

CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT
AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING

OF

May 09, 2008

10:20 A.M.

Chairman Liakakis: I call the Chatham Area Transit Authority to order and next I will ask for the roll call from the authority from Gennetta.

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Liakakis

Chairman Liakakis – here

Ms. Krahling – Dr. Thomas

Dr. Thomas - Here

Ms. Krahling - Ms. Stone

Ms. Stone - Present

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Holmes

Mr. Holmes – here

Ms. Krahling – Dr uh Mr. Shay

Mr. Shay – Mr. Shay is here

Mr. Odell – It is Dr. Shay

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Farrell is here

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Odell

Mr. Odell - here

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Gellatly

Mr. Gellatly – here

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Kicklighter

Mr. Kicklighter – Here

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Broker is out. Ms. Bell is out today. Mr. Dawson is out

Ms. Krahling – Mr. Oakley

Mr. Oakley – here

Also present at the meeting was Joe M. Rivers, M. Tyus Butler and Gennetta M. Krahling

Chairman Liakakis – Okay. All of the members from the transit authority received the minutes. Any additions or corrections to those minutes that you received?

Ms. Stone – Move for approval Mr. Chairman

Mr. Holmes – second

Chairman Liakakis – We have a motion on the floor and a second. All in favor signify by the raising of your hand. Motion passes. New business. Item 1 Request Board approval to permit CAT participation in the American Public Transportation Association’s national “Dump the Pump” campaign. Joe.

Mr. Rivers – Mr. Chairman we have been participating over the last two months in a local dump the pump campaign and on June 20th we will have APTA presenting campaign and we would like to ask your participation in that. As of to date we have Cidran, City of Savannah, City Banking bicycle campaign and Pedestrian advocates of the coastal empire. We met yesterday at City and on May 16 is a dump the pump day. So we would ask for the boards participation in the dump the pump on the 16th and the 20th of June if you approve and we will and well you have your passes that you can ride free that day so we would ask for your participation but if you don’t have your passes then we will get you a pass so that you can participate. Those who ride bicycles can also when you get tired put your bicycles on the front of the bus and ride wherever you need to go.

Chairman Liakakis – Joe explain to the public and to some people in our audience what dump the pump is because a lot of people do not understand that except for the word

Mr. Rivers – Okay, Dump the Pump is trying to get the citizens across the United States to realize the tremendous cost of fuel and that we can use alternatives methods of transportation and of course I’m a transit advocate so I put transit before that. We are talking of walking about bicycling we are talking about walking and are talking about other alternatives mode of transportation on that day. So if you want to walk to work that’s fine, if you want to ride a bicycle to work that’s fine, if you want to take the public transportation that’s fine. But it makes people aware of other modes of transportation and encourages you to use them and sometimes you will be surprised that we will get you wherever life takes you.

Chairman Liakakis – Yeah and as everybody should know, this county commission and this transit authority really are pushing for the citizens to ride the bus, and to use bicycles as modes of transportation and also carpooling because this will save them money big time. It’s good exercise if you use a bicycle, you reduce traffic congestion that we have in our community and you reduce pollution so it really important that we get our citizens encouraged and to participate in this dump the pump campaign Any other comments? Okay, thank you on that Joe. Item number 2

Mr. Odell – Is a motion required on that or what, is there any action

Mr. Butler – I don't see that there is any action. No

Mr. Rivers – It just authorizes us to participate and that is it. It is not necessary for a motion. Just give us the okay and we will be there.

Chairman Liakakis – okay, update on the NEPA progress for transit center. Joe

Mr. Rivers – We are in the process of our NEPA process there reviewing that most agencies are there full thirty days and hopefully in the next twenty days we will get something back on that for those who in the audience that are listening that's the National Environmental and Protection Act process that we are going through and that is a very tedious process. It is unbelievable. At the time frame we thought that we would probably be able to break ground and conclude our deal with Greyhound and that is also hitting a stumbling block. We have to go into negotiations with them and with an additional proposal and will be back before the county commission and let yall know what they expect of us. We may have to buy the property out right and may have to find a mechanism to do that. I don't know. There is a lot of things on the table that we have to discuss. And then we can go into those details. But that is it and within 30 days we will do a public hearing when they conclude there evaluation and then after the public hearing we will get a finding of notice and we will get that back and at that point maybe we will be authorized to go out and do some things. But we are very near. This has been a learning experience for me. I thought it could be done just like that (snaps his fingers) but going through the bureaucracy and its slow process. Never the less we are at the pentacle that if we can just get over we will be all right.

Chairman Liakakis – Next item, Congressional legislation. Joe.

