**COMMISSIONER PRESENT**:

Commissioner Mark Raymond, Commissioner Walt Tillery, and Commissioner Art Walton

**COMMISSIONER ABSENT:** Commissioner Sharon Wegner and Commissioner Mostfa Sarwar

**Other Commissioner Present:** Commissioner Fred Neal

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:16 p.m.
2. **Roll Call:** A quorum was confirmed.
3. **Consideration: Minutes November 5, 2020**

Commissioner Tillery moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2020 meeting. Verbal Motion was adopted unanimously.

1. **Consideration:**  **Committee Chairman’s Report**

No report was given.

1. **Consideration: RTA’s Chief Executive Officer’s Report**

Alex Wiggins updated the Committee on service levels and stated that the RTA was in need of additional funding to be able to operate at our current level and the pandemic will continue to have an adverse impact on ridership and revenue and staff was looking for support from the federal government.

Mr. Wiggins reported that the RTA was in good shape financially through the first quarter of 2021 and staff does not anticipate having to ask the board to reduce service or staffing.

Regarding COVID, Alex Wiggins reported that that staff was going to double down on sanitizing and disinfecting the equipment every 24-hours spraying down the interior of all our vehicles.

Mr. Wiggins concluded his report by introducing Thomas Stringer as the new Deputy Chief Operations Officer.

1. **Consideration: Chief Finance Officer’s Report**

Gizelle Banks reported that the Operating Revenues for the month of October was budgeted at $9.3 Million. She also reported that Ridership and Fares increased by 37% from September and the trend has been going upward and staff projected revenue would be $72 Million.

According to Ms. Banks, Operating Expenses were at $9.2 Million, Maritime Operations included $2.6 Funding in CARES Act Funding, Preventative Maintenance was at $1.2 Million. Overall, the RTA had collected $34.7 Million in CARES Act Funding.

1. **Consideration of CY2021 Budget Presentation**

Gizelle Banks reported that there was no new CARES Act Funding and RTA was caring over $13 Million and staff would like to explore more revenue options such as:

* Advertising Revenue Opportunities
* Fare Study
* Advocacy for adequate Ferry Operations and Ferry Boat Maintenance
* Resolve the Hotel/Motel Tax Dispute with the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center
* Sales Tax Revenue Increase
1. **Consideration: Procurement Items:**
2. **Authorization to Award Special Trackwork Installation and Pole Painting Project**

Commissioner Tillery moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to approve the **Special Trackwork Installation and Pole Painting Project**. Verbal Motion was approved unanimously.

1. **Purchase of 3 Paratransit Vans**

Commissioner Tillery moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to approve the **Purchase of 3 Paratransit Vans.** Verbal Motion was approved unanimously.

1. **To Ratify:**

**Clever Devices – Maintenance Contract**

Commissioner Walton moved and Commissioner Tillery seconded to approve the **Clever Devices – Maintenance Contract**. Verbal Motion was approved.

**Resolution No. 20-073 was adopted unanimously**

1. **Consideration of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement Between the RTA and Audubon Institute for the use of the Bienville Street Wharf for the Canal Street Ferry Terminal Project (CSFT)**

Commissioner Tillery moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to approve the **CEA with the RTA and Audubon Institute for the use of the Bienville Street Wharf for the Canal Street Ferry Terminal Project (CSFT).** Verbal Motion was approved.

1. **Consideration: New Business**

None

1. **Consideration: Audience Questions & Comments**

**PLEASE NOTE: Persons wishing to submit public comments must either enter their full name in the chat sections of the Zoom meeting to provide comments during the meeting or email your comments to** **rtaboard@rtaforward.org** **to have your comments read aloud at the meeting.**

Mr. Posorske stated that and he wanted to thanked the RTA for its commitment to bus shelters in 2021.

In response to Mr. Posorske, Gizelle Banks stated that $2.6 Million was coming out of the general reserves for the ferry.

In response to Mr. Posorske, Gizelle Banks stated that the Unrestricted Reserve Level going into 2021 was $31 Million.

1. **Consideration: Adjournment**

Commissioner Tillery moved and Commissioner Walton seconded to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting of December 3, 2020. Verbal Motion was approved unanimously.