

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JULY 15, 2009
GREATER NEW HAVEN TRANSIT DISTRICT
REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY – 90 SARGENT DRIVE, NEW HAVEN, CT

Attendees: *A. Pappas, Branford; A. Anifalaje and Justin Bagnati, New Haven; M. Bigelow, North Branford; M. D'Ostilio, Woodbridge; S. Mancini, West Haven.*

GNHTD Administrative Staff: *D. Carter, D. O'Hara, A. Naudus, R. Ferrebee, M. Klubek, L. Richards and M. Hemingway.*

Call to Order: No quorum

Public Comments on Agenda: None

Approval of Minutes: No quorum

Executive Director's Report:

- Extended welcome to (Ade)Tokunbo Anifalaje and Justin Bagnati, newly appointed representatives from the City of New Haven, gave overview of the Municipal Grants Program
- During the past quarter, spent time with various people trying to get RRP put back into the budget. Emailed 27 legislators from the region; as of yet, positive responses have been given by the following: Rep. Lonnie Reed of the 102nd District (which covers Branford), Sen. Len Fasano's Legislative Aid Randa Utter of the 34th District (covers Wallingford, North Haven and Cheshire), Rep. Brendan Sharkey of the 88th District (covers Hamden) and Rep. Peter Villano of the 91st District (covers some parts of Hamden).
- Anticipated hearings on fare increases which would increase fares by a full \$1; hearings were canceled with no explanation.
- Specialized Transportation Team is a group of 6 employees from different departments within the Agency; it focuses on outreach to agencies that rely on our services to get people to their facilities. We were anticipating the loss of Regional Rides dollars; brought everyone together in May, laid out potential issues. Specialized Transportation Team contacted facilities, invited folks to the agency to tour facility and sat down to talk with them about creative/alternative approaches replacing some of the transportation that has been lost. Got positive feedback and were asked by several facilities for work-up to find costs for what it would take to put transportation on the road in the case that Regional Rides program goes away. Spent time with someone at the Hamden Senior Center to assist them in finding out what it would cost to contract our services.
- Executive Director provided update on various services for new Board Members.
- The Agency received a most appreciated \$630.00 in donations in memory of Sue Evans, one of our former riders.
- Attended the Federal Transportation Summit in Washington, DC with D. O'Hara. An article in reference to the Hydrogen Fuel Cell Project has been published in the Quinipiac Times.
- Meeting with the CT Fuel Cell Center for report on Friday, July 17th.
- Will be working with Planning Committee and report back to Board the specifics of the meeting.
- With regard to Board representation, there are 2 new representatives from the City of New Haven, Bethany has recently appointed a new representative; there are but 2 vacancies remaining, both for the Town of East Haven.

Reports of the Officers:

- Operations Report 4th Quarter, '08-'09: Presented by Al Naudus (Amended report presented)
- Financial Reports 4th Quarter, '08-'09: Presented by D. O'Hara and R. Ferrebee
- Approval of Reports: No quorum

Programs & Projects:

- Transportation Services:
 - Regional Rides Program (RRP) has been suspended as of July 1, due to lack of funding. Whether or not the RRP will cease operation altogether will be contingent upon the approval of the State budget.
 - Due to very limited funding for the Dial-A ride (DAR) Program, rides are now provided for work and medical purposes only. Per the State, DAR would no longer be funded – it has since been put back into the budget as of July 1 for approximately 265 hours per month.
 - For people who purchased RRP tickets, refunds are not being given as of yet; we are asking that people hold onto their tickets until October or so in the event that RRP gets put back into the budget. We may otherwise give refunds and are considering refunding even partial books.

- Regional Growth Connection, for which we provide 3 services, required we dedicate 1 bus to operating 3 days per week from New Haven to Hammonasset, providing transportation for work purposes.
- Client Certifications Monthly Report presented by Donna K. Carter
- Capital Projects:
 - Capital Projects Report presented by Lori Richards
 - With regard to the trolleys, the District is in negotiation with the City of Woodstock, VT. Due to the lack of parking, they're seeking to lease a "green" vehicle 6-8 weeks to transport clients from state park into town.
- Facility:
 - Because staff is tightly packed into current facility, Needs Assessment was performed with result being that every area assessed should be at least doubled.
 - As opposed to building a new facility, the Planning Commission has requested the Executive Director to look into utilizing leftover funds to hire someone who will research information pertinent to selling our current facility and moving into a pre-existing facility that can be renovated to fit the needs of the Agency. Due to the assessment, two requests have been sent to the State and we are waiting for a decision.
- R&D Project:
 - 2 hydrogen-powered transit vehicles are to be developed and hydrogen filling station will be implemented in Hamden. Due to the high costs and environmental issues surrounding the use and disposal of batteries, we are, therefore, looking at utilizing a hydraulic hybrid system for this vehicle, working with an agency in Michigan.
 - Consultant from California bringing in a low-floor vehicle this week.

Reports of the Committees:

- Executive Committee: Increase in salary for administrative staff was approved by 4 to 1 vote. Give update by the Planning & Development Committee.
- Operational Oversight Committee: No report given

Unfinished Business:

- FY '09-'10 Revised Budget: Presented by D. O'Hara

New Business:

- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE): Presented by D. O'Hara, the DBE focus will be Women Minority Owned Businesses.

Resolutions:

- 0809.111 – Authorizing the Executive Director to execute grants

Other Business:

- Election of Board Chair and Treasurer: No quorum.
- For next Board of Directors Meeting, item will be added to agenda to set new dates & times for 2010 calendar year.

Adjournment:

- No quorum

*Next Board of Directors meeting:
October 21, 2009, 10 a.m. – noon
Regional Water Authority (RWA)
90 Sargent Drive, New Haven CT*