

**METRO RTA
FINANCE & AUDIT
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
ROBERT K. PFAFF TRANSIT CENTER BOARDROOM
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021
11:30 AM**

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

Attendees: Nick Fernandez, David Prentice, Bob Konstand (virtual), Gary Spring, Vincent Rubino, Chuck Rector, Donald Christian, Robert DeJournett, Mark Derrig, Renee Greene, Dawn Distler, Angela Neeley, Molly Becker, Jarrod Hampshire, Bambi Miller, Shawn Metcalf, Valerie Shea, Jay Hunter, DeHavilland McCall

Mr. Nick Fernandez called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

ITEM 2: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY MEETING

Motion to approve minutes by Mr. Bob Konstand. Second by Mr. David Prentice.

ITEM 3: DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Angela Neeley

- Reviewed KPIs and Financials

Mr. Prentice inquired about the significant increase in life insurance costs. Ms. Angela Neeley said she will look into it and report back to Mr. Prentice. Mr. Prentice requested the addition of a column in the financial dashboard that shows the percentage difference between budget and actual figures.

- Ms. Neeley said the 2020 audit has been completed and the team is waiting to receive the final documents. As soon as the final documents are released, the Auditor of State will send them to all Board members.
- Mr. Fernandez asked Ms. Neeley to discuss Resolution 2021-15. Ms. Neeley explained this is an annual renewal request with Ecolane, METRO's demand response scheduling software. Due to the ongoing technology review, METRO is only requesting a one-year renewal instead of a multi-year contract with Ecolane. The results of the technology review can result in METRO signing a multi-year contract with future technology providers.

Nick Fernandez

- Mr. Fernandez discussed the need to monitor the future financial stability of METRO. As the Board and METRO continues to see rising expenses, Mr. Fernandez has requested that Ms. Distler provides the Committee with a periodic [quarterly] update regarding the financial feasibility of METRO going forward. Mr. Fernandez said the Board is committed to investing in transportation services as displayed in the strategic plan, but must keep in mind their obligations to their appointing authorities and taxpayers, to the METRO team, and the unions. Mr. Fernandez referred back to 2008 when Summit County taxpayers approved a 0.25% sales tax for METRO, and said the promises they made [to reinvest in the community] have not been fulfilled. Mr. Fernandez urged the Committee/the Board to take a hard look at why [the promises] have not been fulfilled. While the outcome of the Teamsters contract did not go as planned, Mr. Fernandez said the Board has approved the contract, it's in the past, and now [the Board] must address the TWU contract. Mr. Fernandez strongly expressed the need to look at the long-term view of METRO to make sure the organization is in good order.

Mr. Gary Spring commended Mr. Fernandez for taking this initiative. He also expressed his concerns about the sales tax passage, noting the result has allowed for more administrative staff and no additional routes and service. Mr. Spring was not criticizing the administrative staff as he recognized their efforts in analyzing scheduling and routing changes.

Mr. Robert DeJournett asked how Mr. Fernandez the financial updates from Ms. Distler. Mr. Fernandez said he and Ms. Distler are currently meeting bi-weekly and are discussing the most effective timeframe to address the full Board. Mr. Christian suggested Ms. Distler present the Board with quarterly updates. Mr. Fernandez concurred.

ITEM 4: RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Resolution 2021-15: Authorizing a one-year extension of the maintenance and support agreement through Ecolane USA. (Page 7)

ITEM 5: OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 6: EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Fernandez entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the employment and compensation of a public employee. Second by Mr. Spring.

Roll call was conducted. The Committee entered Executive Session at 11:43 a.m.

Motion to exit Executive Session by Mr. Mark Derrig. Second by Mr. Chuck Rector. The Committee exited Executive Session at 12:33 p.m. Roll call was conducted.

ITEM 7: CALL FOR ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 12:34 p.m.