



Jeremy Peterson
Chief Executive Officer

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

**<https://forms.gle/BWnQ7LHzNtCQ4RoW8> Erie Metropolitan Transit Authority
August Board Meeting
December 18, 2023**

Attendance via zoom:

Board members

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

EMTA Staff Present

Jeremy Peterson
Ed Torres

Dani Duran
Becca Gathers
Sarah Morrison
Theresa Lugo
Dave Robinson

Guests

Deb Spilko
Passle Helminski

Freda Tepfer

CALL TO ORDER:

Ashley Lawson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA FOR December 18, 2023:

Ashley Lawson called for the review and approval of the AGENDA for the Dec 18, 2023 meeting. George Willis moved to approve the agenda as presented. Ben Wilson seconded. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR October 23, 2023 & November 20, 2023:

Ashley Lawson accepted a motion for the approval of these minutes from October 2023. Ben Wilson moved to approve the minutes from October 2023. George Willis seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ashley Lawson accepted a motion to the approval of the November 2023 minutes. Ben Wilson motioned to approve the motion. Lyn Twillie Darby seconded. Motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jill Nagy: none
Jeremy Peterson: none

PUBLIC COMMENTS:



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Freda Tepfer: Have not been able to tell from website that status of the LIFT system for the payment system. Would like an update on that. Encouraged board to have a board member that is an actual user of the public transit system.

Encouraged EMTA to address a Climate action plan and to involve the public.
Passle Helminski: Next Q&A meeting is this coming Thursday at 1230pm. Was on a state call that was supposed to be for consumer input, but the call did not really allow for comments. Call is supposed to be rescheduled.

CEO REPORT:

1. PA Senate passed Laughlin's funding bill. It's now in the house. Bizzaro is championing it in the house.
2. DEI will do a debriefing/analysis from the training at 7pm tonight. Created a DEI committee from the EMTA employees. The committee will make a big difference in the morale of the employees and company moving forward.
3. Electrical boxes will be delivered in 18-20 weeks. Construction management RFP is still open and will close on January 8. Proposal for the board will be at the January meeting.
4. RFP for electrical power study has been opened by Erie County/department of planning. Dave received the grant through the NPO. Will determine amount of power available and charging options in the future.
5. 6 new Fixed route buses delivered. 7 new LIFT route buses will be delivered in January 2024.
6. Stuff the Bus event: Huge success. Best year ever.
7. Wish the board and employees Happy holidays. Another outstanding year. Looking forward to 2024 and what it will bring.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

1. Echo Jeremy's update on Act 89 for PA legislation. This will be a great thing for transit.
2. More to come next month.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Has not yet as such. Nothing to report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Report was given to the board. Vicky indicated that she will go over numbers at the January meeting.

HRIS software proposals: Recommend ECCA for payroll software. George Willis made a motion for the approval of the new HRIS software system as recommended by EMTA. Ben Wilson seconded. Motion carried.

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PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

Vacancy need:

10 Fixed route drivers needed

20 LIFT route drivers needed.

December interviews: 25

4 candidates pending

2 new December hire

EMTA complement.

Fixed route: 82

LIFT route: 44

MARKETING COMMITTEE:

Ben Wilson: Stuff the Bus event was great. 40 boxes of toys. Thanked the community for their help and attendance. Promote education opportunities for older drivers with PennDot and YMCA. Doing multiple travel trainings with various charities and organizations. Erie Insurance employees are returning to work and all Erie Insurance employees can ride the E for free with their ID badge. Working on obtaining additional advertising opportunities. Working on survey opportunities to set measurable goals for 2024 and 2025. Board dates for 2024 have been sent to the paper and are now on the website.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:

Ed Torres reported:

Fixed route 116,462 October rides.

LIFT rides 10,740 of which 3,324 were ADA funded.

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

George Willis: RCAP funding was discussed. 4M for development of ancillary space on 14th Street. Value in pursuing that development. Continue reviewing steps needed and taking action as needed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

George Willis: Presented the nominations below. Voting will be by roll call. Opened the floor for additional nominations if anyone is interested. Hearing none – George turned it over to Jill Nagy
Role call was taken.

Chair: Ashley Lawson – Unanimously approved by role call vote of all board members present.

Vice-Chair: Ben Wilson & Jessica Molczan - Nominees

Vice-Chair – Ben Wilson was unanimously approved by role call vote of all

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board members present.

Congratulations to the new board chair, vice chair, and secretary/treasurer.

NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE:

Two expired contracts. Continue working with union for several months – specifically LIFT – the last 3 sessions, ATU brought in their international VP for the negotiations. Those meetings did not go so well. The labor attorney filed for labor mediation. Attorney called the union attorney (Joe Pass). Both attorneys are going into another round of negotiations until we hear from the mediator.

CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT:

Thanked all those that donated for Stuff the Bus.

Gallery night – the downtown trolley was great – decorated and light up.

Happy Holidays to all and I am grateful to work with EMTA.

OLD BUSINESS: Nothing else to add.

NEW BUSINESS: Nothing else to add.

Next meeting will be held January 22, 2024. The EMTA conference room may be open for the meeting as well. More details will be shared.

ADJOURNMENT:

Ashley Lawson adjourned the meeting at 454pm

Executive session was held at the request of Lyn Twillie Darby.

The next meeting will be **January 22, 2024**, via **ZOOM**
@ 4:00 p.m.