

**Stark Area Regional Transit Authority
Board Work Session Minutes
Wednesday, June 14, 2006
1600 Gateway Blvd. SE, Canton, OH**

CALL TO ORDER

SARTA's Board of Trustees' Vice-President, Nancy Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Nancy Johnson, Vice-President
Phyllis Beyers Gerald Bixler
Randy Bond Amanda Fletcher
William Rudner

Excused: Charles DeGraff, President Fred Moore
Chet Warren

Staff: Charles Odingbe, Executive Director/CEO
Jerry Shilling, Operations Director
Carol Kuczynski, Finance & Administration Director
Jack Thompson, Customer Service Manager
Jannet Friedman, EEO/Safety & Risk Administrator
Glenna Caruso, Project Manager
Kelly Zachary, Human Resource Administrator
Irene Howell, Executive Assistant

WORK SESSION

A. *Tour of Garage Area*

1. Mr. Odingbe announced that following the Work Session, the Board would be given a tour SARTA's newly renovated garage area.

B. *Wooster City Council Visit*

1. Mr. Odingbe reported on the following:
 - a. The Wooster City Council members (Mr. Ulbright and Ms. Cavin) visited SARTA to request help to start a new transit bus service in Wooster;
 - b. Wooster once had bus service, but their funding was cut.
 - c. Without promising anything, Mr. Odingbe told them that SARTA would give them all the assistance they would need. Discussion followed.
 - d. There were numerous questions regarding how we propose providing service to the City of Wooster given the huge capital investment requirement.

- e. Mr. Odimgbe provided the Board with two scenarios for accomplishing this task.
 - 1. The City of Wooster would procure service from SARTA and pay for the service based on SARTA's cost per hour plus a small overhead charge
 - 2. The City could pass their own levy to allow them to join with the Stark County service provider hence becoming a multi-county service with taxes from both Counties going to SARTA.
- f. The Wooster representative asked that SARTA staff make a presentation to stakeholders comprising of local politicians, businesses and citizens in Wooster supportive of this effort. Mr. Odimgbe informed them that he would need to speak to SARTA's Board prior to going to Wooster. Mr. Odimgbe noted it was a positive thing for SARTA and Stark County to develop other means of generating revenue for the agency. Wooster's base ridership when they provided transit service was over 25,000 a year.
- g. There were numerous questions regarding area of service, location of buses, and other technical issues that need to be explored prior to making a commitment.
- h. Mr. Odimgbe responded that a comprehensive study would need to be conducted before committing to anything.
- i. Regarding bus storage facilities, Mr. Odimgbe noted that the transit industry's standards for maximizing a bus storage facility location is approximately 250 buses in one location.
- j. There were other discussions regarding the benefits of this undertaking including public perception, capital funds, etc. The Board agreed to allow staff to proceed with conducting a feasibility study on the matter.

C. Evaluations

- 1. Evaluation information for 2006 salary adjustments was given to the Board for their information. A resolution will be presented at the next Board Meeting.

D. Trolley Project

- 1. Still working on the first trolley that was purchased.
- 2. Located two additional trolleys, which staff has inspected and they passed with flying colors.
- 3. Hope to have the trolleys here by 6/23/06.
- 4. Mr. Shilling shared information on the proposed trolley route for downtown Canton.

E. Board Meeting

1. Mr. Odingbe made note to the Board members that a video shoot of SARTA's Board in action will take place at the next Board meeting (6/28/06) for APTA's 2006 October Annual Meeting, as SARTA is the 2006 Outstanding Public Transportation System Award recipient.

F. Security Audit

1. The Board was informed of the scheduled security audit for June 19, 2006. Triumph Technologies, a consulting firm from Washington DC will be at SARTA to conduct a security audit. This will be a comparison audit with the consultant using national benchmark to assess how well SARTA is complying with the new FTA security requirements. We expect feedback and recommendations for improvements on our current security system. A final report will be issued and submitted to FTA to satisfy SARTA Triennial security review. It was noted that the agency could utilize up to 10 of our grant funds for security improvements.
2. The Board inquired if the security consultants were agents of the Home Land Security department. Mr. Odingbe stated they were private consultants. Further discussion followed.

G. Alliance Project

1. Ms. Caruso asked the Board to select a street number for the Alliance Transfer Center. The Board was given a choice of selecting a number between two and twelve. The Board selected the number ten. The address will be 10 Prospect Street.
2. There was discussion regarding the property belonging to Mr. Tucker, which SARTA was unable to acquire.

H. Other Business

1. The Board discussed the issue of cost for riding the downtown trolleys. It was left to staff to work out a palatable option without undue burden to the agency.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. and Board members proceeded on a tour of the maintenance facility.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 28, 2006, SARTA's Board of Trustee's Meeting at the Gateway Office, 1600 Gateway Blvd SE, Canton, first floor Board Room.