



CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT®

BOARD MEETING

OF

February 10, 2012

10:33 A.M.

MR. LIAKAKIS: I call to order the Chatham Area Transit Authority and call on Patricia Hawkins who is the Secretary for the CAT Board for the roll call please.

MS. HAWKINS: Good morning, Chairman Liakakis.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Here

MS. HAWKINS: Vice Chair Dr. Thomas

DR. THOMAS: Here

MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Broker

MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Dawson is not here today.

MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Farrell

MR. FARRELL: Here

MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Gellatly

MR. GELLATLY: Here

MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Holmes

MR. HOLMES: Here

MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Kicklighter

MR. KICKLIGHTER: Here

MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Mingledorff

MR. MINGLEDORFF: Here

MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Odell

MR. ODELL: Here

MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Shay

MR. SHAY: Here

MS. HAWKINS: And Ms. Stone

MS. STONE: Present

MS. HAWKINS: That's the roll.

Also present at the meeting was Ty Butler, Chad Reese, William Law, Mike Ake and Patricia Hawkins.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Next is the approval of the minutes. The minutes of the last meeting have been distributed to all members of the Transit Authority. Need a motion on the floor for approval.

MR. ODELL: Move for approval.

MS. STONE: Second.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Alright we have a motion on the floor for the approval of minutes for the last meeting, all in favor signify by raising your hand. Motion passes. To the people in the audience we don't have enough room on the board because we've got approximately fourteen members of the Transit Authority so we can't put it on the board up there so that's why we raise our hands for these particular items on the Area Transit Authority. 1: under new business; request Board approval to award contract for the rehabilitation and construction of the Chatham Area Transit Authority Operations and Maintenance Facility, Chad.

DR. REESE: Thank you Mr. Chairman. In August 2011, the Board approved staff to issue an invitation for bid for the renovation for our Operations and Maintenance facility on Gwinnett Street. We conducted a bid and the initial bids came back over budget so we took the project through value engineering and re-solicited bids and received a total of four bids, and the lowest responsive bidder was Choate Construction and staff is recommending the Board approve a contract in a contract amount not to exceed \$6.1million for the construction and renovation of the CAT Operations and Maintenance facility. The project is funded 80% by federal funds 20% local funds.

MR. SHAY: So moved Mr. Chairman.

MS. STONE: Second.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Any discussion? Okay, all in favor of the motion –

MR. ODELL: Mr. Just a couple of questions if I might. Could I?

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Go ahead.

MR. ODELL: Chad unlike on the Chatham County Commission side of things where we have a greater level of discretion, because these are federal funds there are certain provisos that we cannot insist about is that true?

DR. REESE: Yes sir. Under federal regulations, procurement regulations, it prohibits I think one of the big things that's abuzz now is local participation.

MR. ODELL: Right.

DR. REESE: And since this is a federally funded project geographical preference is prohibited. This project is funded 80% by the federal government 20% by the local government so in initial bids that we submitted we requested 20% minority participation. The federal government requires a minimum 10%; we requested 20% in hopes that all of the funds that contributed at the local level will be reinvested here locally. So that was the maximum amount we could ask for.

MR. ODELL: You know that's a significant point in that people who witness and say who are they awarding contracts to; do we give preference to those who are within Chatham County; do we say Chatham County, Bryan, Effingham? Under the federal government we are not permitted to say either.

DR. REESE: It is required that it's an American company.

MR. ODELL: Right they cannot be a Brazilian company.

DR. REESE: That's correct.

MR. ODELL: Just to pick on Brazil.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Okay all in favor for the motion raise your hand. Motion passes. Item 2: Request Board approval to award a contract for the construction of the Chatham Area Transit Authority Downtown Intermodal Facility.

DR. REESE: Thank Mr. Chairman also in 2011 the Board-staff—the Board supported staff recommendations to issue an invitation for bid for the construction of the Downtown Intermodal Facility, again we went through the process solicited bids the bids came back above the program amount. We re-solicited bids through a value engineering process and received quotes or bids that were roughly \$2 million less than the original bid solicitation without a significant change – without any change in the program, but change in the cosmetics of the facility so the functionality of the program remains the same it came back at \$2 million less so staff is recommending that the Board issue a contract in an amount not to exceed \$9.959875 million to Elkins Construction.

