



Jeremy Peterson, CEO

Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority
MINUTES
May 24, 2021

Board Members Present via ZOOM:

Dave Robinson, Chair
Jessica Molczan, Vice Chair
Julie Barry
George Willis
Tom Bly, Excused
Ashley Lawson
Lyn Twillie-Darby
Gyan Ghising
Ben Wilson

Staff:

Jeremy Peterson, CEO
Vicky Takach
Dani Duran 2801-2993
Joyce Butts
Erica Nowak 4205
Ed Torres
Terry Thomson
Chris Gerhart
Ed Torres

Attendance:

Kathy Schaaf
Emily Aloiz
Julie Minich
814-452-2801 EMTA
814-452-2801 EMTA
814-452-2801 EMTA
M.H.
deb
asurra
Mark Kuhar
040621 (Andre Horton)

IN ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM:

Attorney, Jill Nagy 8574

CALL TO ORDER:

Dave Robinson called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR MAY 24, 2021:

Dave Robinson called for the review and approval of the AGENDA for the MAY 24, 2021 meeting. George Willis made a motion to approve the AGENDA as printed. Ashley Lawson seconded. Carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR APRIL 26, 2021:

Dave Robinson called for the review and approval of the MINUTES from the APRIL 26, 2021 meeting. Jessica Molczan made a motion to approve the MINUTES as printed. Ashley Lawson seconded. Carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Public comments were submitted by the following.

— Dori Knobloch

— Julie Minich
— Patrick DiGuilo

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From: dorineknobloch
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 3:46 AM
To: EMTA Media
Subject: Please start returning old routes and later times

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear to whom it may concern,
Let me introduce myself, I'm Dori and I'm an electric wheelchair user. I rely on EMTA/LIFT transit, as I have no other means of transportation. I, understood, during the beginning of the pandemic, it was hard to keep all the routes active. But now, with things opening up again and people got to go to work, including those with disabilities need a full service from the EMTA/LIFT. I also realize the ridership went down which can be financial burden as well. However, many riders opt other means to get to their destination because using the bus was not an option anymore (for specific times/days). Many can have the luxury to call Uber/Lyft. But unfortunately, for the disabled with difficulties getting in vehicles, that's not an option yet for Erie county. So, with that in mind please reconsider adding back these services. I know many drivers who were also laid off. Many want to return and drive again. If you can at least take the time to reconsider doing this, it be greatly appreciated. Lastly, if possible please reply back so I know my email was read. Also, be free to include my concerns to the next EMTA Board meeting in May. Thanks again.

From an Emta/Lift rider,
Dori Knobloch

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-----Original Message-----
From: j m <smile_erie@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 21, 2021 10:36 AM
To: EMTA Media <emtamedia@ride-the-e.com>
Subject: Board Meeting - public comment questions - from Julie of All Aboard Erie

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear EMTA Staff and Board,

I have two questions:

- 1) Will masks still be mandatory on buses after May 31st?
- 2) What will happen to the North East route since Mercyhurst North East campus has been sold?

Thank you for your time,
Julie Minich
Assistant Executive Director

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Mr. Patrick DiGuilo called me (he does not have a computer nor smart phone) to voice his public comment to the EMTA board of directors. He is very upset with the LIFT drivers as his LIFT trips are constantly late. He also highlighted how there should not be a union if it permits the drivers to act the way they do. He asked that a board member call him. End of statement
Chris Gerhart, Chief Operating Officer

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CEO REPORT:

Jeremy Peterson reported the following issues and projects he has been involved with since the last Board Meeting.

- Received and answered a Public Comment from Deb Spilko via email.

- Answered Public Comment question from Julie Minich that Mercyhurst North East Route 16 will remain in effect.
- Welcomed and introduced Andy Surra, Local Match Consultant.
- Press Conference held on May 4th for the nine (9) new CNG busses. The arrival of eight (8) more busses is expected by mid-summer.
- The LIFT will be receiving 15 (fifteen) new busses in the next month or so.
- June 7th a new Operator bid will take effect on June 7th.
- Saturday service will be fully operational as it was pre-pandemic.
- There is still no Sunday service.
- June 14th Presque Isle Express will begin.
- Token Transit App update.
- Edinboro service returning this coming academic year.
- Ideas on how to bring laid off Drivers' back to work.

