

Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit, Inc.

Meeting of the Board of Directors

June 23, 2022 | 4:00pm via Zoom

Attendees

Board Members: Bridgette Brady; Lisa Holmes; Dan Klein; Laura Lewis; Ducson Nguyen; Frank Proto; Gary Stewart; Denise Thompson

TCAT Staff: Susan Brock; Erik Amos; Taylor Hessler; Gian Fountain; Colleen Marsh; Curt Parish; Patty Poist; Megan Pulver; Phil Smith; Mike Smith; Matt Yarrow; Nate Wells; Pamela Torelli; Gina Lord; Michael Summa

Public Attendees: John Monkovic

Call to Order

Chair L. Lewis called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

Board Member Items

There were no Board Member items.

Public Comment

There was no public comment made.

Approval of minutes

The minutes from the May 26, 2022 meeting were moved by B. Brady, second by D. Nguyen. The minutes were approved unanimously 7-0-0. The minutes from the June 15, 2022 Special Board meeting will be discussed and voted on at the July 28 meeting, so the Board would have a better chance to read them before voting. G. Stewart asked about a media inquiry for the minutes. T. Hessler said she does not provide minutes to members of the public who request them until the Board approves them. G. Stewart said he does not want it to look like TCAT is hiding something. If it does look like that, it creates more work for staff. S. Brock noted that the media requested, and T. Hessler provided, the video of the meeting, so they have all of the information that is in the minutes. L. Lewis stated there is no effort to withhold information.

Chair's Report

L. Lewis delivered a brief Chair's report. The City team had met to discuss the Transportation Agreement and will share the City information with the other underwriters, who will plan another meeting (date not yet set) to discuss the Transportation Agreement. She said the goal would be to have a draft ready to present to the Common Council either in August (her preference) or September, to meet the October 9 expiration date of the current Transportation Agreement. The County Legislature will also need to vote on the Transportation Agreement. L. Holmes expressed a preference for the County Legislature to vote in early August, too. F. Proto asked if there were any details that could be shared with the Board. Chair Lewis responded that updates at the moment are not possible until she has clarification from each of the underwriters. She is on the City's team; S. Brock is representing TCAT in the meetings and discussions. F. Proto asked if the TCAT Board would be privy to any information before any decision is reached among the three underwriters. L. Lewis asked if he was asking if the Board will have the opportunity to weigh in on the Transportation Agreement. F. Proto said yes; some Board members were involved in the previous negotiations years ago and were able to shed some light on discussions that

would affect TCAT. The Board is “waiting in the wings” to find out what is being discussed and how that will affect TCAT. No one from TCAT is involved in these discussions, either. L. Lewis said S. Brock will be part of those discussions. L. Lewis will report back when she has greater certainty; she is not at the point where she has something to share with all of the underwriters. She is not able to answer his question and does not want to misrepresent or give an incorrect answer. B. Brady asks S. Brock if the TCAT Board votes on the Agreement, because she has said several times TCAT is a party to the Agreement. S. Brock said yes, the Board will have to vote on it, because it is a party and no one will be authorized to sign it on behalf of TCAT unless the Board approves it. B. Brady suggests a timeline be developed for when the Board will see what is being discussed. F. Proto wants to make sure the TCAT Board has an opportunity to be brought in at least to understand what may have been discussed and what the implications are to TCAT. L. Lewis said she hears that concern.

GM Report

Systems Report

M. Smith presented the GM report in S. Vanderpool’s absence. Spring period ridership slowly crept toward 2019 numbers; Summer service changes, such as the route 77 becoming a fixed route instead of On-Demand; Erinn Brainard has accepted the position of Payroll/HR assistant; the operator class from April had all passed their road tests and are out on the road in different capacities; a new class of operators started in early June; G. Lord has been out recruiting and modifying job descriptions based on the current needs of TCAT staff.

Action Items

There were no Action Items.

Discussion Items

B. Brady extended thanks to M. Smith and the TCAT staff for their support and transit during Commencement at Cornell.

F. Proto asked L. Lewis to report for the record on the status of the Cornell MOU even though the June 15 minutes had not been voted on in this meeting, L. Lewis noted that at the June 15 Special Board Meeting, the MOU for the Cornell Bus Pass Program was passed and extended through June 30, 2023. That will be reflected in the minutes. F. Proto said there may be some people attending this meeting who did not attend the Special Board Meeting, so it is good they know its status. F. Proto also commented that it had not been discussed as to when the negotiations should begin for the next MOU. Chair Lewis suggested that the past MOU team should get together and come back to a future meeting with a recommendation. Chair Lewis mentioned the Resolution passed 6-1, as there were 7 Board Members voting, which was a good representation of the Board.

Committee Reports

- **Executive Committee** – The Executive Committee met June 15, and discussed Electric Mobility Grant updates, Transportation Agreement update, A&E Project movement, Office space. It is expected TCAT will hear about the award update for the Electric Mobility Grant in the fall. M. Pulver is commended for spearheading the project. The Triennial Review is also still in progress as well.
- **Audit Committee** – The Audit Committee did not meet. The Audit is underway and the preliminary results have not found anything that “jumps off the page”. The 401K audit has also started. F. Proto reminded the Board that they should have received communication from the Auditors and to reply at their earliest convenience.

- **Budget Committee** – The Budget Committee met on June 21. B. Brady presented the Board with the monthly Budget report. She noted there is not much difference in the budget, but they are tracking fuel closely due to the ongoing increase in price. D. Klein asked for an idea of what the long-term projections would look like
- **Human Resource** – The Human Resource Committee did not meet in June. Recruiting for a number of positions continues.
- **Planning Committee** – The Planning Committee is still on hiatus.
- **Transit Service Committee** – The Transit Service Committee met June 22, and discussed fall service updates, Electric mobility update, and the situation with Fareboxes. The most pressing issue is the Farebox system, with 3G network being decommissioned July 1. Some short-term fixes may be possible, but it will ultimately be costly for a long-term solution for a sufficient system. D. Nguyen also brought up that the other solution would be to look further into the Fare-free option, which would require greater contributions from the Underwriters.

F. Proto also wanted to thank M. Yarrow and S. Vanderpool for their presentation at the County's Health Planning Council.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be July 28, 2022.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session needed.

Adjournment

Chair Lewis adjourned the meeting at 5:04 pm, motion by B. Brady, seconded by F. Proto.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Taylor Hessler, Recording Secretary, July 28, 2022.