

CAPITAL AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021
4:00 P.M. – 3131 E. MICHIGAN AVE., LANSING, MI 48912
(FORMER SEARS BUILDING)

PRESENT: Nathan Triplett, Chair
Shanna Draheim, Secretary/Treasurer
Dion'trae Hayes
Mark Grebner
Jack Schmitt
Doug Lecato
Robin Lewis

CALL TO ORDER:

Nathan Triplett, Chair called meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

ABSENT: Derek Melot and Phil Deschaine

LATE: Dusty Fancher, Vice Chair, Jennie Gies and John Prush

ROLL CALL: All present, Derek Melot and Phil Deschaine were absent.

Chair Triplett welcomed everyone back to meeting in person. He also mentioned that the meeting is being offered on Zoom for those who wish to view the Board meeting virtually.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CHAIR'S COMMENTS:

MOTION:

Robin Lewis motioned to excuse Derek Melot and Phil Deschaine and Doug Lecato supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

School Transportation

Bradley Funkhouser reported that the Lansing School District (LSD) students have had a smooth transition. He praised CATA's drivers, mechanics and administration for working alongside the school district to make this happen. CATA has implemented multiple safety nets to ensure students reach their destination safely and we will continue to assist as needed.

Bradley Funkhouser also stated that he received an email from East Lansing Public Schools (ELPS) requesting CATA's assistance. He expects ELPS has the same problem as LSD and he will meet with them tomorrow to find out more details.

Operator Shortage

Bradley Funkhouser stated that transit systems everywhere, both private and public, are suffering from a driver shortage. He noted that Indian Trails stated that they are no longer able to serve The Lodges at MSU. MSU has requested a meeting next week to see how CATA is able to assist.

Donated Bus

Bradley Funkhouser commended Andrew Brieschke, Deputy CEO on facilitating the donation of one (1) large bus to the City of Lansing Fire Department. The bus will be used by the department for fire safety training.

New Operator Class

Bradley Funkhouser reported that 24 new operators started training this past Monday. This is CATA's biggest class yet and another class of 20 will be starting training soon. Mr. Funkhouser also stated that he authorized Andrew Brieschke, Deputy CEO to send out a memo to continue with the hiring process.

Vaccines

Bradley Funkhouser reported that CATA met with the Union and legal counsel to discuss vaccine incentives, however; they were not able to come to an agreement before President Biden issued a vaccine mandate. Mr. Funkhouser stated that Michigan Occupational Safety & Health Administration (MIOSHA) will be issuing mandating protocols which CATA intends to follow.

Doug Lecato inquired on the number of students CATA has been able to help.

Bradley Funkhouser reported that the Lansing School District distributed approximately 225 bus passes to students.

Doug Lecato inquired about more negotiations between CATA and the Union now that vaccines have been mandated by President Biden.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that it is important that CATA first understand what is required from MIOSHA before moving forward.

Shanna Draheim commented on the great opportunity that CATA has been given by providing service to the Lansing School District. She expressed her hope that CATA will continue to explore these opportunities in order to expand service.

Robin Lewis echoed Ms. Draheim's remarks. She also inquired whether the new hires will be required to be vaccinated and what stage the new operators are at in their training process.

Bradley Funkhouser explained that the new operators are at approximately day 70 and must complete a 90-day probation period before they can become Union members. CATA has not yet mandated vaccines and is awaiting further instructions from MIOSHA.

Mark Grebner commented on transit agencies from other states and how they share services with private companies.

Robin Lewis shared a story about the driver shortage and how it has affected students getting to school in other states.

Bradley Funkhouser addressed the nationwide driver shortage and noted that in many areas ridership is down due to the driver shortage, therefore; transit agencies all over have not been able to put out full service. CATA has been fortunate in adding Route 18 which has about 100 rides per day. Mr. Funkhouser stated that CATA has received over 200 applications and is sharing them with Transdev, CATA's paratransit partner. He then acknowledged Nancy Lohr from Transdev who was in attendance.

