

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Monday, November 9, 2015

Pursuant to notice given to *The Register-Guard* for publication on November 5, 2015, and distributed to persons on the mailing list of the District, the Board of Directors of the Lane Transit District held a special board meeting on Monday, November 9, 2015, beginning at 5:30 p.m., at the LTD Board Room, 3500 E. 17th Avenue, Eugene, Oregon.

Present: Gary Wildish, President  
Carl Yeh, Vice President  
Julie Grossman, Secretary  
Gary Gillespie  
Don Nordin  
Angelynn Pierce  
Ron Kilcoyne, General Manager  
Jeanne Schapper, Clerk of the Board  
Lynn Taylor, Minutes Recorder

Absent: Ed Necker, Treasurer

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:** Mr. Wildish convened the meeting and called the roll.

**PRELIMINARY REMARKS BY BOARD PRESIDENT:** Mr. Wildish announced that this was Mr. Kilcoyne's last meeting, and he thanked Mr. Kilcoyne for his service to the District. He said there would be a farewell with refreshments following the meeting. He welcomed Mr. Kilcoyne's wife, Francine, as a special guest.

**COMMENTS FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER:** Mr. Kilcoyne said that the Sierra Club had secured 1,000 signatures in favor of LTD's purchase of electric vehicles, and he thanked the group for its support. He said a special workshop on climate change was scheduled for the evening of November 10, 2015, at the University of Oregon Law School.

Mr. Kilcoyne acknowledged LTD staff for being hard-working, dedicated, and focused on the good of the organization. He said that many things had been accomplished during his years with the District, including the start of construction on the West Eugene EmX Extension, good labor relations, and a positive fiscal outlook. He said those things could not have been accomplished without the work of all staff members and support of Board members, past and present. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to be a part of LTD over the past four years. He also thanked his wife, Francine, and their children for their support over the years.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None.

**BOARD CALENDARS:** Mr. Kilcoyne reviewed the coming Board meetings and other scheduled events.

**UPDATE ON 101 GREEN LANE VETERANS' HOUSING PROJECT:** Planning and Development Manager Tom Schwetz said that in July 2015, the Board had concurred with Mr. Kilcoyne's recommendation to donate a residential parcel that it had acquired to St. Vincent de Paul's Veteran's Housing Project (VHP). The parcel was included at no additional cost in the District's acquisition of property on River Road and was not needed for LTD's operational purposes or for the development of the main piece of property. Mr. Schwetz showed a series of slides to illustrate the repairs being done on the house and the large number of volunteers who participated. He recognized guests Terry McDonald of St. Vincent de Paul, Roger Gray of Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB), and John Brown of Evans, Elder, and Brown for their contributions.

Mr. McDonald said that while St. Vincent de Paul was the project steward, this was really a project that provided an opportunity for the community to support veterans. He commended Mr. Schwetz and Mr. Kilcoyne for recognizing a unique opportunity for the District to assist the community with veterans' housing, and Mr. McDonald submitted a letter from the VHP Steering Committee thanking LTD for its generous donation. He also recognized the creative thinking of John Brown, without whom the project would not have happened.

Mr. Gray thanked LTD for the property donation and John Brown for working with the District to make the transaction happen. He said that seeing the community come together on the project was a powerful experience, and he recognized the efforts of LTD's Sonny Melhorn, the lead worker on the site.

Mr. Brown explained that he was retained by LTD to acquire the River Road property. He described the negotiation history and said that eventually the residential parcel was included in the transaction at no net cost to the District. He thanked LTD staff and the Board for their willingness to move forward with the acquisition and donation.

Mr. Wildish urged Board members to visit the project site.

**EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH — DECEMBER 2015:** The Board recognized Human Relations Administrative Secretary Mackenzie Cowan as the December Employee of the Month. Mr. Wildish presented Ms. Cowan with her award and thanked her for her outstanding service and dedication to LTD's mission. Ms. Cowan thanked the Board for her award and said that she was happy to be a part of the Human Relations team.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** Mr. Wildish explained the procedures for offering comments to the Board.

