



Worcester Regional Transit Authority

Moving Our Region Forward

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WRTA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
MAY 18, 2017
MINUTES

WRTA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Chairperson Lehtola called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Advisory Board Members present: Mark Binnall - Auburn, Rudy Heller – Brookfield, Kristen Las - Shrewsbury, Robert Spain - Millbury, William Lehtola - Spencer, Noted activity of board members: *Douglas Belanger - Leicester entered at 8:39 a.m., Jarrett Conner - Worcester entered at 8:44 a.m., Leon Gaumond - Sturbridge entered at 8:47a.m.*

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Chairperson Lehtola asked for a motion to accept the minutes for April 20, 2017. On motion by Robert Spain, seconded by Mark Binnall, and carried unanimously, the Advisory Board accepted the minutes of April 20, 2017.

BUSINESS FROM THE BOARD

Mr. Binnall suggested having four wheel drive options on future vans purchases. Mr. Coyne informed the board that vans awarded through State funds did not have a four wheel drive option. Robert Spain asked about a possible adjustment for Millbury services. Mr. Church informed the board that due to route timing issues regarding Millbury service any additional service adjustments could not be accommodated.

BUSINESS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Chairperson asked if there was any business from the public and no one responded.

Communities Served:

Auburn	Brimfield	Douglas	Grafton	Millbury	North	Paxton	Southbridge	Wales	West Boylston
Barre	Brookfield	Dudley	Holden	New Braintree	Brookfield	Princeton	Spencer	Warren	West
Berlin	Charlton	East	Holland	Northborough	Oakham	Rutland	Sturbridge	Webster	Brookfield
Boylston	Clinton	Brookfield	Leicester	Northbridge	Oxford	Shrewsbury	Sutton	Westborough	Worcester

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

FINANCE

a. Presentation of FY'18 Final Budget.

Mr. Coyne presented the final budget for overview by the board members. Board members discussed how projections for fares were taken into account. Mr. Lehtola asked what percentages the MBTA receives from the state-wide transportation funding. Mr. Church commented that the MBTA gets a larger portion of monies as well as dedicated funding through one-fifth (1/5) of the state sales tax revenue. Mr. Conner asked if MARTA was still advocating for increases in transit funding. Mr. Church explained how MARTA has worked with the legislator for increases in funding however final budgeting depends upon the legislative process. For FY'18 the Governor proposed eighty (\$80) million for its budget and for all the RTA's. The House proposed eighty-one (\$81) million. The Senate proposed eighty-three (\$83) from these figures, it is estimated that eighty-two (\$82) million will be the total funding for all the RTA's. Mr. Church also commented that Senator Gobi issued an amendment for eighty-six (\$86) million as was originally intended in the initial review for RTA transit funding in 2014.

Doug Belanger commented on the quality job done by the administration regarding all the budgeted considerations needed to level fund the WRTA in FY'18.

Chairperson Lehtola asked for a motion on the proposed FY'18 Final Budget.

Motion: The WRTA Advisory Board accepts the FY'18 Final Budget as presented by the Administration in the Amount of \$25,697,949.

On motion by Doug Belanger, seconded Mark Binnall, and carried unanimously, the Advisory Board approves the FY'18 Final Budget as presented.

OTHER

a. TSA Baseline Assessment for Security Enhancement (BASE) review-May 23, 2017

Mr. Church informed the board that a free baseline assessment regarding our company's security elements and protocol will be conducted by TSA. This baseline assessment is being offered to all the Massachusetts RTA's. Mr. Church stated the WRTA will benefit from any of the TSA's "Best Practices" recommendations.

b. AmbuBus at CRHSAC event at Central Mass EMS Corp. in Holden-May 23, 2017

Mr. Church explained that the AmbuBus would be showcased for Homeland Security staff at the CRHSAC event in Holden, MA. Mr. Lehtola asked if the age of the bus would be a factor in any future replacement. Mr. Church informed the board members that the maintenance status and operational nature of the bus is excellent for its purpose.

c. CMMPO Certification Review and Document update

Mr. Church explained that the MPO had its certification review this week by the Federal Highway and Transit Administrations. Mr. Church and Mr. Coyne were invited and the results were very positive. Mr. Church commended the efforts made by CMRPC regarding the MPO.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Lehtola asked for a motion to adjourn. On motion by Doug Belanger, seconded by Mark Binnall, and carried unanimously, the advisory board meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next WRTA Advisory Board Meeting will be on June 15, 2017 at 8:30 a.m., located at the WRTA Hub, 60 Foster Street, Worcester, MA 01608, 3rd floor.