



BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, May 9, 2024, at 6 p.m.

Benton County Administration Building, Room 303
7122 W. Okanogan Place Building E, Kennewick, Washington

Meeting attendance options included in-person and virtual via Zoom

MINUTES

1. CONVENE BOARD MEETING

Chair Will McKay called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Clerk of the Board Anel Montejano asked the Board of Directors to state their name when their jurisdiction was called.

2. ROLL CALL

Representing	Attendee Name	Title	Status
City of Pasco	Charles Grimm	Director	Present
City of Kennewick	Brad Beauchamp	Vice Chair	Present
City of Richland	Kurt Maier	Director	Present
City of West Richland	Richard Bloom	Director	Present
Franklin County #2	Stephen Bauman	Director	Present
Franklin County #1	Clint Didier	Director	Present
Benton County	Will McKay	Chair	Present
City of Prosser	Steve Becken	Director	Present
City of Benton City	David Sandretto	Director	Zoom
Teamsters Union 839	Caleb Suttle	Union Representative	Present

BFT Staff: Janet Brett, Terry DeJuan, Sarah Funk, Brian Lubanski, Gabe Martin, Megan Schmidt, Anel Montejano, Joshua Rosas, Kevin Sliger, Kathryn Wall, Wayne Welle

Legal Counsel: Jeremy Bishop, Zoom

Interpreters: Ruth Medina, Ynez Vargas

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair McKay led the meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair McKay then opened the meeting to comments from the public.

Randall Jordan, a coach operator for Ben Franklin Transit for over 6 years, spoke against cutting sales tax.

Lori Beauchene, a resident of Kennewick, spoke in favor of Dial-A-Ride services. She stated that she had submitted a written comment, but she wanted it disregarded as it was not written the way she wanted.

Lisa Cross, a member of Clean Sweep, spoke against cutting Ben Franklin Transit services. She commended Frank Moreno, a transportation supervisor at Ben Franklin Transit, for saving her life.

Written Public Comments received:

Laurie Beauchene, a resident of Kennewick, spoke in favor of Dial-A-Ride services.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair McKay asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

BFT Legal Counsel Jeremy Bishop proposed an addition to Section 12 of the agenda, a second Executive Session under RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) to review collective bargaining proposals.

Director Bloom moved to approve the revised agenda, and Director Beauchamp seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

6. RECOGNITIONS

A. Resolution 24-2024 Retirement of Debra Brown

Manager of Paratransit Operations Megan Schmidt read the Board resolution recognizing Debra Brown, who was not present, for her 19 years of service.

Director Bloom moved for approval of Resolution 24-2024. The motion was seconded by Director Becken and passed unanimously.

7. CITIZENS ADVISORY NETWORK (CAN) REPORT

Ms. Dori Luzzo-Gilmour provided a report on the Citizens Advisory Network. She presented recommendation 2024-04 that proposes a standard method of tracking advocacy items, proposals, recommendations, studies, and suggestions that are being presented to Ben Franklin Transit management and Board of Directors. The CAN requests that each advocacy item be assigned a unique tracking identification number. After discussion among the Board members, they requested the Citizens Advisory Network to provide their recommendations to Ben Franklin Transit staff two (2) weeks in advance of the Board meeting. They will then forward them to the Board Chair, who will decide if it gets put on the agenda or will an Executive Committee meeting for further discussion.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair McKay presented the Consent Agenda items and invited a motion.

A. April 11, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

B. April Voucher Summary

C. Resolution 25-2024 Authorizing the Interim General Manager to Enter into Contract for Replacement Engines for up to 20 Coaches and Optional Parts

Director Didier requested Item C of the Consent Agenda be pulled for separate discussion.

Director Bloom moved for approval of Items 8(A) and 8(B) of the Consent items. The motion was seconded by Director Bauman and passed unanimously.

Senior Manager of Fleet Maintenance Terry DeJuan presented a resolution to enter into a contract for replacement engines for up to 20 coaches and optional parts.

Director Bauman moved for approval of Item 8(C) on the Consent Agenda, Resolution 25-2024. The motion was seconded by Director Bloom and passed unanimously.

9. DISCUSSION & INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. First Quarter 2024 Performance Report

Chief Planning and Development Officer Kevin Sliger presented the First Quarter 2024 Performance Report, highlighting ridership and route performance, capital projects, marketing and community outreach.

B. Modification of Fares (Resolution 09-2024)

Chief Financial Officer and Interim General Manager Sarah Funk presented information on the revised timing for fare structure changes, highlighting materials contained in the Board packet.

C. Modification of 2024 Annual Service Plan (Resolution 50-2023)

Mr. Sliger presented the 2024 Revised Annual Service Plan, highlighting the service change revision options.

10. STAFF REPORTS & COMMENTS

A. Legal Report

BFT Legal Counsel Jeremy Bishop announced an Executive Session would be held.

B. Financial Report

Chief Financial Officer Sarah Funk presented the Financial Report, highlighting Comparison Revenue and Expenditures to Budget and the Treasurer's Report.

C. Interim General Manager's Report

There was no Interim General Manager's report.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Director Suttle attended the Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. and learned a lot about hydrogen fuel cells, which are more expensive upfront but are better than battery-powered buses. He stated that we have a supplier in our own backyard, and we may want to consider this later. He also learned more about TOD, Transit-Orientated Development, where transit is working with developers and contractors to make it more feasible for buses in areas being developed. Transit can pay for a lot of things and help the cities out with sidewalks, infrastructure, streetlights, and things buses will use. Instead of the cities or counties paying for those projects, they can move that money somewhere else. He just wanted to say you are all county commissioners and city council members, help us help you.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Bishop announced an Executive Session would be held under RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) regarding consideration of real estate for acquisition and RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) reviewing a collective bargaining proposal for fifteen (15) minutes, and we may have action afterwards. The Board recessed at 7:47 p.m. and returned to open session at 8:05 p.m., when they extended Executive Session for an additional ten (10) minutes for further discussion. The Board returned to open session at 8:15 p.m. Discussion was held, and no decisions were made.

Director Bauman moved for approval of Resolution 26-2024 Authorizing the Interim General Manager to Ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between Ben Franklin Transit (BFT) and Teamsters Local 839 Representing Administrative Assistants. The motion was seconded by Director Grimm and passed unanimously.

13. OTHER

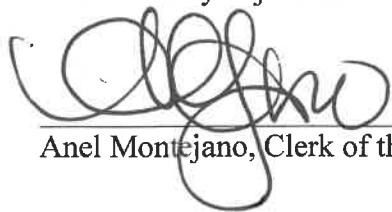
There were no other agenda items.

14. NEXT MEETING

The Board Workshop will be held Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 5 p.m.
The next meeting will be held Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 6 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Chair McKay adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.



Anel Montejano, Clerk of the Board

07/18/2024

Date