**Fayetta Swival**, stated that the new wheelchair ramp design for buses resulted in a very steep slope if the vehicle did not get close enough to the curb. She said that she had almost overturned twice when going down the ramps and had heard similar complaints from other wheelchair users who rode the bus, as well as some bus operators. She expressed concern that the No. 12 and No. 19 buses had been taken away, leaving the No. 17 as the only way to get to Pioneer Parkway. That required her to take the No. 17 to the station, and then catch

the EmX and backtrack to the Q Street stop on Pioneer Parkway. She said there were very few stops past the Fred Meyer store. She stated that she hoped those problems could be remedied.

**ITEMS FOR ACTION AT THIS MEETING:**

**MOTION Consent Calendar:** Ms. Pierce moved adoption of the following resolution: LTD Resolution No. 2015-045: It is hereby resolved that the Consent Calendar for November 9, 2015, is approved as presented. Mr. Gillespie provided the second. The Consent Calendar consisted of the Minutes of the September 16, 2015, Regular Board Meeting; Minutes of the September 28, 2015, Joint Eugene City Council/LTD Board Work Session; Minutes of the September 30, 2015, Special Board Meeting/Executive Session; Approval of LTD Registered Agent; and Acceptance of Resignation as Trustee of Amalgamated Transit Union, Local No. 757 Restated Retirement Plan and Lane Transit District Salaried Employees' Retirement Plan.

**VOTE** The resolution was approved as follows:  
AYES: Gillespie, Grossman, Nordin, Pierce, Wildish, Yeh (6)  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None  
EXCUSED: Necker (1)

**Insurance Best Practices Checklist:** Human Relations Claims Specialist Steve Rayack said that staff were working on the District's 2016 renewal of its liability insurance. He said LTD was part of the Special District's risk pool, and Board approval of the Best Practices Checklist would result in LTD receiving the final 2 percent of a total 10 percent premium discount. He said that LTD was able to respond in the affirmative to all items on the checklist, and he asked the Board to certify that it had reviewed and approved all answers. The total estimated premium discount will be \$14,000.

Ms. Grossman asked who was designated to coordinate all public records requests. Ms. Schapper responded that she was responsible for that function.

**MOTION** Mr. Yeh moved that the Board adopt LTD Resolution No. 2015-046: It is hereby resolved that the 2016 Best Practices Checklist is approved as presented at this meeting. Mr. Nordin provided the second.

**VOTE** The resolution was adopted as follows:  
AYES: Gillespie, Grossman, Nordin, Pierce, Wildish, Yeh (6)  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None  
EXCUSED: Necker (1)

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AT THIS MEETING:**

**Board Member Reports:** Mr. Nordin reported that the Lane Area Commission on Transportation reviewed pre-proposal presentations for Surface Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding, ranked the proposals and provided feedback to potential applicants.

He said that the LTD Franklin Boulevard proposal was not ranked highly because it involved property acquisition.

Ms. Pierce reported on a meeting of the Main Street Projects Governance Team. She said that Springfield Mayor Christine Lundberg was interested in pursuing further study of the Main Street-McVay project. Ms. Pierce said that she hoped to report at the next meeting that progress was being made. Mr. Kilcoyne added that staff were still following up on the matter, and the primary issue was finding funding for an expanded scope of work.

**American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Conference Take-aways:** Mr. Wildish invited feedback from Board members who had attended the recent APTA Annual conference in San Francisco.

Mr. Nordin said that he was impressed by what was happening in transit across the country, but he was frustrated with the lack of congressional action on transportation funding. He said that he was excited to see the innovations in transit and use of new technology, and he was inspired by the fact that LTD was a leader in many areas and unsurpassed in providing transportation services to the community.

