

MINUTES OF DIRECTORS MEETING

LANE TRANSIT DISTRICT

EMERGENCY MEETING

Thursday, January 27, 2005

Pursuant to notice given to persons on the media list of the District sent via facsimile transmission on January 26, 2005, the Board of Directors of the Lane Transit District held an emergency meeting on Thursday, January 27, 2005, beginning at 2 p.m., in the LTD Board Room at 3500 E. 17th Avenue, Eugene.

Present: Susan Ban, Vice President, presiding
Debbie Davis
Mike Eyster
David Gant, Secretary
Gerry Gaydos, President, present via telephone
Dave Kleger, Treasurer
Dean Kortge
Ken Hamm, General Manager
Jo Sullivan, Clerk of the Board, Recording Secretary

Absent: --

CALL TO ORDER: The emergency meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Board Vice President Susan Ban for the purpose of discussing labor negotiations.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS/ADDITIONS TO AGENDA: Ms. Ban informed the Board that because this meeting had been called to discuss labor negotiations, they had the right to exclude or include the press at the executive session, based on the nature of the information the Board might be sharing in the meeting. She asked Mr. Gant to share his concerns, and then said she would like the Board to help make this decision.

Mr. Gant said it was a little difficult since members of the press were in the room, but he thought, in general, that the best course of action was to try not to negotiate in the media. He said there were some things he wanted to say that he would be more comfortable saying to his fellow Board members without the press present. He thought that, generally, the legislation was designed to give the Board that latitude, to give the Board the opportunity to get to where it wanted to be, which was to avoid a strike.

Mr. Eyster wondered if there would be some way to segment the meeting, to separate specific strategy discussions or particular give and take from more general conversation for which the Board would welcome the press to remain.

Mr. Kortge wanted to clarify that if members of the press were invited in, they could not use the information they heard in executive session in an article. Mr. Gant said that although this was true, in a practical matter, having been involved with some of this in Cottage Grove, if the press decided

to use some of the information, it was easy for them to say they had received it from another source.

Mr. Kortge said his gut feeling was that he was there representing the business community, and he had no problem saying what he had to say; however, he would defer to Mr. Gant.

Mr. Kleger said he wasn't sure what Mr. Gant was concerned about, but that he was of mixed minds. He did not want any Board members to feel inhibited in their exchanges among themselves in an extremely serious issue. He did not expect to be inhibited, but he could not speak for anyone else.

Ms. Davis said she would not be inhibited by the press.

Mr. Gaydos said he supported Mr. Kortge's position of letting the press be present, but if anyone felt uncomfortable, he would defer to that.

Mr. Gant clarified that it was not a matter of being uncomfortable or of not being able to speak his mind. He just thought that when the legislation was crafted, the idea was that there were unique situations when discussing labor negotiations. The legislature had given public bodies that option, and there was a reason behind that. The idea was to have success in labor negotiations. In crunch times, he said, a misspoken word could cause more difficulties than help. However, he said he would defer to the rest of the Board.

Ms. Ban proposed the alternate approach that Mr. Eyster had suggested, which was to begin the meeting and discuss the general information first, and then when the Board began discussing the more specific strategies and information or anything that might feel more freely expressed without the press, asking the press to leave.

Mr. Hamm asked if Mr. Gant had a particular point that he thought would best come at the beginning of the discussion. Mr. Gant said he wasn't sure what staff had planned. Mr. Hamm explained that staff would briefly review the negotiations from the beginning and remind the Board how LTD had gotten to the current point in negotiations. Then staff were prepared to demonstrate what the previous day's mediation session meant in terms of bottom-line impact on the District. There was no offer from the Union to put on the table for a Board decision, but the District's negotiating team needed to share the progress that they had made at the table and the difference between that progress and the union position, and the cost of that, and determine where to go next. Mr. Hamm said that staff had a recommendation for where to go next, which was why the labor attorney was en route to LTD, and part of the dialog would be having the Board weigh in on the next steps.

Ms. Ban suggested taking a poll at the point where the Board began discussing the specifics of the recommendation to see how to proceed with having the press present. There was agreement among Board members.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Mr. Kleger moved that the Board meet in executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(d), to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations. Mr. Kortge seconded, and the motion carried by unanimous voice vote. The Board entered executive session at 2:15 p.m. Members of the District's negotiating team were present for this discussion with the Board.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: Upon a motion by Mr. Kortge and seconding by Mr. Kleger, the Board returned to regular session at 3:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: There was no further discussion, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.



Board Secretary

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