Mr. Rivers – On the congressional legislation I am happy to say that we got Congressman Barrow to sign on as a sponsor HR 734 along with bill SB405 I believe that those bills has gone through congress and has merged as HR1995 which would restore some of the funding, flex funding back to the county commission I mean back to the Authority. So we are looking forward to the President signing that bill. He is leaning on a veto because there are so many things attached to it that bill and hopefully if that bill comes through it will restore us to some of the funding that was lost.

Chairman Liakakis – Any questions? Okay, next item Joe, the CAT Budget.

Mr. Rivers – We presented everybody with a budget, I tried to send that out ahead. We gave it to you again this morning. Unfortunately there are two front pages, you do not have the second page and we will get that second page to you. I will probably go down that second page. We have a balanced budget. Predicated on a number of things but we are going to have to go back and make some adjustments in this budget because initially we thought we were going to get a 90 percent increase a 9 percent increase in the digest and that is not there so we will have to go back and readjust some things out. What it

does, I believe the digest would probably bring us in where we would have enough money to cover our cost of our obligations to the Union Contract and maybe a little to the administrative part or non union folks in adjustment and wages. But we are going to go back and we are going to adjust this total budget. If there is any Questions on it and the only other thing is we after adjusting we would want to know would you want a stand alone workshop or a workshop in conjunction with the total county presentation

Chairman Liakakis – Patrick

Mr. Shay – First of all I just I feel compelled to openly thank Joe Murray Rivers for taking on an amazingly complicated and difficult task and for stepping into the breach there as out interim executive director. I think the fact that you have been able to keep the wheels on the bus going round and round is an amazing accomplishment. You are sane in my mind for doing this. I see you time and time at mass. Some days you are praying for resources and other days you are asking me to pray for you so I want you to know I think I am speaking on behalf of this entire board that we all appreciate beyond words of the services that you are providing to us. I know you also on top of that you have inherited a very difficult capital improvement projects and as you have described this NEPA process is a long and winding road in itself but I would like to advise that we continue to move forward for the RFQ process the request for qualifications that we initiated sometime back.. And I beheld the time that you are putting together this budget which is more important than this one effort. In fairness to you and in fairness to the CAT system I think we as a board need to get qualifications in front of us so we can decide whether we are going to hire a full time executive director, somebody who is basically an employee of this board, or whether we are going to hire a management company to set up similar to the way that we had First Transit and Ryder before that or whether or not we want to go and look for some kind of a public private partnership or somebody who could bring additional resources and capability to the table. I know you have a lot on your plate right now but I think that there are resources out there. I had a conversation recently with Tom Tomson of the MPC for example. I have had a conversation with the manager. You have people that are willing to close ranks with you and move forward with this effort at the same time so I just first of all I want you to know that from the bottom of my heart I love you love the work that you are doing and I think I speak for the rest of the board but part of that love is I think we need to make decisions on your behalf on how we are going to proceed to operate going forward. The question that you appose to the end of that is whether we want to separate board, I have always enjoyed the budget presentations for CAT as a separate item but I don't speak for the entire board on that.

Chairman Liakakis – Helen

Mr. Rivers – Mr. Chairman, May I respond to that. I am grateful Pat I could not get through this by myself. I'm grateful to Shirley Lopez, who came in and has done a stomp worth job in getting and formulating this budget and formulating the focus that I had with this budget my secretary the marketing staff, the operators, the all of them the maintenance people all of them have done a stomp worth job. If it wasn't for the cooperation Calvin and those give, I couldn't make it. So I am highly immensely I have

so much gratitude to the people that is around me including Tommy Tomson, including so many other people the managers the assistant managers that had come forth and stand me up. I stand on the shoulders of many people in achieving Linda Cramer I know I am going to miss somebody, they have all been wonderful they have all been there. Bill Oakley the board members that I have talked to and have participated in all the committees. All of you guys without you and your input I couldn't make it I thank you for allowing me to have this gigantic experience, it's a challenge. It is an enormous thing when you get there and you don't realize how ignorant you are to a whole lot of things and then you begin to learn. I don't worry about whether we go out, yall can go out at anytime but hopefully I am running and maybe within the next 60 to 90 days whomever comes in the stage will be set the foundation will be much stronger things will be set in place as you will look at this budget and things that I want to do like training and cross training for staff that is in there, its going to be all right I don't have no problem about that. I'm praying and you just pray for me that the president signs that bill but the key to it not the money that is there how do we find money here to match that money so we can draw it down. That is the key folks. I thank you for appointing me; I was reluctant when yall first said it. It took almost a month for me to say yes but I it is a challenge and I am enjoying the challenge and as I achieve I told the newspaper the other day that I am an inarch man I have a need to achieve and as I achieve all the goals and stabilize this system, that's the reward.