MR. ODELL: Tell me the source of the money and –

DR. REESE: It's 80% federal and 20% local.

MR. ODELL: It's the same as the earlier one?

DR. REESE: Yes sir.

MR. SHAY: I'd like to make a motion for approval.

DR. THOMAS: Second.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Any discussion?

MR. SHAY: My what a long strange trip it's been!

DR. THOMAS: Yes!

(Laughter from the Board)

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: So the public will know this, I mean it's been over thirteen years when this first started. We were having problems in different areas and this is a really important project here because this Transit Center will give the ability to those people that can get their transfers to go to other parts of the city. They go in they'll be issued a pass from the particular bus that they're on, they'll go to the Transit Center and then they'll be out of the weather because we see quite a number of people unfortunately they have no other transportation except maybe a bicycle which isn't always ideal to go the doctor's office or to go shopping for their food or other items and also going to work. So they'll be able to go into this air conditioned unit, they won't be cold in the winter time; they won't be hot in the summer time. But it's really important to have a Transit Center because it makes the bus system much more effective and they can handle a lot more things by having this. This is a really good project and we can see that what's gonna happen especially with the bus system also operating that center for the Greyhound bus is that right?

DR. REESE: Yes sir. It'll be an intermodal facility that ties together various modes of ground transportation in this community.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: So there'll be additional funding for the Transit Authority?

DR. REESE: Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Okay we've got a motion on the floor and a second lets go on the Board raise your hand.

(Clapping)

DR. THOMAS: Yes.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Motion passes. Item 3: Request Board approval of Task Order #2 for Commissioning and Testing and Special Inspections Services by Skanska/Carson/GMG, Chad.

DR. REESE: Thank you Mr. Chairman. This is a request for Task Order #2 for Skanska our construction management firm to provide commissioning and testing on our plumbing, electrical systems as well as the (in audible) the commission is required for close out by the Federal Transit Administration.

MS. STONE: So moved.

MR. ODELL: Move for approval.

MR. BROKER: Second.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: All in favor raise your hand. Motion passes. Next item: Request Board approval of the CAT Construction Management Policy. Chad.

DR. REESE: Thank you Mr. Chairman. As required by the Federal Transit Administration the Authority must adopt a policy for construction management services and the jest of the policy is that the Authority will develop a procedures manual that complies with federal reporting and guidelines for payments, commissioning, design and so on and so forth and the – so we're asking the Board to adopt the policy as such. The Procedures Manual was developed under our original Task Order #1 by Skanska and the person who authored the Procedures Manual was also the person who authored the initial guidelines for FTA, so we good the person who wrote the book to write our book.

MR. ODELL: Move for approval

DR. STONE: Second.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: We have a motion on the floor and a second; all in favor raise your hand. Motion passes. Next item: Request Board approval to issue a bid for mid-life overhaul of 2003 Low Floor buses.

MR. ODELL: Move for approval.

DR. THOMAS: Second.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: All in favor raise your hand. Motion passes.

MR. ODELL: Mr. Chairman if I might point of personal privilege and I should have done this at earlier. Without a vote I'd like to amend the agenda and at least distribute to the fellow Board members the marked up copy of the proposed law and most of you had an opportunity to meet with our esteemed lawyer Ty Butler and other representatives from CAT. By way of history and the importance of this is that our grace comes from the Federal Transit Authority. The Federal Transit Authority produced a document which strongly suggests how your board should be formatted and we have had some audit exception. The point being is they award the money to CAT, but yet it's administered through Chatham County and unfortunately that's a little bit upsetting to them. What this attempts to do is to remedy that situation and to acknowledge the fact that if you got the gold at least you get to call a few of the tunes and I would like to amend the agenda to put that on the agenda simply to be circulated and offered for public information.

MS. STONE: So Moved.

MR. SHAY: Second.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: I have a motion on the floor and a second to accept that to the agenda. All in favor signify by raising your hand. Motion passes.

