

## **Minutes**

### **Greater Dayton RTA Board of Trustees Public Board Meeting**

June 4, 2024

Trustees: John A. Lumpkin, Jr., President  
Sharon D. White, Vice President  
Al Fullenkamp  
Sharon Hairston  
Belinda Matthews-Stenson  
Nikol M. Miller  
Grady L. Mullins  
Thomas Weckesser

Excused: David P. Williamson

Staff: Bob Ruzinsky, Chief Executive Officer  
Daron Brown, Chief Maintenance Officer  
Roland Caldwell, Chief Transportation Officer  
Cathy Garner, Senior Executive Administrative Assistant  
Benjamin A. Mazer, Coolidge Wall, Co. LPA  
Brandon Policicchio, Chief Customer and Business Development Officer  
Mary K. Stanforth, Chief Financial Officer  
Robert Stevens, Chief Labor Officer

Others: Interested citizens (see attached sheet)

### **Call Meeting to Order**

Mr. Lumpkin called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. A quorum was present and proper notice of the meeting had been given.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Lumpkin led attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken:

Mr. Fullenkamp	Yes	Mr. Mullins	Yes
Ms. Hairston	Yes	Mr. Weckesser	Yes
Mr. Lumpkin	Yes	Ms. White	Yes
Ms. Matthews-Stenson	Yes	Mr. Williamson	Excused
Ms. Miller	Yes		

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Mr. Lumpkin stated Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority (RTA) By-Laws require Board Trustees approval of today’s Board Meeting Agenda. The Agenda was mailed in advance, and Mr. Lumpkin asked if there are any changes to the Agenda? Upon hearing no requests or changes, Mr. Lumpkin DECLARED APPROVAL of today’s Board Meeting Agenda.

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 16, 2024 BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Lumpkin asked if anyone requests a reading of the minutes or are there corrections to the minutes?

Upon hearing no requests or changes, Mr. Lumpkin DECLARED APPROVAL of the April 16, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes.

**FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT (BELINDA MATTHEWS-STENSON)**

Ms. Matthews-Stenson stated the Finance/Personnel and Planning Committees held a meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup> and as a result, the Finance/Personnel Committee is recommending three (3) Action Items for the Board’s consideration.

**ACTION ITEM #2 – GATE AND FENCE REPLACEMENT**

Ms. Matthews-Stenson stated the purpose of this procurement is to select a contractor to partner with Greater Dayton RTA for the replacement of gates and fencing at the 600 Longworth Street location.

This project involves:

- The replacement of two (2) slide gates and gate operators at the Perry Street entrance and the Longworth Street exit.

- The replacement of two (2) additional gates in the Receiving area, one of which is a manual gate and one will have a gate operator.
- The removal of the existing fencing and installation of about 162 feet of new fencing.

This procurement supports our core value of Safety by improving our facilities and providing a secure work environment for RTA employees. This procurement also supports our core value of Stewardship by assuring the security of RTA property and assets.

MOTION MADE by Ms. Matthews-Stenson and SECONDED by Ms. Hairston to APPROVE a CONTRACT AWARD to Allied Fence Builders in the amount of \$386,300 plus a 15% contingency of \$57,945 for any unknown costs, totaling \$444,245 for the replacement of the gates and fencing at the 600 Longworth Street location.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Eight

Nays: None

### **ACTION ITEM #3 – LIFE INSURANCE**

Ms. Matthews-Stenson stated the purpose of this procurement is to obtain Life Insurance coverage for full-time non-union employees, full-time hourly employees represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), and full-time employees represented by the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU).

RTA will purchase term life insurance for all full-time employees, and employees have the option of purchasing additional coverage at their own expense.

This is in accordance with RTA's Core Value, Stewardship, where we manage our time, talent, and resources efficiently and responsibly.

