

MINUTES OF THE  
CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020  
4:00 PM – CATA BOARD ROOM  
4615 TRANTER STREET, LANSING, MI 48910

**PRESENT:** Nathan Triplett, Chair  
Douglas Lecato, Vice Chair  
Derek Melot  
Mark Grebner  
Jennie Gies  
Donna Rose  
Dion’trae Hayes  
Dan Opsommer

**ABSENT:** Dusty Fancher, Shanna Draheim and John Prush

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Nathan Triplett, Chair called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

**CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD AND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Correspondence to the Board**

Chair Triplett noted emails that were sent to the Board.

**Public Comments**

Deb Parrish thanked the Board for posting the minutes on the CATA website. She also commented on how nice the new shelters looked. Ms. Parrish inquired about the money being saved by operators having split shifts and the need for a new contract with the Union to be completed.

Fred Wurtzel, from the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) of Michigan, expressed his concern over Paratransit’s recorded message. Mr. Wurtzel stated that the message is confusing and would like a better system in place. He also commented on replacing the punch cards with a scan card and believes with better technology there will be more service opportunities and fewer errors.

Ody Norkin expressed his concern for riders especially people with disabilities having to wait outside during the winter months in Michigan. He complimented CATA on their ability to track buses yet believes there needs to be more communication with Paratransit and Spec-Tran. Paratransit and Spec-Tran riders would like to be notified within two minutes of their vehicle arriving, so they may avoid waiting outside in the cold for long periods of time.

Katie Kelley, President of ATU, Local 1039, was sorry to report that there will not be a completed contract by the end date of February 29, 2020. Ms. Kelley expressed her frustration with negotiations and management. She asked the Board to extend the bridge agreement for another 60 days in hopes of reaching an agreement.

Matt Howell inquired about the Grab and Go relaunch date.

**CHAIR’S COMMENTS:**

**MOTION:**

A motion to excuse Dusty Fancher, John Prush, and Shanna Draheim absence was made by Dion’trae Hayes and supported by Doug Lecato.

**VOTE:** The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Funkhouser reported that the Policy Committee work is ongoing and upon completion will be presented for Board approval. Next Policy Committee meeting will be held in April 2020.

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER’S REPORT**

**Community Report**

The 2019 Community Report is completed and is posted online. The report will also be delivered to CATA’s service region this coming weekend. On the cover is the new Target shelter located on Grand River Avenue in East Lansing. Inside the report are CATA’s 2019 successes and quotes from local residents, CATA staff and representatives from CATA’s community partners.

**Millage**

Millage vote is scheduled for March 10, 2020.

**State of the City**

On February 5, 2020, Mr. Funkhouser, Lolo Robison and Nathan Triplett attended the State of the City where Mayor Schor highlighted his CATA ride along to the new south side shelters. The Mayor, along with other community representatives, has stated interest in other possible locations. This is a great partnership where neighborhoods have gone to the city for grants and even agreed to maintain the new shelters.

**Census/Grab and GO**

Within a five (5) day span, CATA will unveil four (4) wrapped buses. On March 4, 2020, there will be two (2) buses displaying the 2020 Census and on March 9, 2020, CATA will relaunch two (2) Grab and Go buses. To help promote this event, the Old Town Association will be handing out giveaways and incentives to ride the bus.

**PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2020, BOARD MEETING
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 15, 2020, BOARD RETREAT MEETING
  
- C. APPROVAL OF TREASURER’S REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2019
  - 1. Interim Income Statement
  - 2. Cash Summary
  - 3. Investments
  - 4. Fifth Third Investment Account Reconciliation
  
- D. PUBLIC RELATIONS CONTRACT EXTENSION – MARTIN – WAYMIRE

**PROPOSED MOTION:** That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair, Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to approve the extension of CATA’s contract with Martin-Waymire through July 1, 2020, not to exceed \$49,500 for public relations services, on such terms and conditions as the Board Chair and the Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

Request to have Action Item D be removed for discussion.

