



MINUTES OF
REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

July 13, 2016

Present:	Commissioners:	Mitch Fuchs Andrea Kovacs Neil Lieberthal Tom Malloy Sharon McNeal Michael Mears Ginnie Preuss
	Staff:	Adrienne Belanger Steve Demichele James Gantt Tom Gorman Marvester Robinson Mustafa Salahuddin Jean Tucker Douglas Holcomb
	Public:	Steven MacDougall - ATU Pat Ginoni Karen Kennedy Beth Lazar Dawn Poirier - TransDev
	Absent:	Mark Anastasi Laurie Goodsell Andrew Ifill

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Answering to the roll call were Commissioners Fuchs, Kovacs, Lieberthal, Malloy, McNeal, Mears, and Preuss.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public Comment – Karen Kennedy addressed the Commissioners saying that GBT has many fine drivers, and that although she once had a car, she finds public transportation is easier than driving. She said that in the past drivers used to get breaks, but now they are driving longer distances and she would like to see time added to runs so that drivers would have breaks.

She ended her address saying that a bus stop on Washington Avenue had been moved. Planning & Service Development Manager Steve Demichele will investigate.

Steven MacDougall and Mustafa Salahuddin arrived at 6:34 p.m.

Pat Ginoni, a Passenger Ambassador Committee (PAC) member also addressed the Commissioners. She believes that staff has worked hard to make service changes as minimal as possible and that service reductions are a failure of the State and Federal governments to fund the growing need for public transportation.

Representatives of Area Organizations – There were no representatives of area organizations present.

Employee Comments – CEO Doug Holcomb recognized 3 employees that received Connecticut Association for Community Transportation Excellence in Transportation Awards. Mike Szprygel for developing expertise in procurement; Dave Pizzo, Safety and Training Manager for expanding his role in working with OSHA; and Jean Tucker, for 21 years of driving without a preventable accident.

Mr. Holcomb also recognized Larry Kendricks of TransDev who placed second at the Connecticut State Roadeo in the mini-bus category; Marvester Robinson who placed second in the 40' category; and James Gantt who placed 3rd in the 35' category.

MINUTES

Minutes of May 11, 2016 Regular Public Meeting – MOTION to adopt the Minutes of the May 11, 2016 Regular Public Meeting was made by Commissioner Fuchs and seconded by Commissioner Malloy. Voting in favor of the motion were Commissioners Fuchs, Kovacs, Malloy, Mears and McNeal. Commissioners Lieberthal and Preuss abstained. The motion passed unanimously.



REPORTS

Chair – The Chair did not make a report.

Director of Finance – Director Belanger reported that the annual inventory had been completed and auditors tested inventory items and grant invoices and found no issues during their initial on-site work for the annual audit.

CEO – CEO Holcomb reported that there was a 4.8% decrease in ridership versus the same month last year, and a .52% decrease year to date. He also mentioned that neighboring transit districts are experiencing ridership decreases.

OLD BUSINESS – No old business was conducted.

NEW BUSINESS

Consideration to Authorize Awarding a Contract for the Purchase of Replacement Buses – As forty buses in GBT's fleet have reached, or exceeded, the full lifecycle of twelve years, Chief Operating Officer Tom Gorman requested authorization to award a contract to New Flyer for the purchase of:

- 15 40' Diesel Xcelsiors
- 15 40' Diesel Hybrid Xcelsiors
- 5 35' Diesel Xcelsiors
- 5 35' Diesel Hybrid Xcelsiors

Mr. Gorman said that bus specifications had been developed with CTDOT personnel and the RFP includes 537 buses statewide. Three companies responded to the RFP and New Flyer was the selected vendor.

MOTION to authorize staff to award a contract to New Flyer for the purchase of up to 40 buses was made by Commissioner Lieberthal and seconded by Commissioner Kovacs. The motion passed unanimously.

Consideration of Public Comments Regarding Proposed Service Changes and Reductions – Planning and Service Development Manager Steve Demichele displayed a chart of routes that would be affected by service reductions. In each instance, the identified trips have low ridership and are either early morning or late evening trips.



Public outreach was well publicized via seat drops, on-board announcements; and articles in the Stratford Star and on News 12, three public meetings and one public hearing; a presentation to PAC members, an outreach table at the terminal and a meeting with Carlton Hospital staff. Some written comments were also received by staff.

The reduction in service total 18 hours during weekdays and by taking this action now staff hopes that more severe reductions may be avoided in the future.

MOTION to approve staff recommendations and to proceed with service changes in or about September 2016 was made by Commissioner Malloy and seconded by Commissioner Kovacs.

DISCUSSION OF THE MOTION: Steven MacDougall of the ATU asked and was granted permission to address the Commissioners. He said he did not realize that staff would be requesting procurement of fixed route buses and requesting authorization to approve service reductions and that this was a concern of the Union.

He said he wanted the Commissioners to know there are flexibility rules within grants for capital spending. Recognizing that GBT is carrying a budget deficit, he urged the Commissioners to use part of the grant obligated toward bus purchases for operating expenses in lieu of service cuts.

CEO Holcomb also addressed the Commissioners, noting that while there is flexibility within the federal capital program, the use of capital funding to pay for operating costs is not an option available to GBT at this time through the Connecticut statewide capital program.

ADOPTION OF THE MOTION: The Chair asked all those in favor of the motion to say aye. The motion passed unanimously.

Karen Kennedy left the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Consideration of NBU Pension Board Appointees – Mr. Holcomb requested appointment of Thomas Gorman, Chief Operating Officer; Dennis Dalton, Human Resource Assistant; and Adrienne Belanger, Chief Financial Officer to the NBU Pension Board and the GBT Retirement Plan Committee and to remove the current Trustees of both plans.



GBT is the Plan sponsor of both plans and GBT employees perform administrative and operations functions with respect to both plans. If appointed, the Committee will conduct a comprehensive review of all aspect of the plans.

MOTION to approve appointment of Thomas Gorman; Dennis Dalton; and Adrienne Belanger to the GBT NBU Pension Board and the GBT Retirement Plan Committee and to remove the current Trustees was made by Commissioner Mears and seconded by Commissioner Fuchs. The motion passed unanimously

Election of Officers – Clerk of the Board, Gerri Condon said staff had assisted the nominating committee and announced the following slate of candidates:

Mitch Fuchs, Chairman
Ginnie Preuss, Vice Chairman
Laurie Goodsell, Secretary
Mike Mears, Treasurer

MOTION to adopt and elect the Slate of Candidates as presented was made by Commissioners Lieberthal and seconded by Commissioner Kovacs. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn the Regular Public Meeting was made by Commissioner Fuchs and seconded by Commissioner Lieberthal. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerri Condon, Clerk of the Board
August 2, 2016