Chairman Liakakis – Helen

Ms. Stone – Thank you Mr. Chairman, Mr. Rivers I too appreciate the challenge that you have accepted in being the interim director for CAT at a very difficult time with the federal funding and with even trying to obtain the local matches. But I do have a question on this proposed budget for the actual expenditures and the adopted budget for the 2006 and 2007 under administration the numbers for the actual and the adopted vary greatly as do the general. I was wondering if you could give me and explanation as to why the jump in those two from the actual to the adopted.

Mr. Rivers – Jump? Okay, Shirley.

Mr. Kicklighter – That is something that I was going to ask, this is as of March 08 and it still has to run the rest of the year right? Because the actual is as of March 08 it has been expended and what is budgeted takes care of the rest of 08

Mr. Odell – It is 9 months verses 12 months

Mr. Kicklighter – right

Mr. Odell – is the difference

Mr. Rivers – Shirley have you got that?

Ms. Stone – I guess my question is how do you go from zero to three million dollars between the actual and the adopted? I am just curious and for the administration how you went from three million to two hundred ninety six

Shirley Lopez – there was some departments that were separated, Human Resources, what else Gen

Ms. Krahling – Administration, and Safety

Ms. Lopez – Safety and they separated it out into three departments, that is the reason for the change.

Ms. Stone – under which the administration or the general

Ms. Lopez – Under the administration

Ms. Stone – And what occurred with the general then?

Ms. Lopez – the general, you are talking about the increase, is that what you are talking about?

Ms. Stone – Yes. It went from zero to three million dollars?

Ms. Lopez – The general is one of the new departments also, they were separated out. They reorganized.

Ms. Stone – okay, so there was some structural changes?

Ms. Lopez – right

Ms. Stone – okay thank you

Mr. Kicklighter – Mr. Chairman

Chairman Liakakis – Dean

Mr. Kicklighter – Thanks you, Mr. Rivers you said you are going to reevaluate the budget because basically I guess what you said and I understand you want to reevaluate the budget and lower your recommendation to match what we now anticipate to be the digest growth so there will be no increase in taxes in other words just hold it level?

Mr. Rivers – yes

Mr. Kicklighter – that is what I thought

Mr. Rivers – Yeah right now we figured in 9 percent and that is not true picture

Mr. Kicklighter – right

Mr. Rivers – so we have to come back and adjust that 9 that differential between the 9 and what the actual budget is going to be. I started to bring you in multiple percentages but I elected not to do that but to use the whole and then we will just cut back on some things that we have put in there. But as long as the percent that we get matches what obligation that we have for salaries then that is definitely what we recommend. But we know we are going to come up a little short on that overall.

Mr. Kicklighter – I just wanted I thought that but I wanted the public to know because we do talk up here about how bad the FEDS are cutting monies and state gives no assistance that you are definitely doing your part with your recommendations as well as this board to keep the taxes level and with no increases with a proposed budget. Thank you.

Chairman Liakakis – Okay and then you will bring the completed budget back to us so we can vote on it when you have that information. Right?

Mr. Rivers – We will adjust it out and the thing is if you want us to have work shops along with county or stand alone then we will have that work shop where we present you that budget a balanced budget and we will tell you what we expect and Commissioner Kicklighter that we expect that growth was in the digest beyond that no not extra.

Mr. Kicklighter – okay, thank you

Chairman Liakakis – okay we need I guess we will adjourn to executive session, You have executive session today?

Mr. Rivers – yes sir

Chairman Liakakis – okay

Mr. Rivers – its legal

Chairman Liakakis – okay we need a motion to adjourn

Mr. Shay – I make a motion that we recess into executive session for the purposes of addressing legal issues.

Ms. Stone – second

Mr. Butler – litigation

Chairman Liakakis – all in favor signify by raising of your hand. Motion passes; let's go into the green room

Convened to green room for executive session at 10:40 AM.

Reconvened to CAT Board Meeting at 10:51 A.M.

Chairman Liakakis - Need a motion on the floor that no official action was taken. That will happen later we need a motion on the floor and a second.

Mr. Gellatly – so moved

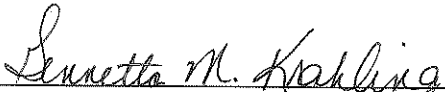
Mr. Farrell = second

Chairman Liakakis – all right we have a motion on the floor and a second that we did not have any activity

Mr. Butler – No official action

Chairman Liakakis – No official action, all in favor signify by raising of your hand.
Motion passes.

Meeting recessed at 10:53 a.m.



Gennetta M. Krahlung, Secretary, Treasurer
Chatham Area Transit Authority