ANDY SURRA:

- Introduction and background.
- Consulting and assisting in getting Local Match funding for EMTA.
- Answered questions from the Board and public audience.
- Thanked by Dave Robinson for his work at EMTA.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Attorney, Jill Nagy reported the following issues and projects she has been involved with since the last Board Meeting.

- Report to be given in the Executive Committee session.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

No report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Vicky Takach shared the following updates.

- April financials provided in the Board packets.
- EMTA Fixed route balance sheet, cash is down from prior month. State funds on hold as we await Local Match funds. Continue to pay down bills on a monthly basis.
- Liability decreased from March to April
- Income statement, revenue received from Erie School District in the month of April in the amount of \$46,000.
- Expenses, are up from the prior month. There were three (3) payrolls in the month of April.
- Subsidy to help fund our shortfall YTD we are at 11.3 million.
- LIFT cash slightly up compared to the prior month.
- Accounts payable increased during the month of April due to funds owed back to the MA (Medical Assistance) Program from the prior year.
- Revenue very similar to last month.
- YTD deficit for LIFT is at 1.4 million.
- Intermodal total revenue 185,000.

- Intermodal operating expenses 191,000.

- Intermodal operating loss excluding depreciation YTD 5,600.

Ashley Lawson reported the following updates.

- Pension Review Subcommittee did meet and would like to make a recommendation regarding the Auditors of the Pension Plan. After an RFP was sent out, EMTA and the Pension Subcommittee have made the recommendation to have Maher Dussel continue on as our Auditors.
- EMTA and the Pension Auditing Committee have made the recommendation to have Maher Dussel continue on as our Auditors.
- Ashley Lawson made a motion to accept Vicky Takach and the Subcommittee's recommendation to hire Maher Dussel as our Auditors. George Willis seconded. All Board Members voted in favor of. Zero opposed. Motion carries.

Vicky Takach shared the following update.

- PNC Annual Line of Credit for 1.5 million is up for renewal. Resolution included in your Board packets.
- Ashley Lawson made a motion to move forward with that Line of Credit. Ben Wilson seconded. All Board Members voted in favor of. Zero opposed. Motion carries.
- Dave Robinson called for a motion to accept the April Financials as presented. Ashley Lawson made a motion to accept the Financials as presented by Vicky Takach. Lyn Twillie-Darby seconded. All Board Members voted in favor of. Zero opposed. Motion carries.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

Lyn Twillie-Darby reported the following update.

- Shared the flyer to hire Lift Driver's on various Social Media platforms that operate within the Minority Community.
- Shared on my own personal Facebook page as well as a platform called the Erie Black Wallstreet.
- Emailed the flyer to Pastor's within the Community.
- Recommended to Chris Gerhart to do a Job Fair.
- Diversity & Inclusion Training done by Jill Nagy and colleague Michael Knoll, Knoll Training and Consulting, on February 26, 2021.
- Recommends to start D & I training with Driver's.

MARKETING COMMITTEE:

Ben Wilson reported the following update.

- CNG bus roll out.
- Token Transit rollout.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

Jessica Molczan reported the following update.

- Fixed Route, April ridership 60948, March ridership 61485.
- Schedule changes effective June 12th to Rt.3, Rt 105, Rt 17, Rt 18, Rt 19, Rt 21, Rt 25, Rt 28, Rt 29, Rt 30, Rt 33, Rt 261. All changes are listed on the EMTA website.
- Shared ride Paratransit, changes to ECO Lane that will include interactive voice recording were customers will be able to receive reminder calls, update estimate time of arrivals for rides, ability to use credit cards, E-LIFT APP Scheduler gives customers ability to schedule, modify, or cancel their own rides on a smart phone App that is downloaded. E-LIFT APP Tracker will give customers ability to track their bus.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

George Willis gave the following update.

- Continue to meet with interested parties for the development of the TOD spaces.

NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE:

Jeremy Peterson gave the following update.

- CBA contract for FIXED route ratified.
- No word on LIFT contract.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Dave Robinson gave the following update.

— Board met and discussed Jeremy Peterson's contract renewal. Details in Executive Session.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

ADJOURNMENT:

Dave Robinson called for a motion to Adjourn. Ben Wilson made a motion to adjourn. Lyn Twillie-Darby seconded. Carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board held an Executive Session immediately following Adjournment.

The next meeting will be held **June 28, 2021** via ZOOM @ 4:00 p.m.