



Jeremy Peterson
Chief Executive Officer

Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority
127 East 14th Street
Erie, Pennsylvania 16503

**Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority
August Board Meeting
August 28, 2023**

Attendance via zoom:

Board members

Ashley Lawson
Jessica Molczan
Lyn Twillie-Darby
(excused)
Ben Wilson
Shantel Hilliard
Dylanna Grasinger
George Willis
Jill Nagy (solicitor)

EMTA Staff Present

Jeremy Peterson
Ed Torres
Dani Duran

Becca Gathers
Sarah Morrison
Theresa Croll
Vicky Takach

Guests

Emily Aloiz
Jasmine Flores
Deb Spilko
Freda Tepfer
Passle Helminski
Sheila Woeger

CALL TO ORDER:

Ashley Lawson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 404pm.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR August 28, 2023:

Ashley Lawson called for the review and approval of the AGENDA for the August 28, 2023, meeting. George Willis made a motion to approve the AGENDA as presented. Shantel Hilliard seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR July 24, 2023:

Ashley Lawson called for the review and approval of the MINUTES. Jessica Molczan moved to approve minutes as presented. Ben Wilson seconded. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jill Nagy: None: none
Jeremy Peterson: none

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Freda Trepfer Legislative pending in the house – Allegheny County and Philadelphia area that they would have ability to levy sales tax. Would increase funding for operations possibly. Would like advocates to include Erie PA in the pending legislation.



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Sheila Woeger: An incident occurred on Aug 10. Doing errands and leaving town the next day. I exited bus on South Park Row in front of credit union. Was tired. Saw bus parked at Perry Square – asked if she could catch the bus up to 7th and French. Informed me that it was not a bus stop. As I'm walking, bus passes me. So I called EMTA and asked if that was a bus stop, person she talked to said where should could catch the bus. Was full of anxiety. I didn't get an answer to my question. After calling back, I was transferred to the employee line. Is a bus that is sitting there able to be boarded. That is my gripe for today.

Passle Helminski: Initiated Quality Assurance meeting. E&D meeting passed the motion. President/V President elected. Funding problem with PWD. Funds will be cut. Committee wants to reinstate Sunday Service.

CEO REPORT:

Jeremy Peterson: Addressed Sheila Woeger's complaint.

Thank you to Passle for her work.

Completed Triannual DBE public comment event. First hybrid meeting held in the conference room. Well attended in person and virtually. Once comment period closes, report will be submitted.

TOD is at 30% stage. Developing procurement for HVAC and electric needs.

Engaged Penn State to work with us on Climate action plan. Behrend has been doing this with other municipalities throughout the state. Great working relationship with Behrend. Dave will work directly with Penn State on this.

Inviting New World Energy to the next board meeting. Look ahead at gas market and what we can expect in the future.

1 year contract with EC3 is almost up. Reached out to renew it. Great relationship with EC3.

Grocery connector update: Pilot route in place to get citizens to Tops on 38th Street. We only had 5 riders. It was not well utilized so we terminated that route. But always looking for other opportunities to implement.

Annual SAFTI audit about 3 weeks ago. Full fledge audit. Score was 96%. These audits always have room for improvements. But our old scores were in the 40 and 50 in prior years. Last year was 92%. Thank you to all who contributed to the audit success.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Nothing to report.

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Has not met. But would like to have board get together for a board retreat. Would like to finalize the board portion of the strategic plan.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Vicky Takach – June and July preliminary financials were provided. Waiting on reports from actuary to complete entries (pension and post-retirement benefits). Audit is underway. Audit started August 14. They are on site this week as well. They will present the audit at the November board meeting. Preliminary reports were reviewed with the Board.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

Theresa Croll reported:

August – 5 new hires.

32 total interviews in August.

Recruiting events: July 28 and August 18 – Leadership Veteran’s Job Fairs

August 29 – PA CareerLink recruiting event.

7 pending new hires for September 2023.

MARKETING COMMITTEE:

Ben Wilson: Announcement about WIFI on buses – congratulations to team for rolling that out. Brings EMTA up to date.

WICU and WSEE have some spots that we have purchased to announce updates. Some route changes took effect August 26. Colleges are back in session, so routes were updated. Got the 2nd mid-day art break was well received. Participated in senior expo fairs – total of 3 for August.

PPTA Roadeo – Luke Wolfram placed 3rd in the Roadeo. Angie Kanj, Sarah Morrison, Theresa Croll, and Pat Harkins judged at the event. Summer 2024 Roadeo will be in Altoona. EMTA hopes to host the state wide event in 2025.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

Jess Molczan:

Fixed route 103,438 rides.

Schedule changes were effect on August 26.

Presque Isle route was discontinued – but numbers were as follows: June 173, July 192, and August 131.

LIFT rides 10,488 of which 3,102 were ADA funded.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

George Willis: Nothing new.

NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE:

Jeremy Peterson: Union and Management met on August 9. Made significant headway. Next meeting will be September 6. Tentatively agreed on a few



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things. Both LIFT and Fixed contracts are expired.

CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT:

Note of thanks to EMTA for the busy month. Everyone is doing an awesome job. Thank you.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Jeremy asked if the board should be discussing a nominating committee for upcoming meetings. Ashley will discuss and plan.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ashley Lawson called for a motion to adjourn. Ben Wilson made a motion to adjourn. George Willis seconded. Motion carries. Adjourned at 4:32pm.

The next meeting will be **September 25 2023**, via
ZOOM @ 4:00 p.m.