MR. ODELL: Each of you received a copy. The items in yellow are the items of concern which indicate the changes from the existing Board. The sole intent is a) to become in compliance with FTA a great source. We've been talking this morning \$6 million here 80/20 from FTA, \$9.9 million 80/20 from FTA. I think if FTA has a strong suggestion it is in our best interest to listen to that suggestion. What we've done and what Ty has done – I meant not we, not me—what Ty has done under the guidance of CAT is we've looked at what other people are doing i.e., MARTA and what have you and its been customized for Chatham County to correct any misnomer the buck will never stop – the buck will stop with the Chatham County Commission. They will not do the taxing Chatham County Commission will still be that person. For those districts who opted out of CAT you still opt out. This doesn't opt you in without a vote. It says that remains the same. Okay and Ty Butler is here who can answer – I don't know Ty, did you have a brief presentation?

MR. BUTLER: I can say – yes I do Mr. Odell I may Mr. Chairman at this time. What you have before you is – are two copies of draft legislation. One is a clean copy and the other is a highlighted copy of draft legislation; the highlighting showing the areas that would be changed to the current CAT Enabling Act. As Commissioner Odell said at your last meeting in January; Commissioner Odell raised the question concerning the structure and configuration of the CAT Board and there was distributed a report and recommendation concerning board composition and a recommendation concerning the CAT Board composition. I would ask to address the question of board structure and configuration also address as Commissioner Odell alluded to, the concerns of Federal Transit Administration concerning governance and control of CAT operations and financial affairs and again what you have before you is draft legislation. I would be glad to go through and discuss what this does or I can answer questions.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Helen.

MS. STONE: This is really not a question and I deeply appreciate the leadership of Commissioner Odell and Mr. Butler your efforts in pairing this and going through it with the Commissioners all of the changes. I think that it is long over due I'm very pleased that this is the direction that we're moving in and I'm very grateful that Commissioner Odell you brought this to our attention and that you've moved forward with it. I just wanted to thank you very much.

MR. FARRELL: If not at this time then at some time I do believe that it would be a good idea for the different changes in the make up of the Board and that sort of thing be presented to the public in a way that they have a full understanding of where we – most should know where we are, but where we're going under this draft.

MR. BUTLER: I think the intention Commissioner Farrell, was to present is almost as a first reading today and come back at some other time after the public has had an opportunity to be informed about it.

MR. ODELL: Can we at least put it on the website so that anyone that wants to pull it down can pull it down.

MR. BUTLER: I will speak to Mr. Nichols about that.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Without having to run through the entire document, I'm gonna attempt to synopsise. Right now the Chatham County Commissioners are the majority overwhelming majority of the CAT Board members and what this proposes is there would still be three Chatham County Commissioners that would be on the reconstituted board, but that they would also have the ability to appoint other folks who are similar to the non Board members and constituents today and also that the City of Savannah would have the opportunity to send an elected official from their Board and also select somebody from within the city limits of Savannah. And I think that's a reasonable consideration. They send to the Chatham Area Transit over a million dollars a year to help operate one of the services that we provide so it is not unreasonable that they should seek that and there are a lot of other reasons why the City of Savannah could benefit greatly from more direct participation in what's going on. But then also, those small municipalities as they are currently represented by Mr. Mingledorff from Garden City also would have a Board seat. So the idea would be that we would have a broader basis for the composition of the operating board that would more correlate to the constituencies of the Chatham Area Transit system and then also that Board would have the ability to have meetings on days when they were the focus of the meeting. Right now we have CAT Board meetings that are kind of tucked inside of Chatham County Commission meetings and although on a lot of days we give it full benefit of our deliberations, on other days when the County Commission agenda is stack with controversial items we tend to sort of blow through the CAT agenda and not give it as much deliberation as we should as Commissioners. That's not a reflection on the other Board members so these are things that are being addressed by this proposal. It would not be something that we could decide on our own; it would go to the State Legislative Delegation and they also will have a chance to look at it and make sure that it passes muster with their legislative counsels. So we're trying to do this the way that Commissioner Farrell has suggested which is put it out there in the public, make sure that there is a period of time that those who are deeply interested in this have a chance to read the exact language. I think it should also at the same time be submitted to our legislators so that their legislative counsel can look at it and make sure that we don't have any constitutional issues. I know Ty you've done a lot of due diligence on that subject and I appreciate that you've help us to try and steer clear of getting involved in any of those other controversies. And again I'll reiterate what Commissioner Odell said, those communities that are in Chatham County that currently opt out of the transit system and choose for their own reasons not to become part of the transit district this does not affect that status one way or another. That thing opportunity would still be there. We would hope that maybe someday, at least I would as a CAT Board member, that we could demonstrate that it was to their benefit to want to come into the system, but this does not force that or change anything that has to do with their ability to opt in or opt out the system.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Okay then Ty how do you want us to handle this now?

