

FLINT HILLS AREA TRANSPORTATION AGENCY BOARD MEETING

March 2, 2021 | 4:00 pm

Remote meeting via Zoom

VOTING MEMBERS

Present	Aaron Estabrook - Manhattan Housing Authority - At Large - Chair Person
Present	Greg McKinley – Riley County Commission - Vice Chair
Present	Usha Reddi – Manhattan City Commission
Present	Derek Jackson – KSU Housing & Dining
Absent	Stephanie Peterson – Flint Hills MPO
Present	Jeff Barnes – Kansas State University
Absent	Dee McKee – Pottawattamie County Commission

FHATA STAFF MEMBERS

Present	Anne Smith – Executive Director
Present	Melanie Tuttle – Director of Finance – Treasurer
Present	Merl Page – Director of Operations
Present	Mike Wilson - Mobility Manager
Present	Daphne McNelly – Executive Administrator – Secretary
Present	Katey Cain – Director of Human Resources

MINUTES:

Call to Order – Anne Smith called the meeting to order at 4:05pm.

Introduction of New Members

Public Comment – Russell Shipley – Auditor

Action Item – Audit – Russell Shipley

- Audit was for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2021
- No significant deficiencies were noted.
- All financial statements were presented fairly, in all material respects.

Action Item: Approval of the Minutes from December 2021.

- Jeff Barnes moved to approve the Minutes.
- Derek Jackson seconded the motion.
- The majority were in favor and motion was carried unanimously.

Staff Update: Anne Smith

- ATA Bus has completed 7 months of the 12 month operation budget.
- The ATA Bus cost per mile has decreased but inflation is having a significant impact.
- Costs have increased by 24% since FY2019.
- Continuing to see Ridership increases but driver shortages are causing service reductions which is impacting growth.
- ATA Bus will be working to increase the sales and use of digital fares.
- ATA bus is working on innovative strategies to help reach job seekers and promote hiring.
- The District Loop presentation will take place at the next meeting.

Discussion Item: Budget Process and Workshop

- ATA Bus will be doing a budget workshop for staff and for Board Members March 14, 10:30am - 12:00pm
- It will cover higher level information regarding funding and finance processes at ATA Bus.

Discussion Item: Bus Shelter Update

- ATA Bus has opened the bidding process for the construction of the proposed bus shelters.
- They will be placed in four different locations throughout Manhattan.

Discussion Item: Staffing/COLA Update

- ATA Bus has been working to combat inflation for its employees by evaluating how wages can be increased during this time.
- Given the fact that ATA Bus was under budget, it presented the opportunity to let the staff know that the inflation costs are recognized and that they want to ensure that their wages can combat that.
- ATA Bus was able to go ahead with an additional 3% COLA Increase that begins in March 2022 in addition to the 2% increase that happened last year, to match the 4.9% Inflation increase.
- There was also a 2.5% increase in starting wages for drivers.
- Wages are 60% of the total budget but the increase in fuel cost and insurance is having an impact on the budget also so this increase has to be sustained.
- ATA Bus has the goal to find and receive a sustainable and consistent local match in order to continue to grow the company.

Action Item: Nomination and Election of Officers

- Usha Reddi nominated Aaron Estabrook to serve as Chair and Commissioner Greg McKinley to serve as Vice-Chair.
- Derek Jackson moved to have Aaron Estabrook serve as Chair and Commissioner Greg McKinley serve as Vice-Chair.
- Usha Reddi seconded the motion.
- The majority were in favor and motion was carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:42 pm by Aaron Estabrook.

Next meeting is June 1, 2022 at 4:00 pm via Zoom.