

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF: Regular Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 8:30 A.M.  
SORTA/ Metro  
602 Main Street  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Heidi Black, Blake Ethridge, Allen Freeman, Roderick Hinton, Thaddeus Hoffmeister, Kreg Keesee, Mary Miller, Gwen Robinson and Kathleen Wyenandt

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Maurice Brown, Brendon Cull, Robert Harris, and Peter McLinden

STAFF MEMBERS: Darryl Haley, Donna Adkins, Patrick Giblin, Adriene Hairston, Mark Huller, Michelle Jeng, Brandy Jones, Caprice Jones, Maria Jones, Matt Moorman, Cindy Resor, Shannel Satterfield and Khaled Shammout

OTHERS: Troy Miller (ATU), Jim Berns (Republicans for a Greater Cincinnati), and Nathan Alley (Sierra Club)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Keesee, SORTA Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**VISION AND MISSION**

SORTA's vision and mission statements were recited.

**HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS**

**Jim Berns:** Mr. Berns from the Republicans for a Greater Cincinnati expressed that he was again Issue 7- SORTA Sales Tax Levy. He also shared his displeasure with SORTA Board's discussion to go for a levy; he stated if Issue 7 passes it will become the biggest boondoggle in Cincinnati history.

**Troy Miller:** Mr. Miller from ATU, expressed his support for Issue 7 and thanked the SORTA Board and staff for their efforts in improving the system and agency moral.

**CHAIRMAN UPDATE**

Mr. Keesee provided brief updates.

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Ms. Miller made a motion that the minutes of the January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 meeting be approved as previously mailed and Mr. Ethridge seconded the motion. By voice vote, the Board approved the minutes.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Black reported the Finance Committee meeting that was held on February 11<sup>th</sup> and there no were actions items to present for Board approval.

**PLANNING AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Mr. Cull reported the Planning and Operations Committee meeting that was held on February 11<sup>th</sup> and there were action items to present for Board approval.

Ms. Miller moved for adoption and Ms. Black seconded the motion for approve of item(s) 2-3.

**Proposed Resolution No. 2020-03: Approval of Contract for Bus Bench and Shelter Advertising**

This resolution approves a ten (10) year revenue contract with Advertising Vehicles (Adspposure), for a five (5) one (1) year optional extensions, at a total economic impact projected at \$1,483,707, for transit advertising, procurement, installation and maintenance of shelters and benches,.

By roll call, the Board approved Resolution No. 2020-03.

**Proposed Resolution No. 2020-04: Approval to Purchase WiFi for Buses**

This resolution approves a three (3) year purchase order with Verizon Wireless, Inc. for WI-FI services on the current fleet and the addition of sixty-one (61) retrofitted buses, as well as forty (40) buses being delivered in 2020, at a total cost not to exceed \$381,615.

By roll call, the Board approved Resolution No. 2020-04.

**BRIEFING ITEMS**

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JANUARY 2020**

Ms. Jeng presented the January financial reports. Total revenues were \$8.6 million, which is favorable to budget by \$150,000. Total expenses were \$8.7 million, which is favorable to budget by \$150,000 or 1.7%. The final result was a net favorable variance of \$0 for the month. Fare revenue was favorable to budget by \$183,000. Ms. Jeng then reviewed the contributing factors to these variances.

The SORTA Board accepted the report as presented.

**METRO ON THE MOVE**

Mr. Haley deferred his report; stating information was available in the Board books.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO 2020-06: AUTHORIZATION FOR INDEPENDENT THIRD PARTY REVIEW OF SORTA'S FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND CONTROLS**

Ms. Miller moved for adoption and Mr. Freeman seconded the motion. This resolution authorizes that the following the passage of the levy in March 2020, at least once every five years, SORTA, in on-going partnership with the Transportation Business Coalition, will seek an independent third party review of its financial and operational management systems and controls to assess its stewardship of public funds, the efficiency of its current operations and the accuracy of its projected future operational and capital financial situation. This assessment will be funded by SORTA.

By roll call, the Board approved Resolution No. 2020-06.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Keesee made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session as provided in O.R.C. Executive Session: "Section 121.22(G)(4) Preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees..." and Mr. Hinton seconded the motion. By roll call vote the Board approved the motion and went into Executive Session at 8:51 A.M. Mr. Keesee made a motion that the Board return to regular session and Mr. Hinton seconded the motion. By voice vote the Board approved the motion and returned to regular session at 9:12 A.M.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO 2020-05: APPROVAL OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH ACCESS AND CARE CENTER EMPLOYEES**

Ms. Miller moved for adoption and Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. This resolution approves a new collective bargaining agreement for the period of January 1, 2020 through February 28, 2021 and authorizes and directs the CEO/General Manager/ Secretary-Treasurer or the CFO to execute the collective bargaining agreement between SORTA and the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 627.

By roll call, the Board approved Resolution No. 2020-06.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 A.M.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees is scheduled for **March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:00 P.M.**, the SORTA/Metro Board Room, 602 Main Street, Suite 1200, Cincinnati, Ohio.

APPROVED:

Handwritten signature of Kreg Keese in black ink, consisting of the letters 'K', 'W', and 'K' in a stylized, cursive font.

Kreg Keese  
Chair, SORTA Board

ATTESTED:

Handwritten signature of Darryl Haley in black ink, written in a cursive script.

Darryl Haley  
CEO/General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer