

# Joint Board of Directors Special Called Meeting Minutes for March 31, 2021

## **Regular Meeting Minutes**

The Joint Board of Directors of the Denton County Transportation Authority convened the Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors with Chris Watts, Chair presiding on March 31, 2021 remotely using Zoom Meeting.

## Attendance

## **Voting Members**

Chris Watts, Chair Denton

Dianne Costa, Highland Village TJ Gilmore, Lewisville Jody Gonzales, Denton County Appointee Alternate Paul Cristina, Denton County Appointee Alternate

## **Non-Voting Members**

Dennie Franklin Connie White

## **NTMC Board**

Dean Ueckert, Chair Richard Hayes, Vice Chair Don Combs, Member Sara Hensley, Member Raymond Suarez, Member

## **Legal Counsel**

Joe Gorfida, NJDHS

## **DCTA Executive Staff**

Raymond Suarez, CEO

Kristina Holcomb, Deputy Chief Executive Office Marisa Perry, Chief Financial Officer/ Vice President of Finance

Nicole Recker, Vice President of Mobility Services and Administration

## **DCTA Staff Attendees**

Lindsey Baker, Director of Government Affairs Rose Jerome, Project Controls Coordinator Rusty Comer, Manager of Bus Administration Amanda Riddle, Senior Manager of Budget

#### **Public Attendees**

John Hendrickson Robert Garza Carla Swogger Claire Powell Brandi Bird Charlotte Wilcox Paula Richardson P. Stevens Kristin Green

CALL TO ORDER – Chair Watts called meeting to order and announced presence of quorum at 9:32 a.m.



## INVOCATION - Chair Watts led the invocation

PUBLIC COMMENT - Public comment read by Chair Watts from Jim Owens

## JOINT MEETING REGULAR AGENDA

- 1. Discussion regarding NTMC providing continued service to DCTA pursuant to the "Interlocal Agreement for Mobility Service Operations" and receive an update from DCTA regarding future mobility services.
  - Chair Watts lead the discussion and asked Joe Gorfida, Counsel for direction of ongoing future with NTMC if this needs to be public or closed session.
  - Joe Gorfida, Counsel indicated public.
  - Chair Ueckert asked Chair Watts if DCTA can give an update or have discussion in closed session.
  - Chair Watts said that Board is awaiting data from VIA to make final decision within next 2-3 months. We will keep NTMC posted and updated.
  - Raymond Suarez, CEO indicated that there are talks still with Trinity Metro and will likely be months before any type of negotiations.
  - Chair Watts asked what are we exactly negotiating with Trinity Metro and what are the issues.
  - Raymond Suarez, CEO-letter of intent; run service for majority of routes; post implementation of MaaS contract. 1 Turnkey ILA agreement to operate our buses. 2 Joint procurement of materials.
  - Chair Watts-what can we expect to come to basic turn sheet for boards.
  - Raymond Suarez, CEO-within next 90 days for both boards to get terms worked out. He also clarified the response from Trinity Metro could be months or even at the end of this year.
  - Chair Ueckert-to move item forward to get some type of resolution. He agreed
    that it could be up to a year before we make an affirmative decision and
    agreement on both boards.

## CONVENE EXECUTIVE SESSION

- The Board convened into executive session at 10:15 a.m. for the following:

As Authorized by Section 551.071(2) of the Texas Government Code, the Board of Directors Meeting may be Convened into Closed Executive Session for the Purpose of Seeking Confidential Legal Advice from the General Counsel on any Agenda Item Listed Herein or the Regular Board Meeting Agenda

## RECONVENE OPEN SESSION

The Board reconvened into open session at 10:48 a.m.



- 2. Discussion and receive an update from NTMC related to the collective bargaining process and the NTMC General Manager position and request direction from DCTA on matters impacting DCTA budget for funding to NTMC for Mobility Services.
  - Chair Watts passed opening to Chair Ueckert to give overview of Agenda Item #2.
  - Chair Ueckert indicated that they have had a 9 month contract with Hendrickson which expired as of 03/31/21. Hendrickson will present new proposal in order to keep continuity of bus contract with management. NTMC Board took offer to DCTA for funding explanations.
  - John Hendrickson indicated that RJ Garza has been reassigned to another project. As a result, Hendrickson would like to propose a General Manager and Assistant General Manager position for a one year term with buy out clause if terminated early.
  - Chair Ueckert indicated how well Hendrickson group has been doing. RJ Garza (GM) would be continuing this current role 65-75% of time in house and remotely 25%. Assistant GM would be on site after training, 100%.
  - Chair Watts what was the cost of the last contract with Hendrickson? Would like to get a bottom-line delta of new contract vs. old contract.
  - Marisa Perry, Treasurer NTMC indicated that it would be an additional \$16k but it can be accommodated with the NTMC budget not costing DCTA Board for the extra budget.
  - COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT TO NOW BE DISCUSSED
  - Chair Ueckert presented John Hendrickson for his presentation.
  - John Hendrickson indicated that negotiations were from March 23-25, 2021. On March 25 they were able to come to an agreement. Removal of all seasonal employees, now either Full-time or Part-time employees. Pay increases: FY21 3%, FY22 4%, FY23 3%. 401k 3% match for operators that participate. Holidays 1 floating holiday per year. Overall: \$270k average per year.
  - Chair Watts asked what is the delta?
  - Marisa Perry, Treasurer FY21 no additional budget amendment.
  - Joe Gorfida, Counsel explained Buy Out Clause 90 day notice in contract.
  - Chair Watts asked if DCTA Board needs to see final terms and costs before the final agreement.
  - Joe Gorfida, Counsel indicated not at this time. DCTA holds control since they have the funds.

ADJOURN DCTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AND CONTINUATION OF NTMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Chair Watts adjourned the DCTA Board at 12:12 p.m.



## **REGULAR AGENDA**

- 1. President to negotiate and execute the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1338.
  - Kristina Holcomb, President indicated that once we have a solid agreement with Union; Joe Gorfida, Chair Ueckert need to review before execution.
  - Chair Ueckert agreed and indicated that he would like to add in Vice Chair Hayes to help review.
  - A motion to approve Agenda #1 was made by Chair Ueckert. The motion was seconded by Board Member Hensley. All Board members voted yes. Motion passed unanimously by the Board with no abstentions.

{The Board did not convene into executive session.}

## FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND BOARD MEMBER REQUESTS

- Chair Ueckert indicated a need for a Special Session on April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Board Member Hensley asked specifically what this was for.
- Joe Gorfida, Counsel indicated this was for approval for General Manager and Assistant General Manager for NTMC.

## REPORT ON ITEMS OF COMMUNITY INTEREST

No questions were asked.

## **ADJOURN**

- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made Chair Ueckert. Board Member Hensley seconded the motion. Board meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.1

Chris Watts, Chair

**ATTEST** 

Sam Burke, Secretary