Chair Triplett expressed his frustration over the vaccine issue and would like to see CATA react sooner rather than later in addressing vaccine requirements starting with the administrative staff. He requested that Mr. Funkhouser explain his comfort level and ability within the Authority to get the maximum number of employees vaccinated within the shortest amount of time.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that he is comfortable in presenting a vaccine mandate for administrative employees as early as tomorrow. He also noted that most agencies, businesses and employers will be going this route and believes this is the best direction for CATA as well. Mr. Funkhouser recognized that there will be some employees who will refuse the vaccine and may even resign. He also stated that in CATA's vaccine requirement package there will be exceptions for religious purposes and/or health related issues.

Dion'trae Hayes stated that she likes the idea that CATA is cooperating with other agencies. She also hopes that CATA is taking precautions with the LSD to ensure that students are staying safe while riding the bus and would like to see the students choosing to ride CATA rather than having to do so.

Dion'trae Hayes also expressed that she believes people should have the right to govern over their own bodies and prefers incentives for vaccines rather than a mandate.

Doug Lecato shared his personal experience with mandating the vaccine.

Robin Lewis inquired about those exempted from receiving the vaccine and options for those that refuse to take the vaccine.

Bradley Funkhouser explained that CATA will seek legal counsel on exemptions and

they will be reviewed case by case. He also stated that weekly testing may be offered as an alternative to getting the vaccine.

Robin Lewis inquired about the number of CATA employees that still need to be vaccinated.

Bradley Funkhouser replied that CATA has not been tracking its employees and therefore he does not know the number of employees that still need to be vaccinated.

Chair Triplett recommended that the Board move forward with first implementing a vaccine proposal for the administration staff and then ATU to follow once MIOSHA regulations are received.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Chair Triplet and supported by Shanna Draheim.

PROPOSED MOTION: That the Board direct our Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to put into effect a COVID-19 vaccination requirement for all CATA employees in alignment with forthcoming federal and state rules at the earliest practical opportunity.

DISCUSSION:

Chair Triplett stated that this policy gives Mr. Funkhouser the ability to go to the administration workforce first and implement a vaccine mandate for reasons of public health and from the direction of the Board.

Mark Grebner recommended that the motion be amended from using the word "direct".

Shanna Draheim suggested the motion be amended to state, "It is the wish or desire of the Board."

Chair Triplett stated that the motion should be amended to reflect the Board members' recommendations.

MOTION:

The motion was amended by Chair Triplet and supported by Shanna Draheim.

PROPOSED MOTION: It is the desire of the CATA Board of Directors that the Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, explore and put into effect a COVID-19 vaccination requirement for all CATA employees in alignment with forthcoming federal and state rules at the earliest practical opportunity.

DISCUSSION:

Robin Lewis inquired whether exemptions and weekly testing for those refusing to take the vaccine will be included once the mandate is implemented.

Chair Triplet explained that exemptions and weekly testing for those that refuse the vaccine will follow once MIOSHA releases their vaccination mandate policy.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS – PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 19, 2021, BOARD MEETING
- B. APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT FOR JULY 2021
 - 1. Interim Income Statement
 - 2. Cash Summary
 - 3. Investments
 - 4. Fifth Third Investment Account Reconciliation

- C. CATA BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE FOR FY 2021-2022

PROPOSED MOTION: That the proposed CATA Board Meeting Schedule for FY 2021-2022 be adopted as presented.

- D. EIGHTH AMENDMENT OF AGREEMENT WITH INGHAM COUNTY TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR CATA RURAL AND SPEC-TRAN SERVICES

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair, Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to execute Amendment No. 8 to the Agreement between County of Ingham and Capital Area Transportation Authority for October 1, 2021, through September 30, 2022, on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and the Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

- E. LEGAL COUNSEL RECOMMENDATION

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors approve the following law firms to represent CATA during FY 2021-2022: Bleakley, Cypher, Parent, Warren & Quinn, P.C.; George Brookover, P.C.; Dickinson Wright, P.L.L.C.; Murphy & Spagnuolo, P.C.; Miller Johnson Attorneys; and Barnes & Thornburg, L.L.P..

F. ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to execute an agreement with Maner Costerisan, Lansing, MI, to provide Sage Intacct software licensing and technical support in the amount of \$72,009 per year and one-time implementation services of \$101,998 on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

G. TRANSIT ADVERTISING SALES AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair, Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to execute a contract with Outfront Media Group LLC, for transit advertising sales and management services for a pilot period of one (1) year, plus the option to renew the contract for two (2) additional two-year extensions on such other terms as the Board Chair and the Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

H. PURCHASE OF HYBRID BATTERY REPLACEMENTS

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser to approve the purchase of three (3) Allison Hybrid electric bus battery storage units in the amount not to exceed a total purchase price of \$120,000 on such other terms and conditions as the Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

Mark Grebner and Robin Lewis disclosed that George Brookover, P.C. is their personal attorney, however; it does not have any relation to CATA.

Dion'trae Hayes requested that Action Item G be moved to discussion.

Dion'trae Hayes disclosed that she has worked with Outfront Media Group, LLC, however; it does not have any relation to CATA.

MOTION:

Robin Lewis motioned to approve the Consent Agenda with Action Item G, TRANSIT ADVERTISTNG SALES AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES moved to discussion and Doug Lecato supported the motion.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

DISSCUSSION AGENDA

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Triplett stated that Action Item G, TRANSIT ADVERTISTNG SALES AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES will be moved to New Business.

A. TRANSIT ADVERTISING SALES AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors authorizes Board Chair, Nathan Triplett, and Chief Executive Officer, Bradley T. Funkhouser, to execute a contract with Outfront Media Group LLC, for transit advertising sales and management services for a pilot period of one (1) year, plus the option to renew the contract for two (2) additional two-year extensions on such other terms as the Board Chair and the Chief Executive Officer deem necessary.

MOTION:

Dion'trae Hayes motioned to approve Discussion Item A, TRANSIT ADVERTISTNG SALES AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES and Dusty Fancher supported the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Dion'trae Hayes expressed her enthusiasm for CATA selecting Outfront Media Group, LLC and would like to know more details.

Bradley Funkhouser deferred to Lolo Robison, Director of Marketing and Customer Experience for more details.

Lolo Robison explained that there were three (3) firms that bid on the Request for Proposal (RFP) and Outfront Media Group's financial offer gave CATA the greatest minimum annual guarantee. Their bid along with 135 years of combined experience gave CATA the confidence to choose Outfront Media Group, LLC.

Dion'trae Hayes inquired about the projected revenue from Outfront and their strategy.

Lolo Robison explained that Outfront will use a combination of billboards and vehicle advertising. She also stated that although the COVID-19 pandemic has affected the market, the projected revenue is based on what Outfront can potentially achieve.

Mark Grebner inquired about Outfront being aware of the advertising challenges in MSU and East Lansing.

Lolo Robison replied that Outfront is aware of the challenges in East Lansing. She also confirmed that the restrictions in East Lansing are on fixed assets such as billboards and are not carried over to advertising on vehicles.

Robin Lewis inquired about whether Outfront is aware of CATA's advertising policy.

Bradley Funkhouser confirmed that they are aware of CATA's advertising policy and the pilot will be watched very closely for the next year.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

- ELECTION OF OFFICERS

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CATA Board of Directors approves the recommendation of the Nominating Committee and elects the following Board members to the offices set opposite their names, effective October 1, 2021, for a one (1) year term expiring September 30, 2022, pursuant to Board Policy #400, Section 1.03:

Nathan Triplett - Chairperson
Dusty Fancher - Vice Chairperson
Shanna Draheim - Secretary/Treasurer

MOTION:

A motion was made by Robin Lewis and supported by Jennie Gies to approve the recommendation from the Nominating Committee for the election of Executive Officers as follows: Nathan Triplett, Chair; Dusty Fancher, Vice Chair; and Shanna Draheim, Secretary/Treasurer for the Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

DISCUSSION:

Dion'trae Hayes complimented the officers on their leadership and expressed her support for another term.

Board members echoed Dion'trae's remarks.

Chair Triplett thanked the Nominating Committee for their service.

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dion'trae Hayes commented on the correspondence sent by Mr. Yanz and appreciated his suggestion on using reloadable bus passes.

Bradley Funkhouser stated that the new fare boxes will accept smart cards which can be used to reload funds. These new fare boxes will be installed into all the buses soon.

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 Jack Schmitt and supported by Robin Lewis 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 carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business Chair Triplett adjourned meeting at 5:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shanna Draheim
Secretary/Treasurer

Tina Orlando
Recording Secretary