

MINUTES OF THE RIVER PARISHES TRANSIT AUTHORITY
SPECIAL MEETING July 1, 2013

The Chairman, Brent Petit, called the meeting to order at approximately 3:15 P.M. on Monday, July 1, 2013 at the St. John the Baptist Parish Council Chambers, LaPlace LA.

Members present were B. Petit, H. Banquer, M. Octave, C. Faucheux, R. LeBlanc, R. Vincent, and R. Drexel, thus achieving a quorum. Also present were Leo Marretta (SCPDC), Robert Collins (Veolia), Elizabeth Griffith (GCR Incorporated), Allison DeJong (GCR, Incorporated), Lucien Gauff (St John Parish Council), and Natalie Robottom (St John Parish President).

B. Petit requested that the board members review the meeting minutes from the June 13, 2013 board meeting.

It was moved by C. Faucheux, seconded by H. Banquer to accept minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

R. Collins presented Veolia's Transit Operations Report for June 2013 and noted that since the meeting was on the first of the month they had not been able to tally the previous two days and that an amended report would be presented at the August 8 board meeting. There were 1,115 passengers transported for the month of June. The daily average is 58.68 passengers per day, 1.4 passengers scheduled per hour. Veolia's on-time performance averaged 93.7 percent. He stated that Veolia is still working to account for revenue for June and a deposit will be made once it is calculated. The total miles travelled were 17,184 miles. R. Collins informed the Board that there were no accidents or complaints in June. Ridership is steady and the June denial rate was 0%.

R. Collins then addressed the previous meeting's request to have Veolia explore the idea of operating the Reserve-Edgard ferry in St John Parish. He reported that Veolia is exploring the feasibility of operating the service directly. Discussion is ongoing with St John officials as well as LADOTD.

R. Vincent requested that the board allow for deviation from the agenda to move to item 6, the St John Parish Ferry as President Robottom was present. N. Robottom gave a brief background of the Parish's work to continue operations of the ferry service. She then informed the board that the Governor's office had expressed that there may be CDBG funds available to use for ferry operations for the coming year. The Parish worked with LADOTD to accept long-term maintenance responsibility on some small segments of State roads in exchange for the funds to continue the ferry operations for two months. The Parish is now looking at how to set fares appropriately and how much it will actually cost to operate the ferries annually. She went on to thank the Board for their consideration and expressed hope that by working together a long term solution can be found for ferry operations. H. Banquer asked if the State was going to continue to own the assets (boats, terminals) and N. Robottom replied that the State currently owns the assets and if they wanted to sell them, the Parish does not have funds available to purchase them, and reiterated that the Parish is exploring all of their options at the moment. H. Banquer also asked why the State was ending the service. N. Robottom explained that cutting ferry service was part of a larger movement to shrink State government and cut costs, but that ridership figures used for the Edgard-Reserve ferry were taken from when the ferry was closed and that they did not reflect the actual needs of the community.

It was moved by H. Banquer and seconded by R. Drexel to explore negotiations between DOTD, Veolia, RPTA, and St John Parish in the fact finding process to operate the Edgard-Reserve ferry and to explore the contractual obligations for Veolia and the tri-parish RPTA agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Petit then requested the Secretary/ Treasurer's Report. L. Marretta included the QuickBooks report in the board packet. Cash flow from January 1, 2013 through June 28, 2013 ended with \$753,836.07. The balance of all liabilities and equity as of June 28, 2013 was \$805,513.28. The profit and loss statement for 2013 year to date shows a net loss of \$221,567.29, however the Profit & Loss statement from the beginning of service in 2008 reported that the total income has been \$5,606,694.01. He then reviewed the check detail which included checks to H. Banquer, A. Harper, B. Petit, R. Drexel, and R. LeBlanc for the 2nd Quarter per diems and Veolia Transportation for June's service.

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B. Petit then requested that the following checks for approval and payment.

Check Number	Check Amount	Payment Made To	Services/Reason
782	\$180.00	Helen Banquer	2 nd Quarter Per Diems (April-June 2013)
783	\$60.00	Arthur Harper, Jr.	2 nd Quarter Per Diems (April-June 2013)
784	\$120.00	Brent Petit	2 nd Quarter Per Diems (April-June 2013)
785	\$180.00	Richard Drexel	2 nd Quarter Per Diems (April-June 2013)
786	\$120.00	Robbie LeBlanc	2 nd Quarter Per Diems (April-June 2013)
787	\$72,886.80	Veolia Transportation	June Service
Total approved	\$ 73,546.80		

It was moved by R. Vincent, seconded by C. Fauchaux to approve accounts payable. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Petit asked the board to discuss the accounting and oversight contract. E. Griffith then informed the board that the latest version of the contract with Solutient that GCR had received was included in the board's packets. B. Petit stated that he had emailed out a final draft of the contract and discussed some revisions that had to be made before the final draft was finished including some grant compliance issues. There was a general discussion amongst the board member about a clause in the contract which would direct disputes to arbitration, it was decided by the board that this clause was acceptable and would be left in.

It was moved by C. Fauchaux and seconded by R. Vincent to authorize B. Petit to execute the contract with Solutient for accounting and oversight services. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Petit then asked the board to discuss the future calendar for RPTA board meetings. It was discussed that some board members are unable to attend several future meetings. It was decided that changing meeting dates would be difficult since the annual calendar had already been published, and the board agreed that moving meetings to the morning on those dates would make it easier for board members to attend.

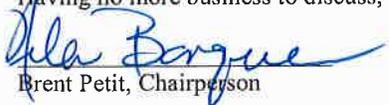
It was moved by C. Fauchaux and seconded by H. Banquer to change the future meeting time for the RPTA board to 10am. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Petit asked L. Marretta what the time commitment to transition the accounting and oversight tasks to Solutient would be. L. Marretta reported that they could simply hand over the records and let them handle it. R. Vincent expressed concern that there needed to be some conversations between SCPDC and Solutient to transition to make it as smooth as possible. L. Marretta assured the board that SCPDC would be willing to work with the Board and Solutient to ensure a smooth transition. It was noted that no representatives from Solutient attended the Board meeting.

L. Marretta asked if anyone from RPTA had been contacted by the Connect Coalition or LA Swift about RPTA being involved with the LA Swift service. There was a general open discussion about the LA Swift service and how RPTA could get involved in regional service. No decisions or motions were made.

It was moved by H. