

CENTRE AREA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Regular Board Meeting
Minutes

January 19, 2009
4:00 PM

SCHLOW CENTRE REGION LIBRARY
First Floor Meeting Room
211 S. Allen Street, State College, PA

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: John Spsychalski, Chairman
Joseph L. Davidson, Vice Chairman
Richard Kipp, Treasurer
Gary Powers
Kathryn Bittner

STAFF PRESENT: Hugh Mose, General Manager
Judi Minor, Director of Administration
Eric Bernier, Service Development Manager
Julie Hartley, Human Resource Manager
Mark Kutzer, Maintenance Manager
Jacqueline Sheader, Marketing Manager
Jennifer Floyd, Temporary Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT: Theresa Lafer, State College Borough Liaison

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Spsychalski called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

II. 2009 ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Chairman Spsychalski entertained the motion for nominations for the Election of Officers for 2009. Gary Powers nominated officers for 2009 as follows : John Spsychalski as Chairman, Joseph L. Davidson as Vice Chairman, Richard Kipp as Treasurer, Judith Minor as Assistant Treasurer and Hugh Mose as Secretary. Kathryn Bittner seconded the motion. Chairman Spsychalski entertained a motion to close the nominations. Kathryn Bittner motioned to close the nominations, and Gary Powers seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. *Approval of Minutes for November 24, 2008 Board Meeting*

Chairman Spsychalski entertained a motion to approve the November 24, 2008 Regular Board Meeting minutes. Joe Davidson moved to approve the minutes as distributed and Richard Kipp seconded. With no discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

B. Approval of Minutes for December 15, 2008 Work Session

Chairman Spychalski entertained a motion to approve the December 15, 2008 Work Session minutes. Richard Kipp moved, and Joe Davidson seconded the motion. Chairman Spychalski made note of a revision needed on page two of the minutes, in the second paragraph of Capital Planning. Chairman Spychalski clarified that he was referring to the 35-foot New Flyer buses that had not yet been rehabilitated in his statement. Joe Davidson noted that Julie Hartley had not been included on the list of those present, and that a revision was needed to include her. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

C. November & December 2008 Finance Reports

Chairman Spychalski entertained a motion to receive the Finance Reports. Gary Powers moved, and Joe Davidson seconded the motion.

Note: Theresa Lafer arrived at 4:20 p.m.

Judi Minor went over the November and December 2008 Finance Reports noting several items of interest. Hugh Mose gave an update on ridership. He noted that One Passes have nearly doubled from last month, and Ride for Five continues to run about 18 percent ahead of the figures from a year ago. Hugh mentioned that, overall, ridership is 27 percent above that of a year ago. He noted that there have been double digit ridership increases on almost every route, except the P and UT, and that is because of changes in the campus fare-free zone. Joe Davidson asked if ridership and enrollment continue to increase in the vanpool program. Hugh responded that we have 14 vans on the street, and that there are more groups interested in vanpooling once more vans are available. Hugh added that CATA is waiting on approval from PENNDOT for purchase of these vans. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

D. Policy Adoption and Review

Chairman Spychalski entertained the motion to approve the revised policies from the November 24 Board meeting, as well as the proposed revisions to the FMLA policy. Joe Davidson moved and Gary Powers seconded the motion. Julie Hartley explained the FMLA policy revisions in greater detail. With no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

E. Service Planning Update

Eric Bernier reminded the Board that detailed ridership information is available on the CATA website. Eric reviewed the matrix from the December Work Session and highlighted changes made since December. Kathryn Bittner asked why extending service into Halfmoon Township and Stormstown takes priority at this time. Eric responded that supervisors at Halfmoon Township have already set aside funds for the service. Eric went on to explain that Halfmoon Township is near the top of most requested destinations and that the route would best serve the north end of the region. Eric went on to comment on the costs involved. Agenda item was for discussion only, and no formal Board action was required.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Adoption of 2009 Meeting Dates and Location

The Board members agreed to hold a planning work session on December 15, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. at CATA's main office on Whitehall Road. The Board agreed, at Hugh Mose's suggestion, to cancel the December Board Meeting and instead hold it in conjunction with the January meeting. Chairman Spychalski entertained a motion to cancel the December Board Meeting scheduled on December 22, 2008. Joe Davidson moved and Kathryn Bittner seconded the motion. Joe

Davidson moved to hold the January Board Meeting on January 19th, 2009 and Gary Powers seconded. Both motions carried unanimously.

B. Pennsylvania Community Transportation Initiative (PCTI) Potential CATA Candidate Projects
Greg Kausch addressed the Board regarding a new funding program from PENNDOT for “Smart Transportation”. There is a timeline of two federal fiscal years to implement and use any funds awarded. Greg Kausch proposed three possible projects: 1) Planning for a Philipsburg park and ride lot, 2) Penns Valley commuter service operating funds, or 3) Phase II of the APTS. The Board agreed that all three possibilities are acceptable. No formal Board action was requested.

C. MOU for Transportation Planning Responsibilities
Greg Kausch reported that in the Federal Transit Administration’s Triennial Review conducted earlier this year it had been noted that CATA’s agreement with the Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) had lapsed and needed to be renewed. Greg referred the Board to a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that had been included in the agenda, and noted that it was patterned very closely after agreements in place in other small urban areas in Pennsylvania.

Chairman Spychalski entertained a motion to adopt the proposed MOU with the Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization. Gary Powers moved and Richard Kipp seconded. After brief discussion the motion passed unanimously.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. General Manager’s Report
Greg Kausch reported that the Old Fort Park and Ride meeting was very productive. The American Legion agreed with an extension of the lease for 20 years from the date that construction is completed. Eric Bernier mentioned the new electronic sign to be placed at Pattee Transit Center, as an extension of the APTS project. Eric encouraged Board members to stop by the CATA office to view the sign and give feedback on it. Julie Hartley reported that the Transportation Analyst position has been filled. The candidate, Ryan Harshbarger, will begin employment on December 22nd, 2008.

B. Service Development Report
Eric Bernier reported that Patton Township is conducting a study through Trans Associates to evaluate the safety of making left turns onto N. Atherton St. from Park Forest Avenue, and to determine if there should be a ban on making these turns. Eric noted that there is a site plan that would also impact that intersection, and that CATA had gone on record to say that it would be best if a ban on left turns did not take effect until the site was developed.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Spychalski called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Richard Kipp moved and Gary Powers seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 PM. After adjournment, Board members reconvened in Executive Session.