Mr. Yeh commented that the Missoula, Montana transit system had gone fare free as a pilot project. He said that he found the demography session very interesting; the information provided supported the trends that LTD was seeing in its system. He added that he felt that LTD was poised to continuously improve service to populations in need of transportation services.

Ms. Pierce concurred that the demographer's presentation was fascinating, particularly the information about shifts in populations and transportation needs over the past 20 years. She said that she appreciated the exposure to a multi-mode transportation system in a very large metropolitan area that virtually eliminated the need for a car. She added that it would help her look at the future of Eugene, Springfield, and the surrounding areas over the next 30 or 40 years and consider options she might not have considered prior to the conference.

Ms. Grossman said that she was struck by the APTA organization, its advocacy for transit, and the many resources and services available to its members. She said that multi-jurisdictional collaboration was emphasized throughout the conference. She said that she was particularly impressed by a presentation from Rosabeth Moss Kanter about the need to shift the dialogue about transportation and engage people in a call to action in the face of a deteriorating infrastructure. She said that the connection between land use and transit was an ongoing theme in other communities as it was locally for LTD. She added that she was inspired by a presentation from the U.S. Secretary of Transportation about the importance of transit and the pervasive opportunity gaps in the nation. Transit was the operating system for the economy, and the conversation needed to be broader than infrastructure repair and maintenance, and it needed to include more partners. As a leader in the industry, and with the courage to innovate, LTD should reinvigorate the conversation around infrastructure and transit.

Mr. Kilcoyne commented that integrated mobility was a prevalent theme at the conference, with many changes ahead that would impact the transportation system and use of autonomous vehicles. This was the period of biggest change over the past 100 years and

transportation providers would need to remain cognizant of the impact of those changes on personal mobility and social benefits.

**Zero Emissions Report:** Director of Customer Services and Planning Andy Vobora said that the Board's policy regarding the shift to environmentally friendly vehicles hinged on cost, availability, and reliability. He said those factors came into alignment over the past two years, and the 2016 order for buses would be split evenly with the purchase of five hybrid and five zero-emission vehicles. He said that LTD would pursue funding through the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Low or No Emission Vehicle grant program. He cited fuel efficiency equivalents among diesel, hybrid, and electric vehicles.

In response to questions from Mr. Nordin about the zero-emission bus manufacturer, Mr. Vobora said that the purchase of vehicles from Build Your Dreams (BYD) met *Buy America* requirements because the company had a manufacturing plant in the United States. He added that BYD vehicles would have a different appearance, and staff were developing graphics to brand the fleet and highlight the low- and no-emission vehicles.

Mr. Yeh commended acquisition of electric vehicles. He asked about battery degradation, range, and warranty. Mr. Vobora said BYD had proprietary battery technology, and their bid provided a warranty for batteries over the 12-year life of the vehicle. He said the District would gain experience with range over the life of the vehicle, and if it fell below acceptable levels, BYD would be asked to replace batteries. He pointed out that BYD reused the batteries it took back.

Mr. Gillespie asked if the additional cost included charging stations. Mr. Vobora said the vehicle price did include charging stations, and all vehicle charging would occur at the Glenwood facility. He said the BYD vehicles performed well on uphill grades. He noted that the BYD contract allowed the purchase of additional vehicles over the next five years.

**Monthly Financial Report:** Mr. Lipkin reviewed the financial report. He noted that the one-time payment from a delinquent taxpayer put payroll tax receipts over budget, but the trend analysis was also showing a slight increase in taxes as predicted. He said all cost factors, including personnel, were at or under budget, and the District was fully staffed. He said that Accessible Services transfers also were under budget and were expected to remain so throughout the fiscal year. The District was considering an application for grant funds from the Oregon Department of Transportation that could fund some of the *RideSource* service and further reduce the General Fund transfer.

**Monthly Engagement Reports:** Ms. Pierce announced that volunteers were needed to assist with the McKenzie Cider and Craft Beer Festival.