MOTION MADE by Ms. Matthews-Stenson and SECONDED by Mr. Weckesser to APPROVE a CONTRACT AWARD to Hartford Life & Accident Insurance Company for a three (3) year period for Life

Insurance, with an estimated cost of \$128,391 per year for a total cost of \$385,172. Annualized estimates are based on the census at the time of the Request for Proposal release.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Eight

Nays: None

#### **ACTION ITEM #4 – LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE**

Ms. Matthews-Stenson stated the purpose of this procurement is to obtain coverage for Long Term Disability Insurance for full-time non-union employees, full-time hourly employees represented by AFSCME, and full-time employees represented by the ATU. This project is consistent with RTA’s Core Value, Stewardship, where we manage our time, talent, and resources efficiently and responsibly.

MOTION MADE by Ms. Matthews-Stenson and SECONDED by Mr. Weckesser to APPROVE a CONTRACT AWARD to Hartford Life & Accident Insurance Co. for a two (2) year period for Long Term Disability Insurance at an estimated annual cost of \$235,257, totaling \$470,514 plus an option year at an estimated annual cost of \$235,257 for a grand total of \$705,771.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Eight

Nays: None

#### Discussion Items to Mention

Ms. Matthews-Stenson stated the March 2024 Financial Report as well as Small Purchases Information has been included in today’s Board package.

#### **PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT (TOM WECKESSER)**

Mr. Weckesser stated the Finance/Personnel and Planning Committees met for a jointly held meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup>, and while we do not have any Action Items to bring forth, we do have important updates to share.

At the meeting, Mr. Brandon Policicchio provided a summary document of recent activities going on in the Customer and Business Development Department.

Mr. Policicchio shared that ridership showed no change in April when compared to 2023. He explained that the most recent service changes at the end of May included expanding services to meet the changing needs of RTA customers. Mr. Policicchio also shared feedback received at RTA's recent public hearings for proposed fare changes.

### **INVESTMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT – (AL FULLENKAMP)**

Mr. Fullenkamp stated the Investment Advisory Committee met on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> for an informative financial presentation from Eileen Stanic of Meeder Investments.

Meeder's presentation along with RTA's investment report is included in today's Board package. The Committee is not bringing forth action items today.

Regarding Sales Tax, Year-to-Date (YTD) December 2023 receipts equal \$48.85 million. In comparison, YTD December 2022 receipts equaled \$48.47 million. This represents an increase of \$385,000 or 0.79%. This is an area of concern as the increase did not keep up with inflation.

### **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Mr. Ruzinsky stated he hoped everyone was able to see the media that RTA has received over the past couple of weeks regarding RTA's Proudly Serving Bus Campaign. Staff just concluded its last bus to Huber Heights as the campaign has been very well received.

Mr. Ruzinsky mentioned that RTA has a nice online article from the Dayton Daily News on our hopes to start the West Connector this fall. Mr. Ruzinsky stated the story will be in print tomorrow morning.

Mr. Ruzinsky recently had the opportunity to meet with the Mayor of Monrovia, which is the Capital and largest city of Liberia, in West Africa. Mr. Ruzinsky provided him a tour of RTA's facility. Mr. Ruzinsky stated Monrovia is Dayton's Sister City. Mr. Ruzinsky further commented that

a representative of Monrovia toured the RTA about 22 years ago. Each visit has been very significant.

Mr. Ruzinsky stated RTA was excited to be a part of the big media announcement yesterday regarding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This major event is planned to occur next year. RTA has been at the table since its inception and will remain at the table throughout the event. RTA will play a significant role in providing transportation for and during this key event. Look for continued information as the time draws closer.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS ITEM #1 – CONTRACT ADDENDUM**

Mr. Lumpkin explained the performance evaluation of Mr. Robert E. Ruzinsky, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority, has been reviewed by the Board of Trustees. This review covered the three-year period of April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2024. During this period, Mr. Ruzinsky successfully led the agency through unique and challenging times, to the full satisfaction of the Board.

MOTION MADE by Mr. Lumpkin and SECONDED by Mr. Fullenkamp to AWARD Mr. Robert E. Ruzinsky, CEO, lump sum bonus payments, as per the contract addendum, in lieu of COLA/Merit wage increases for the past three years, as well as a general lump sum bonus award for his strong and steady leadership of the RTA over the contract period.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Eight

Nays: None

**NEW BUSINESS ITEM #2 – CONTINUED APPOINTMENT OF CEO**

Mr. Lumpkin presented Resolution No. 2024-6-1, Continued Appointment of Chief Executive Officer.

