



CHATHAM AREA TRANSIT®

SPECIAL CALLED

BOARD MEETING

OF

February 24, 2012

10:00 A.M.

MR. LIAKAKIS: I now call the Chatham Area Transit Authority to order and call on Patricia for the roll call please.

MS. HAWKINS: Good morning, Chairman Liakakis.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Here

MS. HAWKINS: Vice Chairman Dr. Thomas

MS. STONE: She's here.

MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Broker

MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Dawson

MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Farrell

MR. FARRELL: Here

MS. HAWKINS: Mr. Gellatly

MR. GELLATLY: Present

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

Also present at the meeting was Ty Butler, Terri Harrison, William Law and Patricia Hawkins.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Okay under new business; Request Board receive and consider a Resolution and attached draft proposed legislation for recommendation to the Chatham Legislative Delegation to the Georgia General Assembly for amendment of the CAT Authority Enabling Act to restructure the Authority Board and its membership and to clarify the Authority's status as an autonomous Georgia independent authority. I call on you.

MR. BUTLER: Thanks Mr. Chairman. At the Board's January meeting Commissioner Odell raised questions concerning the structure and configuration of the CAT Board and you were distributed a report recommendation concerning Board composition. I was asked to address that issue and also to address concerns of the Federal Transit Administration concerning governance and control of CAT operations and financial affairs. You were presented at the regular February meeting a piece of draft legislation to amend the CAT Act to accomplish the various things that are addressed in the agenda item here and you were given a highlighted draft of the Act as well as a clean draft. And in your Board packet for this meeting today you have before you a description of background and rationale for these proposed changes as well as Resolution recommending to the Chatham Legislation General Assembly adoption and approval of the draft legislation. You've had a couple of weeks to review this and I that there's any need for me to go through item by item I'd be glad to answer any questions that you might have.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Harris.

MR. ODELL: Yeah, just again, I think every Board member has had an opportunity to view this and in a nutshell the purpose of it is we're gonna hopefully receive upwards of \$30 million from FTA and over the last past four or five years, one of their major concerns was the check that they write is written to CAT, but yet it's administered through Chatham County and they have no direct relationship with Chatham County. What we started in January to set it right and setting it right would be a free standing CAT Authority and I am really pleased that the newspaper picked up on this and I thank you for your article and support, but this will benefit all of Savannah. We will never pave our way out of the transportation crisis. It's just an impossibility. We will not pave our way out and there are many people at mid-level jobs who do not have cars and this CAT will fill and will continue to fill that need. And this is a – the best thing since sliced bread and I urge your support and thank you.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: The make up – you wanna Ty you wanna read the make up how it is proposed.

MR. BUTLER: Yes and perhaps it'd be better for me to outline how it is now and then show what the changes would be also. Currently the Board make up is the nine members of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, one resident of the unincorporated area of Chatham County appointed by the Commissioners, one resident of Chatham County as a person with a disability appointed by the Commissioners, one resident of the City of Savannah appointed by the mayor and alderman of the city and one resident of any municipality lying within the special district for transit services which is currently only Garden City appointed by the governing bodies of those municipalities other than the City of Savannah. The proposed change in the Board make up would be three members of the Board of Commissioners of Chatham County

appointed by the Board who shall serve term of office for one year up to five one year terms each. One resident of the unincorporated area of Chatham County appointed by the Commissioners of the County serving a five year term with an initial two year term. One resident of Chatham County who will be a person with a disability who shall serve a term of office for five years appointed by the Commissioners. One resident of Chatham County At Large appointed by the Commissioners serving five year term with an initial term of four years. One member of the Board of Alderman of the City of Savannah appointed by the mayor and alderman of the City appointed again for a term of office of one year for up to five terms. One resident of the City of Savannah appointed by the mayor and alderman of the City appointed for five year terms with an initial term of three years and one resident of any municipality within Chatham County included in the special district of transit services appointed for a five year term with an initial term of office of one year. The reason for the varying initial terms is so as to provide for staggered terms; you have an entire Board on CAT Board rolling off at the same time.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Okay any questions, Helen.

MS. STONE: I would just like to thank Commissioner Odell. I know that this will be a better make up for the Board; it will better serve the citizens and the fact that we will have members from the City Council on this – that serves the City of Savannah, I think it is a much better composition of the Board and the fact that we will have meetings that do not conflict with Commission meetings I think will be (in audible) as far as getting what we need to do done for Chatham Area Transit so Commissioner Odell I want to thank you – well I guess I need to call you judge now. I wanna thank you –

MR. ODELL: How about Judge Commissioner? (Laughing)

MS. STONE: Judge Commissioner? (Laughing)

MR. ODELL: Call me what you've always called me...in public. (Laughing)

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Priscilla.

MS. STONE: I'm not gonna go there...I just want to thank you for your leadership on this new composition of the Chatham Area Transit Board...Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Priscilla.

DR. THOMAS: Thank you. I just want to ditto what has been said. Thank you so much Commissioner Odell for your leadership. This is long overdue; I see this as a win-win for Chatham County that's going to move us forward and I'm excited about the way that we are proposing about the new make up of this organization thank you so very much.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Dean.

MR. KICKLIGHTER: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I too thank you Commissioner you did a great job pushing this. I wanna make sure before I vote and I don't think this is anywhere in there, but

it's a large document. There's nothing in there that request a change of the structure of the tax base of this.

MR. BUTLER: Absolutely not. Originally that was contemplated by some who brought that up in the briefing sessions we had with members of the Board, but it was determined that that would require not only an act of the full General Assembly, but in all likelihood a constitutional amendment and frankly it was thought that that might not be in the cards.

MR. KICKLIGHTER: And I just wanted the Cities out there since I represent five of them and three of them opted out of this that there's no way this changes or forces them into doing anything and I just wanted them to know that before this is moved.

MR. BUTLER: The two things that absolutely do not change are the opportunity for the – or if the smaller municipalities who have already opted out they remain opted out and as far as the special transit district for taxing purposes goes the taxing district remains the same...it is still set by the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Commissioners still set the millage rate.

MR. KICKLIGHTER: Thank you.

MR. SHAY: Thank you Mr. Chairman. My understanding is that from here if the Resolution passes, this would be carried to the members of our Chatham County Legislative Delegation who are in Atlanta representing this community and that they would then actually have the final grafting of the bill to be dropped in. If that's the case then I would just ask that those members of our delegation to the extent that they can by advice of their legal counsel respect the wishes of this Board. I think preliminary indications are that they seem receptive to this but that they would respect the desires of we in the local community who are the stewards of Chatham Area Transit and have worked so hard over the last generation to bring our transit system from where it was to where we are and that I think this new Board structure would allow Chatham Area Transit to continue to grow and continue to reach out and serve more people in our community and attract those choice riders that we would like very much to bring into the system so I would like to call on my brothers and sisters up there in Atlanta to respect our wishes here and help us to move this community forward together.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: Need a motion on the floor.

MR. BROKER: So moved Mr. Chairman.

MS. STONE: Second.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: We have a motion on the floor and a second all in favor signify by raising your hand. Motion passes.

MR. SHAY: That looked unanimous to me.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: It's unanimous.

MR. SHAY: Unanimous. Yeah I thought so.

CHAIRMAN LIAKAKIS: It unanimous and the people in the audience want to know why we – still some don't understand. We have nine lights up there for Commissioners on that board to vote but we have fourteen members of our Chatham Area Transit Authority so that's why we raise our hands. Now next we will adjourn now and reconvene as the Chatham County Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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