

**Stark Area Regional Transit Authority
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2008 @ 6:00PM
Gateway Board Room**

Chuck DeGraff called the meeting to order @ 6:00pm.

**Attendance
Board**

Chuck DeGraff (President), Nancy Johnson (Vice-President), Amanda Fletcher, Phyllis Beyers, James Reinhard, Jerry Bixler, Fred Moore, Chet Warren

Excused

Ron Macala

Staff

Charles Odingbe (Executive Director/CEO), Deborah Hill (Finance Manager), Linda Stutler (Customer Service Supervisor), Mark Finnicum (Director, Maintenance), James Warner (Planning & Community Outreach Manager), Carole Kuczynski (Director, Finance & Administration), Kelly Zachary (HR/Safety Manager), Tommy Williams (Transportation Manager), Kelly Huston (Transit Supervisor), Tammy Marie Chavers (Executive Assistant)

Legal Counsel

Robert Murphy

Other

Karl Lucas (SCATS)

Robert Wang (Canton Repository)

Approval of Minutes

Work Session ~ September 10, 2008

Mr. Bixler moved for the adoption of the minutes. Mr. Warren seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Meeting ~ September 24, 2008

Mr. Warren moved for the adoption of the minutes. Ms. Fletcher seconded the motion; motion passed unanimously.

Board Committee Reports

Finance ~James Reinhard

Board members received the 2009 proposed budget. It is anticipated to have the budget approved at the November Board meeting.

Personnel Committee ~ Phyllis Beyers

Mr. Odimgbe scored a 4.4 on his evaluation. The Personnel Committee will meet with Mr. Odimgbe to discuss his requested language changes to his contract.

Departmental Reports

- Transportation ~ Teresa Thompson (As submitted)
Maintenance will paint the poles in the garage in an effort to minimize preventable accidents with fixed objects.
- Maintenance ~ Mark Finnicum
- Finance ~ Carole Kuczynski
- HR/Safety ~ Kelly Zachary
A new class of seven drivers will start training on November 7, 2008
- Planning & Community Outreach ~ James Warner
The increase in complaints for the month of September was attributed to the Trapeze system going down for two days, as well as removing excessive bus signs.

Communications from the Director...

Ridership

Overall ridership is up by 9.32%.

Alliance

SARTA reached an agreement with Alliance Ventures to correct the entrance for the new Alliance Transit Center. We picked up \$3600 of the repairs just to be a participant in the correction. Operations at the new Alliance Center are scheduled for November 10, 2008 with the grand opening planned for the 21st.

Trapeze

For the first time since the Trapeze system has been installed, there were no problems for the entire day on any bus.

Budget 2009

Consistent with the Five Bold Steps, SARTA's 2009 budget is a revenue budget that is based on a very conservative projection of revenue for the upcoming year. Healthcare benefits are expected to increase 45-70%.

Fuel Prices

\$2.57 was the last fuel price bid. Staff will not exceed a threshold is \$2.69.

Belden Village Transit Program

Staff will actively pursue grant funding for a transit center in the Belden Village area. 25% of our ridership is credited to Jackson Township.

Bus Purchase

SARTA submitted an application through APTA for the purchase of replacement buses as part of the next stimulus package.

Resolutions***“Ohio Elderly & Disabled”***

Mr. Warren moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Bixler seconded the motion; resolution passed unanimously.

Internet Program Team

Ms. Beyers moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Warren seconded the motion; resolution passed unanimously.

Surplus Buses

Mr. Warren moved to adopt the resolution. Ms. Fletcher seconded the motion; resolution passed unanimously.

Rides To Vote

Mr. Warren moved to adopt the resolution. Mr. Bixler seconded the motion; resolution passed unanimously.

Employee of the Month

Karen Little was acknowledged as the Employee of the Month by the Board.

Adjournment

Mr. Warren motioned to adjourn the meeting @ 6:50pm. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion.

The Next Board Meeting Will Be On November 19, 2008 @ 6:00PM.