



Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority  
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## **Report to the Board Finance Committee**

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

**Opening:** The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chairman, Walter Jones, at 8:35 a.m. in the Executive Briefing Room, located at Central Station, 1735 Morris Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama 35203.

**Members Present:** Ronald Lyas and Guin Robinson

**Members Absent:** Walter Jones

**Others Present:** Debra Anderson-Burse, Anna Brown, William Copling, Jacquese Gary, Brian Hamilton, Johnnye P. Lassiter, Barbara Lawson, Chris Leffert, Dr. Jesse Lewis, Tracy Lewis, Richard Nardecchia, Doris Powell, Joi Scott, Rhonda Siserir, and Collina Washington.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** The agenda was adopted by general consent.

### **Items for Information and/or Discussion**

#### Update on Contracts with All Municipalities

William Copling, Interim Executive Director, reported that signed contracts have been received from the municipalities of Vestavia Hills, Mountain Brook, and Tarrant. Responses have not been received from Brighton, Lipscomb, Midfield, and Hoover. The second letter of notification for a public hearing will be sent in two weeks. Board Support was asked to coordinate with the mayors of Brighton, Lipscomb, and Midfield to meet with BJCTA representatives William Copling, Richard Nardecchia, and Guin Robinson; others were invited to attend if they would like. Staff has not received any recent communication from the City of Hoover regarding debt owed to the BJCTA or notification to rescind their resolution to terminate service. Staff was instructed to invoice the City of Hoover for the outstanding balance of \$30,117.50 for FY 2009. Mr. Robinson will call the mayor of Hoover for further clarification and report to the Board.

For the Board meeting scheduled for January 27, 2009, staff was asked to prepare a one page report that will list all municipalities on the left and whether or not there is a signed or pending contract on the right. For the cities of Brighton, Lipscomb and Midfield, there should be a short explanation of the current status.

For municipalities such as Bessemer and Homewood, payment is received through ad valorem taxes. An opinion was requested from legal counsel on whether or not there is a need to amend the resolution to consider municipalities that are not legislatively mandated to make payments.

Johnnye P. Lassiter announced the need for staff and any interested Board members to attend a meeting with officials of the Bessemer municipality to discuss an expansion of service to the Social Security Office in Bessemer and any other issues that the City may have.

The Transportation Committee for the City of Birmingham has requested administration be present at their meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 21, 2010. Mr. Robinson suggested that the one page budget, with modification, be prepared and given to every councilor at the meeting. Mr. Nardecchia requested that Board Support provide copies of the Performance Portfolio for the meeting. Dr. Jesse Lewis of The Lewis Group asked that staff call Councilor Kim Rafferty to request a list of questions that they would like answered by the BJCTA.

Mr. Robinson also proposed that the entire Board meet with the new mayor and all city council members to satisfy any and all questions. He suggested that the list of questions and answers be prepared and distributed to the Board so that everyone is on the same page. Brian Hamilton referred to a previous document that listed, in chronological order, monies promised and budget cut information and suggested a similar report be prepared for the meeting. Mr. Robinson asked that the Finance Committee meet and review the information as soon as the information is gathered.

In response to Ms. Lassiter regarding service to the City of Birmingham, Mr. Copling reported that the BJCTA would not be able to provide service for the City past February 28, 2010, with the current level of funding.

#### Report to the Board Regarding Fixed Price Contracts

Collina Washington, Procurement Manager, reported that the BJCTA is expected to consume the contracted balance of fuel at \$4.02 per gallon within approximately thirty (30) days. The BJCTA can then purchase diesel fuel at the rack price plus shipping and profit. The current rack price is \$2.18 per gallon. By May of this year, the BJCTA will be consuming more compressed natural gas so diesel fuel costs should dramatically be reduced.

#### Update on the Retirement Plan from Committee Members

Richard Nardecchia confirmed that fiduciary insurance is now in place to cover Board and staff members serving on the Pension Plan Committee. The Committee is comprised of three members representing the BJCTA (Guin Robinson, William Copling, and Richard Nardecchia) and three members representing the Union (President, Vice President and a Mechanics Representative). Mr. Robinson announced that he planned to request a forensic audit of the retirement system at the first meeting. He requested that Mr. Copling arrange a called meeting of the Committee.

Capital Improvement Budget – Wish List

Mr. Copling announced that staff is involved in other projects that have taken priority. This information will be provided at a later date.

**Resolutions for Consideration & Recommendation – None**

**Old Business –**

Overtime

Mr. Copling reported that new bus schedules have been prepared for the purpose of reducing overtime and the schedules will be submitted to the Union for their review of the proposed work changes. Mr. Hamilton recommended that staff prepare a presentation on route scheduling and to put it in perspective with industry standards so the Board can better respond to questions city council members and others may propose. The presentation should also explain any constraints listed in the collective bargaining agreement. Ms. Lassiter reported concerns of the city council on overtime and what the drivers do when the buses are broken.

**New Business –**

Bus Shelters

Ronald Lyas received a telephone call regarding construction of a bus shelter at a payment center for persons paying their water bills. An offer of equipment and materials to assist in constructing the shelter was made by the caller. Mr. Copling announced that the BJCTA has a standing contract for shelter installations. He will get with the facility manager and report back to the Board.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Barbara Lawson, Administrative Assistant

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guin Robinson for Walter Jones, Committee Chairman