**MOTION:**

Doug Lecato motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with Action Item D, PUBLIC RELATIONS CONTRACT EXTENSION – MARTIN – WAYMIRE, removed for discussion and Mark Grebner supported the motion.

**VOTE:** The Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda with Action Item D removed for discussion.

**DISCUSSION AGENDA**

- A. PUBLIC RELATIONS CONTRACT EXTENSION – MARTIN – WAYMIRE

**PROPOSED MOTION:** That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair, Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to approve the extension of CATA’s contract with Martin-Waymire through July 1, 2020, not to exceed \$49,500 for public relations services, on such terms and conditions as the Board Chair and the Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

**MOTION:**

Douglas Lecato motioned to approve the Discussion Agenda and Mark Grebner supported the motion.

**DISCUSSION:**

Dion'trae Hayes inquired about the contract being broken into two (2) parts and the reason for having two (2) Public Relations Consultant Firms.

Mr. Funkhouser explained that in order for Martin-Waymire to complete their Crisis Communication Plan, it was necessary to extend their contract for a second time. He also stated that when CATA issued a request for quote back in December of 2019, Martin-Waymire had declined to bid. Therefore, CATA awarded the contract to Serkaian Communications on a trial basis. Having two (2) consulting firms gives CATA the freedom to scope out work without being tied down to one firm.

**VOTE:** The motion carried unanimously except for Derek Melot who abstained.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Donna Rose informed the Board about the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) which allows seniors with disabilities to voice their opinions with CATA. Ms. Rose stated that many of the Paratransit and Spec-Tran riders would like to utilize the LAC more yet feel they are at a disadvantage with the minutes from the meeting being posted two months behind. Ms. Rose noted that it would benefit many of the riders to have the LAC minutes posted earlier and for riders to have a copy of a new rider guide in order to inform new Paratransit and Spec-Tran riders of CATA's rules and regulations.

Chair Triplett inquired about having the LAC minutes available earlier.

Mr. Funkhouser acknowledged Doug Lecato as the LAC representative to the Board and stated that both Federal and State laws mandate CATA's policies yet agrees having the minutes available earlier is a good idea.

Mark Grebner believes it is not a good idea to present a recap of another body (LAC) at the Board meetings however; getting information out as soon as possible is important.

Doug Lecato stated he is open to possibilities if LAC Chair, Deb Wiese and other LAC members can come up with a better format however; he doesn't believe having a full report is a good idea.

Doug Lecato requested a motion to approve his attendance and travel to two (2) APTA conferences.

**MOTION:**

Dion'trae Hayes motioned to approve Doug Lecato's attendance and travel to two (2) APTA conferences and Jennie Gies supported the motion.

**VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Fred Wurtzel appreciated Donna Rose’s comments. He also expressed his belief that having a representative from the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) would be beneficial to the LAC.

Ody Norkin expressed his belief that a representative from the NFB would enhance CATA’s communication between both communities.

Deb Parrish commented on being aware of safety issues aboard the new buses.

Doug Lecato requested more information on the Human Trafficking grant that was awarded to CATA.

Mr. Funkhouser reported that a lot of the information is coming from riders and let Lolo Robison give more details.

Lolo Robison elaborated on the Human Trafficking grant.

Donna Rose echoed Fred Wurtzel’s comments.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING UNION LABOR AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS**

**PROPOSED MOTION:** That this Board meeting go into closed session, pursuant to MCL 15.268(c), for a strategy session in connection with negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement with the Union, ATU, Division 1039, and that following such closed session, this Board meeting return to open session for completion of the Agenda.

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by Derek Melot and supported by Jennie Gies to approve going into closed session, pursuant to MCL 15.268(c), for a strategy session in connection with negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement with the Union, ATU, Division 1039, and that following such closed session, this Board meeting return to open session for completion of the Agenda.

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** The motion was supported by all except Dusty Fancher, John Prush, and Shanna Draheim who were absent.

The Executive Session began at 4:58 p.m. and adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There was no further business, Chair Triplett adjourned meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dusty Fancher  
Secretary/Treasurer

Tina Orlando  
Recording Secretary