



Jeremy Peterson
Chief Executive Officer

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

**Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority
August Board Meeting
October 23, 2023**

Attendance via zoom:

Board members

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

EMTA Staff Present

Jeremy Peterson
Ed Torres
Dani Duran

Becca Gathers
Sarah Morrison
Theresa Lugo
Vicky Takach

Guests

Julie Minnich
Passle Helminski
Freda Tepfer

Deb Spilko

CALL TO ORDER:

Ashley Lawson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.
Lyn has been excused from meetings July – October 2023. She will be rejoining us in November 2023.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR October 23 2023:

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR September 25, 2023:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jill Nagy: None: none
Jeremy Peterson: none

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Passle Helminski – Pleased to announce bylaws were passed. Elected chair and co-chair for E&D committee.



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Freda Tepfer – Brought up several months ago, that there is HB1219 bill that would give Allegany county ability to increase sales tax to support transit. I would like EMTA to lobby for this bill. Would like some feedback from EMTA on this.

Asked about library and/or intermodal would have a fish tank.

Wonder what is happening with Sunday service?

What is happening with public input for planning process.

CEO REPORT:

1. DEI training update: Oct 15 and 22. 112 employees attended the training. Good turnout. Opened eyes conducted the training. A session was recorded for those that missed the live training. Great feedback from employees. Dave and Theresa will hold a de-briefing session with Opened Eyes later this week.
2. Transit oriented development TOD. RFP for construction will be prepared. RFP for 2 electrical boxes will be prepared. Need to put an RFP out for a construction manager.
3. Met Dr. Chris Gray with EC3. Initiated agreement with college for transit. 1 year agreement. Open to a 3-year agreement next year.
4. Appraisal was done at Intermodal to get value. Had appraisal done just in case there are any potential buyers that may make inquiry. Last appraisal was in 2018
5. Five (5) CNG buses arrived. Met with Sharper image for decals. Need to be outfitted with fareboxes. Will be on road in next 2-3 months.
6. Paratransit buses will be arriving January 2024.
7. Congratulate Dr. Ben Wilson for being re-appointed to EMTA board for another 5-year term.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Addressing Freda info. – HB1219 would obtain additional funds for transit. We will get more information out as we get it.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Has not yet formally yet. But plans are being made to discuss future plans. Dylanna and George have both volunteered to work on the nominating committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Vicky Takach – Copy of September financials. Still preliminary with an ongoing audit. Vicky reviewed assets and liabilities. Auditors will be at next month's meeting to present the report.



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PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

Oct Total Interviews: 29

Oct Hires: 4

In hiring Queue: 5 drivers pending pre-employment screenings.

Recruiting and Community Activity:

1. October 2, 2023 – PA CareerLink recruiting event – Sassafras St
2. October 20, 2023 – Veterans Leadership recruiting event.
3. October 24, 2023 – PA CareerLink recruiting event.

MARKETING COMMITTEE:

Dr. Wilson: We will not be using X platform (formerly Twitter). So EMTA will focus on Facebook which is the platform that our riders use. Working the 2nd month of commercials with WICU and WSEE. Media represents safe travel for the season change. Jeremy already touched on the buses. Participated in community event with Penn State Behrend – will be hosting them for the 814 event. Fall holiday trolley has been decorated for riders. Secured a date for the 6th annual stuff the bus – December 1 at Millcreek Mall to collect toys for the holidays. A LIFT tutorial is completed and online so that the public can see and understand.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

Jess Molczan:

Fixed route 132,088 rides.

LIFT rides 10,852 of which 3,312 were ADA funded.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

George Willis: Jeremy handled this in his CEO report.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Dylanna and George have agreed to co-chair the committee. Nominations are due the week before the November board meeting. Due approximately November 13.

Board appointments are all for 5 years now.

NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE:

Jeremy Peterson: After 6 months of negotiating, the ATU brought in their union International VP and indicated that they were not willing to negotiate. Jeremy received a call from a mediator and hopefully, ATU will agree to work with a mediator to come to an agreeable contract resolution. We are hoping that mediation will work.

CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT:

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing else to add.



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NEW BUSINESS: Nothing else to add.
2024 Board schedule will be developed and shared for
November/December meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ashley Lawson called for a motion to adjourn. Shantel Hilliard made a motion to adjourn. Dylanna Gransigner seconded. Motion carries. Adjourned at 4: 34 p.m.

The next meeting will be November 20, 2023 (due to Thanksgiving holiday), via ZOOM @ 4:00 p.m.