**Monthly Performance Reports:** Mr. Wildish observed that vehicle repairs had increased during the past month. Mr. Vobora explained that it was likely because some of the older vehicles that had been used sparingly as contingency buses had been brought into service because of the fall service additions. He stated that he would verify that with Maintenance staff. Mr. Kilcoyne added that September 2014 statistics were an anomaly, with more than 10,000 miles between road calls, when the District typically averaged 5-6,000 miles. He said that the maintenance trend had shown a significant improvement in 2015.

In response to a question from Mr. Nordin, Mr. Vobora said that staff continued to monitor and track declines in boardings. He said one factor was a decline in Lane Community College enrollments; another factor was the configuration of new student housing, with more students walking and biking. Construction at Gateway Mall continued to impact boardings in that area.

**Monthly Grants Report:** There were no questions or comments.

**Monthly Department Reports:** There were no questions or comments.

**Congressional Update:** Mr. Kilcoyne said that the House and Senate had each passed a version of a six-year transportation authorization bill. He said each bill had a different strategy for funding transportation and that conferences would begin next week to resolve differences and to then send a final version to the President for signature. He said that the Senate bill had more funding for transit, while the House version kept funding at the rate of inflation. He said that both bills included more funding for the bus and bus facilities program, which had been cut by 57 percent under the current authorization passed in 2012. He said that the manner in which those funds would be allocated remained a contentious issue.

Mr. Nordin asked if match requirements would change. Mr. Kilcoyne replied that the Small Starts program still required a 20 percent match; however, that was a highly competitive program, and projects that could provide a local match of more than 20 percent were more likely to be successful.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** Mr. Wildish announced that there had been a request to reopen the public comment portion of the meeting; the decision was at the Board's discretion.

**MOTION** Mr. Gillespie moved to allow additional public comment at the meeting. Ms. Grossman provided the second.

**VOTE** The motion was approved as follows:  
AYES: Gillespie, Grossman, Nordin, Pierce, Wildish, Yeh (6)  
NAYS: None  
ABSTENTIONS: None  
EXCUSED: Necker (1)

Mr. Wildish explained the procedures for offering comments to the Board.

**Moshe Immerman**, Eugene, said that he was a therapist and Buddhist priest. He listed a number of other professional credentials and community activities in which he was involved. He said that he was a recent amputee and was now receiving RideSource services but was not happy with the services provided. He said that what was happening at RideSource rose to the level of extreme, deliberate, and knowing criminality. He stated that he had made more than 100 phone calls to determine what was happening. He graded LTD's oversight as a D- to an F. He said that voicemail messages left with numerous LTD staff were not returned, and he alleged he had been attacked by a RideSource driver. He asked that the issue be

placed on the agenda of the next Board meeting so it could be discussed at length with members of other government entities.

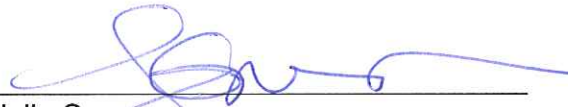
**Bob Macherione**, Eugene, representing Our Money, Our Transit (OMOT), said he was disappointed that the Board did not respond to complaints from a speaker during the Public Participation portion of the meeting. He said that the Board should acknowledge speakers and take some action to address their issues instead of remaining silent and avoiding eye contact. He said that he understood why he was not liked, but Board members should acknowledge the comments from other speakers. He stated that he wished the Board would do better by the citizens, riders, and others who used LTD services. He added that he felt that the earlier speaker deserved an apology.

**Josef Siekiel-Zdzienicki**, Eugene, said that he concurred with Mr. Macherione's comments. He said that he had also asked the Board at previous meetings to respond to speakers' comments. He said that if the Board did not want public testimony, it should be removed from the agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mr. Wildish adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT:

ATTEST:

  
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Julie Grossman  
Board Secretary

  
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Jeanne Schapper  
Clerk of the Board

Date Approved: 12/16/15