounts will improve in the final budget since the County government remains responsible to fund the difference. The budget will be re-visited in October and we may be able to provide a raise then. Mr. Cohen then asked if our drivers drive as many hours and if the other jobs considered are comparable that are being used to evaluate the rate of pay. Mr. Jones stated that the hours and duties are similar. Mr. Jones stated that our budget will match the City budget tomorrow. Mr. Howard then asked about MARTA and do their employees receive a cost of living raise. Mr. Jones stated yes they do.

Rene Williams was then recognized by the Chairman concerning the transit oriented development tour scheduled for June 27. She explained that each property is within walking distance of MARTA and designed for pedestrians. Those properties generate funds for transit and stated this will be a great opportunity for Macon if we can develop those as well. Those interested in attending will need to be at Terminal Station at 8:00 a.m.

The Chairman then stated the Inaugural Ride with Chairman was a success. Those participating consisted of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Secretary along with the General Manager, Ms. Poe, Dave Golder and Melvin Little. Some hats were distributed and numerous conversations held with our customers. Mr. Ross noted he did not hear one negative comment on

the Houston Avenue Route he rode, the General Manager did receive one voice of concern on the Macon Mall route. Ms. Poe also noted her comments were favorable on the Bellview route as well.

At 6:07p.m. Morris made the motion that the Board go into Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Violet Poe and approved.

At 6:26 p.m. Violet Poe seconded the motion of Morris Cohen to resume the Board meeting. The motion was approved.

The Chairman then called on the General Manager for additional budget comments. Mr. Jones stated that we have had an ongoing problem as to our budget with the State of Georgia and is still waiting for our contract to be approved which is effective July 1, 2014. He remarked that his previous email to GDOT emphasized how upset he was in not getting a contract which has been pending for over a year. It was finally received from GDOT today by Federal Express, will be signed and sent back tomorrow. We had previously had a one year cushion but are approximately \$400,000.00 short for the fiscal year ending June 30. It may be necessary for us to borrow funds from our line of credit to meet payroll.

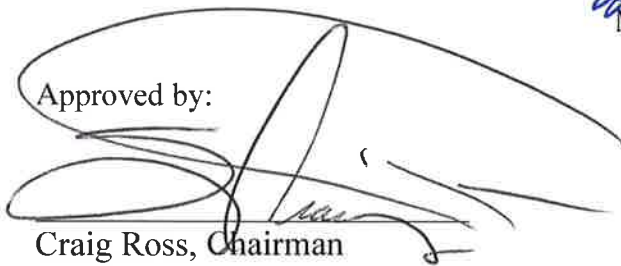
It now looks like we can get a contract on the Maintenance Facility and GDOT has agreed to consider supplemental funding for the months of April, May and June, 2014. In closing, the Chairman recognized Mr. Jones and stated his appreciation for the excellent job he did in the two presentations to the Commissioners in pleading our case for additional funding during the budget hearings. Our ParaTransit riders also spoke and a large audience was in attendance. It was a job well done.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Morris Cohen, Secretary

Approved by:

  
Craig Ross, Chairman