



MINUTES of 12/17/2015 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

ATTENDANCE

Name

Representing

PRESENT

William Lehtola
Mark Binnall
John Ostrosky
Jacob Sanders
Robert Spain

Spencer
Auburn
Shrewsbury
Worcester
Millbury

ABSENT

Doug Belanger
Kelly Burke
Jarrett Conner
Alyssa Graveson
Leon Gaumond Jr.
Rudy Heller
Dennis Lipka
Nancy Lucier
Timothy McInerney
Kevin Mizikar
Daniel Morgado
Brian Palaia
Michael Pantos
David Schiller
Luz Vega
Michael Ward
Sharon Yager

Leicester
Northborough
Worcester
Douglas
Sturbridge
Brookfield
Holden
West Boylston
Grafton
Grafton
Shrewsbury
Oxford
Rutland
Charlton
Regional Ridership
Clinton
Shrewsbury

1. Chairman Lehtola called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

2. **Attendance**

3. Acceptance of Minutes

- Mr. Lehtola asked for a motion to accept the minutes for November 19, 2015.
- **Motion: I move the board accept the minutes of November 19, 2015.** Mr. Ostrosky made the motion and Mr. Binnall seconded. All voted in favor and the motion was accepted.
- Mr. Ostrosky left the board meeting at 9:40 a.m.

4. Business from the Public

Mr. Lehtola called for any business from the public and no one responded.

5. Business from the Board

Mr. Ostrosky asked if the recent rise in interest rates would affect the WRTA recently secured bond. Mr. Coyne stated the bond rate was locked in and the closing is scheduled for December 22, 2016.

Megan DeNubila from Worcester Division of Public Health briefed the board on the City of Worcester's ordinance regarding smoking. Enforcement of the ordinance is limited by personnel and budgeting. Ms. DeNubila explained that about 70% of people will use self-regulation in regards to the value on its benefits in general. Ms. DeNubila commented on the posting in bus shelters and the city's own efforts to announce the January 1, 2016 effective date for their ordinance. Board members acknowledged the necessity to be in compliance with the law and the city's smoking ordinance. Board members determined that signage would quote the appropriate Mass General Law. The WRTA administration will work with the City of Worcester on issues of signage and its precise wording. Mr. Binnall asked for signs in braille and large print to be made. Board members discussed the issues surrounding enforcement and agreed that security should adjust to accommodate.

6. Administrator Report

Transportation Reauthorization Bill

On December 4, 2015 a five-year transportation bill was signed by the President with the High Density States Program intact. The WRTA funding will remain for the length of the bill with slight increases every year.

M & O Facility

The entire building is due to be enclosed by mid-January 2016. Coal tar is being stockpiled and will need to be removed by Spring of 2016. Administration is still working towards the additional funding necessary. The WRTA attorneys are presently calculating the cost to be

submitted in the demand letter to Eversource. Eversource has not responded to the letter of notice regarding the MOR. Mr. Coyne will keep the board updated as the process continues.

Grove Street Sale status update

The proposing buyer showed no objection to the title of the property. Galaxy asked for an extension on their due diligence period, which has been granted until January 8, 2016. Galaxy communicated that they underestimated their demolition budget. Mr. Coyne informed the board there were no contradictions found with information the LSP provided to them. Mr. Coyne asked for further discussion regarding this matter. Mr. Spain suggested the board go into executive session after other business was concluded.

Proterra Bus status update

The estimated time for the replacement bus has been moved up to late May 2016.

Finance & Audit Committee status update

The finance & audit committee met to review the FY`15 Annual Audit Report and the First Quarter FY`16 financial results. Mr. Coyne explained the Triennial Review findings reported in the audit report and clarified that there was only “one finding required to be reported in the audit, however, there were more findings in the Triennial Review”. Mr. Coyne recommended additional staffing to meeting the increase in monitoring needed. Mr. Lehtola commented on increases in staff and no action was taken at this time. The revised budget would be ready for January 2016.

CTE Electric Bus Performance Update

Mr. Coyne introduced Stephen Clermont and Meredith Linscott from the Center for Transportation and the Environment. They presented the board with their KPI Electric Bus Deployment Project Presentation which is given semi-annually to the WRTA. The entire presentation can be viewed at the following link: [WRTA KPI Presentation Dec 2015](#).

The report outlines comparisons between our all-electric, hybrid-diesel, and diesel buses to determine efficiency and fuel savings. The data was compiled from September 2013 to September 2015. The WRTA’s use of all-electric buses has reduced 362 tons of CO₂ and reduced diesel gas use by 51,700 gallons over the period stated.

7. Executive Session - The board went out of open meeting at 9:41 a.m.

- In open session, the Board voted to meet in executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to the sale of real property at 287 Grove Street.
- **Motion: I move the Board meet in executive session for the purpose of discussing and considering the sale of real property at 287 Grove Street, as a discussion in open session would considerably be detrimental to the position of the WRTA, with the Board returning to open session and then to adjournment. A roll call vote was taken to allow the executive session meeting.**

- **Mr. Spain made the motion and Mr. Sanders seconded.** A roll call vote was taken to approve this action: 9:42 a.m.

Bob Spain	yes
Mark Binnall	yes
Jacob Sanders	yes
William Lehtola	yes

- The Board Members went into open session meeting at 9:58 a.m.

8. Adjournment

- Mr. Lehtola asked for a motion to adjourn.
- **Motion: I move the board adjourn. Mr. Spain motion to adjourn and Mr. Sanders seconded.** All voted in favor and the motion to adjourn was accepted. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next board meeting will be on January 21, 2016 at 8:30 a.m., located at the hub 60 Foster Street, Worcester, MA 01608 3rd floor.