



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
CAPITAL AREA TRANSIT SYSTEM
AND
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
APRIL 8, 2016
1:00 p.m.
BREC Administration Building
6201 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70806**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Jim Brandt

Mr. Brandt called the meeting to order.

II. ROLL CALL

All members were present, namely Messrs. Brandt, Breaux, Cutrera, O’Gorman, and Perret, and Mss. Barret, Collins-Lewis, Pierre, and Perkins. Also present were Mr. Conner Burns, CFO; Mr. Bill DeVille, CRO; Mr. Don Palmer, COO; other CATS staff; Creighton Abadie of Lindsay & Abadie, A.P.L.C., CATS attorney; and members of the public.

III. PRESIDENT’S ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Jim Brandt

Mr. Brandt congratulated Ms. Barret as the recipient of the Community Champion Award by the Baton Rouge Area Chamber.

He noted that he had been in contact with two international representatives from the Amalgamated Transit Union, Ms. Antonette Bryant and Mr. Anthony Garland, and there will be a meeting on April 18th at 9:00am with ATU representatives to discuss a wide-ranging list of issues. Mr. Brandt asked that board members wishing to attend contact Ms. McNaylor so that proper notice could be given if a quorum of the board would be present.

Mr. Brandt shared that there was a bill in the legislature right now, HB 958 sponsored by Representative C. Denise Marcelle that seeks to take \$100,000 from CATS and transfer it to the Sports Foundation. He noted that CATS was very concerned about the potential loss of revenue. Mr. Brandt also informed the board that CATS has decided not to pursue passage of HB159, introduced by Representative Patricia Smith, in this session of the

Legislature. He stated that because CATS was in a period of transition, now was not the best time to consider this proposal.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

1. Acceptance of resignation letter

Mr. Brandt shared that the resignation letter from Bob Mirabito, effective May 6, 2016, was contained in the packets for the board members; he noted that he received the letter on April 5, 2016.

He thanked Mr. Mirabito for his dedicated service and wished him well in his next endeavor. He thanked Mr. Mirabito for the talented team he assembled while at CATS and noted that he feels that team will serve CATS well in the next phase of the organization. Mr. Brandt also mentioned the financial stability that CATS now enjoys and noted that is in no small part due to the efforts of Mr. Mirabito and CFO Conner Burns.

Mr. Perret shared that he wanted to compliment the efforts of Mr. Mirabito for serving the public and putting a good system in place. He noted there were many improvements that were achieved, whether one agreed with the methods or not.

Mr. Brandt invited public comment. Mr. Anthony Garland, ATU International Representative, noted that there needed to be a vision for transit with the next CEO and not just a focus on running the agency day-to-day.

Mr. Donald Smith, a customer, said he saw improvements under Mr. Mirabito but not enough improvements. There needs to be a more hands-on approach with the riders and CATS should try to be a solution to the gridlock in Baton Rouge.

Ms. Collins-Lewis moved to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Capital Area Transit System that it hereby accepts Mr. Mirabito's resignation as CEO effective May 6, 2016.

Ms. Barret seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

2. Selection of Interim CEO and authorize the President to enter into a contract with the selected person

Mr. Brandt shared that he was pleased to announce his recommendation of Mr. William J. "Bill" Deville as the interim CEO. He noted that he had the pleasure of working with Mr. Deville many years ago in New Orleans and added that he has already made huge contributions to CATS.

Mr. Brandt noted that Mr. Deville would earn a salary of \$150,000 on a four-month contract with the possibility to extend month-to-month up to one year.

Mr. Brandt invited public comment and there was none.

Mr. Perret moved to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Capital Area Transit System that Mr. William J. Deville is hereby selected as the Interim CEO of Capital Area Transit System and that Mr. Jim Brandt is authorized to enter into a contract with Mr. Deville under such terms and conditions as he deems appropriate with a salary not to exceed \$150,000.

Ms. Perkins seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

3. Approve the contract authority for the Interim CEO

Mr. Abadie let the board members know that Mr. Mirabito had spending authority of up to \$50,000 for contracts and that he would notify the board of contracts between \$20,000 and \$50,000.

Mr. Brandt let it be known that he would have a more extensive role in the organization through this transitional period and would be updated on spending practices during this time. Once a permanent CEO is named, he will assume his traditional role as President.

Mr. Brandt invited public comment and there was none.

Ms. Barret moved to approve the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Capital Area Transit System that the Interim CEO or his designee is authorized to execute contracts on behalf of CATS or obligate CATS to agreements, without approval from the Board of Commissioners, for (a) matters involving \$50,000 or less annually or (b) vehicle parts, provided that non-vehicle parts matters involving \$20,000 to \$50,000 shall be reported to the Board.

Ms. Perkins seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

4. Appointment of search committee for permanent CEO

Mr. Brandt shared that he asked Ken Perret to chair the search committee, and Mr. Perret has accepted. The other board member representatives will be Jim Brandt, Donna Collins-Lewis, and Linda Perkins. There will also be representatives from the community, and they are as follows: Adam Knapp, Baton Rouge Area Chamber; Edgar Cage, Together Baton Rouge; Chris Tyson, LSU Law School Professor and former CATS Board member and President; Naomi “Katie” Guy, ATU Local 1546 President; Cordell Haymon, Board Chair for the Center for Planning Excellence; and a representative from the CATS Riders Association yet to be named (an invitation has been extended).

Mr. Brandt stressed that he is not interested in considering a contract management firm when looking for a leader for the organization, but he noted he would entertain a discussion if any board members were interested. He invited board members to contact him in the next few days if they wanted to consider pursuing a contract management option.

Mr. Perret shared that he would provide more information at the April CATS F&E Committee meeting regarding the process, criteria, and anticipated timeline. He noted that

the goal is to have a fair and transparent process, and he emphasized that all viewpoints would be heard and considered.

Mr. Gerard Robinson, a pastor, inquired as to the vetting process for the search committee members and noted he heard all the power players mentioned but no one from a grass roots perspective. Mr. Brandt shared that the community representatives were suggestions from fellow board members and noted there was grass roots representation with members from Together Baton Rouge and the Riders Association. Ms. Collins-Lewis noted that she recommended inviting someone from the union, Together Baton Rouge, and the Riders Association.

Ms. Antonette Bryant, ATU International Representative, shared that she was glad to hear Mr. Brandt say he did not support privatization as it is never a good option. She noted that she would be happy to discuss this with anyone having questions. Ms. Collins-Lewis added that she is not in favor of any type of privatization.

Mr. R.J. Goebel, recently retired from CRPC, commended the board for their extensive inclusion of community stakeholders in the search for a permanent CEO.

V. ADJOURN

Ms. Collins-Lewis moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Perkins seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.