WHEREAS, the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority has been filled by Mr. Robert E. Ruzinsky since April 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, CEO Robert Ruzinsky has informed the Board of Trustees of the Greater Dayton RTA of his desire to continue in his position as CEO, and as an employee of the RTA; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has determined that it is in the best interests of the RTA to retain Robert E. Ruzinsky in the position of Chief Executive Officer,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Robert E. Ruzinsky will continue in his appointment as Chief Executive Officer at an annual salary of \$257,000, effective April 1, 2024. As an officer of the agency, Mr. Ruzinsky will serve at the pleasure of the Board under conditions and terms established by the attached Chief Executive Officer Employment Agreement.

BY ACTION OF the Board of Trustees of the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority, June 4, 2024.

MOTION MADE by Mr. Lumpkin and SECONDED by Ms. White to APPROVE Resolution No. 2024-6-1, Continued Employment of Chief Executive Officer.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Eight

Nays: None

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Lumpkin stated anyone wishing to address the Board must speak on their own behalf. After you are recognized to speak you must come to the lectern or if you're physically unable to do so a handheld microphone will be brought to you. You must first state your name and address, after doing so, at that point you have 3 minutes to make your comments. A yellow light will come on when you have 30 seconds remaining, and the Secretary will say 30 seconds.

When your three minutes are up, the red light will come on and the Secretary will say stop, and at that time you must stop talking and leave the lectern or surrender the microphone.

The following Citizens are requesting the reinstatement of the Senior EZ Ride Services.

- Ms. Sandra Smothers – 215 McDaniel Street, Apartment #201, Dayton, Ohio 45405.
- Ms. Lanetta Day – 1465 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402.
- Mr. E. Ray Cobia - 4746 Germantown Pike, Dayton, Ohio 45417. Mr. Cobia would like to see the end of RTA offering free rides.

Mr. Kevin Frazier, ATU Business Agent – 555 Recess Drive – Dayton, Ohio 45404. Mr. Frazier would like to see the FMLA policy be further reviewed by management to ensure all employees receive their compensation promptly.

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS - ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Miller congratulated Ms. Belinda Matthews-Stenson on her latest recognition as she received the 2024 Pillar Award from the Miami Valley Urban League.

Mr. Weckesser echoed Ms. Miller’s comments.

Ms. Matthews-Stenson thanked everyone for their kind words and acknowledgment of her receiving this honor. However, Ms. Matthews-Stenson especially wanted to thank the Miami Valley Urban League for nominating her.

Ms. White congratulated Mr. Bob Ruzinsky on navigating through such challenging times as COVID-19, providing safe and reliable transportation, and keeping RTA operations moving. This was not an easy task!

Ms. White stated to Mr. Policicchio that a developer has purchased the Salem Consumer Square Center in Trotwood, and Mr. Policicchio should make sure transit remains on his radar for this area.



Mr. Fullenkamp congratulated both Ms. Matthews-Stenson and Mr. Ruzinsky for their recent achievements.

Ms. Hairston thanked Mr. Ruzinsky for his continued appointment with RTA and reminded the audience that this is a voluntary Board of Trustees.

Mr. Mullins thanked Mr. Ruzinsky and the Staff for a job well done during those hard times during COVID-19.

Mr. Lumpkin also expressed his thanks and appreciation to both Ms. Matthews-Stenson and Mr. Ruzinsky on jobs well done.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION MADE by Mr. Fullenkamp and SECONDED by Ms. Hairston to ADJOURN the meeting.

MOTION CARRIED by voice vote.

Ayes: Eight                              Nays: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

## **ATTEST**

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John A. Lumpkin, Jr.  
President  
RTA Board of Trustees

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Mary K. Stanforth  
Secretary/Treasurer  
RTA Board of Trustees

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