



Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority Minutes January 23, 2023

Attendance via zoom:

Board members

Ashley Lawson
Lyn Twillie Darby
George Willis
Shantell Hilliard
Ben Wilson
Jessica Molczan
Jill Nagy (solicitor)

EMTA Staff Present

Jeremy Peterson
Theresa Croll
Dave Robinson
Dani Duran
Vicky Takach
Sarah Morrison
Ed Torres
Becca Gathers

Guests

Jasmine Flores
Deb Spilko
Passle Helminski
Mary Lee
Sheila Woeger
Martin Halligan
Dylanna Grasinger

CALL TO ORDER:

Ashley Lawson, Chair, called the meeting to order. 402pm One change to agenda this evening. 3:39pm – local match resolution attached.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR January 23 2023:

Ashley Lawson called for the review and approval of the AGENDA for the January 23 2023, meeting. Dr. Wilson made a motion to approve the AGENDA as printed. Jessica Molczan seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR November 21, 2022:

Ashley Lawson called for the review and approval of the MINUTES from the December 12, 2022, meeting. Small updates to December 2022 meeting – meeting date was updated. George Willis made a motion to approve the MINUTES as amended. Dr. Wilson seconded. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jill Nagy: Amended articles of incorporation are now approved – officially approved with the state of PA. Extended for another 25 years. (Charter)

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Freda Trepfer: Checked 29th Schedule – the map online was not where the bus was traveling. Made call to customer service and took awhile to get person to take her seriously. Online map was updated/corrected. Bus 29 runs on 1-hour intervals. Bring public in on planning process. Concerned that the planning process is so long before public is brought in.

Sheila Woeger: Am frequent rider of bus and lift. A passenger needed to go to ER – the driver had to charge her \$20. Feels it is not fair. Asked for ride to city council meeting. Was charged \$20 for a one-way ride to meeting to council meeting. City of Erie is behind in how it schedules rides. Something needs to be done to assist seniors. – On bus and their appeared to be a young student that showed driver a bus pass, but driver refused to take it. Driver said he was new – but the young man had to exit the bus and was disappointed. It appeared that the student would miss school.

Mary Lee: Question: Frequent rider. What will be done to put ramp down for someone that has a spinal injury? Issue has not been addressed. Afraid she is going to fall again. Make it more affordable to get on the bus since driver won't put the ramp down. Am agitated about safety concern. (Jeremy: this will be discussed and EMTA will get back to her). Bus 32.

Passle Helminski: Reorganizing E&D committee. Getting people together in the next week or so.



CEO REPORT:

Jeremy:

- PennDot monthly calls. Objectives reviewed. PPTA roundtable tomorrow at 9am – All CEOS from around state – networking, discussing issues.
- Met with Senator Casey office Jan 6. Transit oriented funding – where Cares Act funding is. Two meetings with FTA and our EMTA Team. Things are moving forward in an expedited manner. Thank you to Senator and Mayor's office.
- IT interviews: interviewing candidates
- County Executive and EMTA had idea to resolve greyhound incident. Things are working out with the arrangement. Looking for permanent solution in near future.
- Welcome Dylanna Grasinger as new EMTA board member.
- Dave Robison – Theresa and I had a follow up call with Deborah with Vereen Group today. Reviewed next steps. She is sending us a template on follow up questions and planning process. Looking at implementation for training for rest of EMTA staff.
- Dave Robison – participated in Sisters of St Joseph's meeting. Will be representing EMTA in Edinboro at food summit.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Has not met. Next month – Dylanna Grasinger will be brought on officially after City Council approves.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Vicky Takach: Two months' worth of information to review: Reports were shared with board. December reports were reviewed. Lyn Twillie Darby moved to accept financial reports as presented. Shantel Hilliard seconded. Motion carried/passed.

Dani Duran: Consolidated capital application/items. Projects listed with costs. Funds to pay. Request an approval for this. Dr. Wilson moved to accept. George Willis seconded. Motion passed/carried as presented. Ashley will stop at EMTA to sign this week.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

Lyn Twillie-Darby: EMTA January 2023 hires: 3 new hires. Committee met on January 19 to develop a procedure to evaluate the CEO. Process will take some time to develop. Another meeting is scheduled for Feb 10. Will have something for board's consideration in due time.

MARKETING COMMITTEE:

Dr. Wilson: Committee met on January 18. Sarah has been working with a company to produce commercials. Looking to target different populations in community. Sarah is working with a company to upgrade audio/visual in EMTA board meeting. Surveys were sent out – both internal and external. Encourage everyone to participate. Create a baseline to help create strategic plans and benchmarks. Receiving good feedback. More will be shared with surveys close. Newsletter – releasing on a monthly basis. Let Sarah know if you are interested in receiving. Website – is very compliant with ADA as well as translating to other languages. Easy to navigate.



OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

Jess Molczan:

November numbers: Fixed route: 94,693 and 10,802 for LIFT of which 3,382 were ADA.

December numbers: Fixed route: 99,396 and 11,134 for LIFT of which 3,349 were ADA

Jeremy noted that for the year, ridership was over 1 million. Ridership is up. Great year.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

George Willis: Jeremy covered activity with federal funding and Senator Casey office. Things are moving forward.

NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE:

Jeremy: Received letter from ATU that they want to start negotiations as of today. LIFT contract expired Dec 31, 2022. Will get with union to discuss terms of contract. Hope to have a meeting scheduled within the next month.

CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT:

Nothing additional to share at this time. Thank everyone for all the accomplishments in 2022. Exciting time to be a part of EMTA.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Ashley Lawson called for a motion to adjourn. Dr. Wilson made a motion to adjourn. Lyn Twillie Darby seconded. Motion carries.

The next meeting will be **February 27, 2023**, via ZOOM @ 4:00 p.m.