MR. BUTLER: Well I would think you would need to as you say put it out in the public and then it was my understanding that there was some consideration for setting this down for a special called meeting of the CAT Board in two weeks.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Well we have to do that since everybody's here now, but just to set it up at the next meeting for a first reading?

MR. BUTLER: Well I think there was some concern about the timing of the session of the General Assembly that if you waited another month before you voted to recommend this draft legislation to the legislators that it would be too late in the session to get it considered this year.

MR. ODELL: Ty I think the Chairman's question is whether or not we could suspend Robert's Rules of Order and vote on it today and the reason we would have a special meeting is to give everyone at least two weeks to review, comment get it into the public. So what we do not want to do, I don't think, today a: to vote on it, but b: we also want to have a called meeting. We will meet in two weeks, the Commission will so due notice that CAT Board will also meet even if we just have one or two items and this item being on there. Why is time urgent? One is that we've talked to our local delegation and we cannot wait until thirty days otherwise it'll be another year before this is acted upon so the two weeks would be a good time. Is that-?

MR. BUTLER: That's correct and in addition this was not on the announced agenda for today so it should not be – no action should be taken on it today.

MR. ODELL: God I love lawyers!

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Okay we'll do this then; Patricia we were doing 5a on the buses- I mean 5, so since it was brought up show in your records what the Authority for change legislation on the Board Commission make that 5a since we went ahead of the items. If you do it like that and then we won't have any vote or anything on it today. Yes Pat.

MR. SHAY: Mr. Chairman I know we are using as if words like first reading and second reading this isn't actually an ordinance so we don't – we sort of analogized to that, but it is similar. What I would like to do is just make a motion that we would resolve as a Board to take this matter up at the next CAT Board meeting and recommend that we be added as a special meeting at the next County Commissioners meeting is that good?

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: The CAT Board won't meet until next month.

MR. SHAY: What I would say is the next CAT Board meeting and a recommendation that we have a special called meeting so that we can at the next County Commission meeting so both. That would be a CAT Board meeting, if you don't like the way I said that I'll say it over again. That we would take this matter up at a special meeting that would be at the next Chatham County Commission meeting in about two weeks.

MS. STONE: Good.

MR. ODELL: We all like that.

MR. SHAY: Okay.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: All in favor signify by raising your hand. Motion passes.

MR. SHAY: And any help from the media in being able to make sure that people are aware of this would be appreciated.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Okay item 6: Information concerning CAT's activities on St. Patrick's Day Chad.

DR. REESE: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Staff is requesting again that CAT participate in this year's up coming St. Patrick's Day festivities by running shuttle operations. Again we've partnered with the City of Savannah and any services that are not fully paid for through ticket sales will be compensated by the City of Savannah.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Yeah because we see last year where we set it up last year it really help out where people could on the Southside park and people could get on the buses and a number of people that are celebrating too that might had a few drinks they could ride the bus instead of getting caught for DUI.

DR. REESE: This year's program would work hand in hand with our CAT Prowler so those services will be operated until 4a.m.

CHAIRMMAN LIAKAKIS: The service 'til 4a.m. which gives a lot of people plenty time for celebration.

DR. REESE: Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Okay then lets move on to the next item.

MR. SHAY: We need a motion.

MR. FARRELL: You need a motion for that.

MR. SHAY: Well being Irish and somebody who doesn't drink, I'll make the motion.

DR. THOMAS: Second.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: All in favor raise your hand. Motion passes. Go ahead with your Executive Director's report.

DR. REESE: Thank you Mr. Chairman on our Key Performance Indicators one of the first things to note is that we had a 10% increase in ridership and that is again organic growth. Given that school service was out for Savannah State, this is truly organic growth on our existing routes. Our passengers per hour in terms of our overall productivity, was up about 7%, ontime performance is at 68%. We have notice some improvement with the service changes in terms of ontime performance its up to about 73 – 74% in January so we're making some improvement, but there's still quite a ways to go in terms of revamping our routed structure. We had improvement in safety in terms of overall farebox recovery things continue to improve. Its important to note also a couple of things on January 15th we are having a Board Retreat from 11:30 to 1:00 in the Jasper Room at the Trade Authority and we'll follow that by a press conference for CAT Freedom which will be about a 10 or 15 minute press conference for the

long awaited Accessible Taxi program and then I'm also please to announce the groundbreaking for the Downtown Intermodal Facility on February 29th at 10:00am.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: And what you do then Chad make sure you have a press release so all the news media will have that.

DR. REESE: Yes sir.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Okay go ahead.

DR. REESE: That concludes the Executive Director's update.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Okay item 8: Unit updates, Special Delivery Update.

DR. REESE: Yes sir Service Delivery Update is provided for your information I'll be happy to entertain any questions you may have.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Okay next the Financial Update.

DR. REESE: Yes the Financial Update is provided in your packet. A couple of things that's important to note is that we have a couple of budget disparages to deal with and staff will be coming back to the Board with a proposed amended budget to take into account some additional services that have been provided as well as to account for an increase in fuel prices. The federal government has allowed has addressed the issues. Fuel prices are up nationwide about 20% that wasn't fully estimated in our budget, so there're allowing federal funds to be used for the purchase of fuel and so we will be looking to apply for those funds from the federal government to offset the increase the cost of fuel as well as additional grant we will receive for running service on the new route 114. So those are the things that will be coming to the Board in March for consideration.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Okay next System Development Department Update which is the last item.

DR. REESE: Yes sir the information on our Marketing System Development and planning is in your report and I'll entertain any questions you may have.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Any questions? Okay that's good what I'd like to do right now is some of you might not know that the County – well the Authority we did a contract with Veolia to have a private public operation and they put money and of course what they did was thankfully, after a while, they sent us Chad Reese who is the Executive Director. He has done a tremendous job and in the audience today we have Vice President of Veolia Vice President Ake. Would you stand a minute 'cause I want everybody to see you, okay. And what he has done he has supported Chad and many things that Veolia has done in our community...the bus ridership has gone up it was not like it is right now and Chad had to go to Washington and Atlanta to see about funding for us and all and sometimes they put him in a negative position, but he did a great job and some of the lobbying some of us that did with some of those transportation people on the state and the federal side we were able to convince them that we had problems in the past but

we're in the right direction now, we've got a great bus system and its gonna be even better especially with Chad's leadership. Vice President Ake you heard that didn't you?

MR. AKE: I did and he'll remind me Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Okay because we don't want him transferred because the things he has done he has turned this bus system around and we've got more people riding on it because in 2000 it showed that in Chatham County overall in all the seven cities in the County that we had over 16,000 people that did not have transportation. A majority of them didn't a way with a friend a relative or neighbor to get to places and this bus system has really helped them especially to go to places of employment and of course to the doctor's office and to go shopping for their food and other items so we appreciate what Veolia has done with the Chatham Area Transit Authority and we really appreciate it. Now the next item we have a quick Executive Session on a legal matter it won't take – oh yes we do Patricia.

MS. HAWKINS: Oh I'm sorry.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Oh yes, I discussed it with them this is important because Commissioner Holmes requested that so it's a legal matter and so we need a motion on the floor to recess in Executive Session for a legal matter which won't take but a few minutes.

MR. BROKER: So moved.

MS. STONE: Second.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Alright let's raise our hands. Motion passes.

RECESS FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Okay let's have your attention please we are starting the meeting right now reconvening as the Chatham County Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Patricia R. Hawkins, Secretary-Treasurer
Chatham Area Transit Authority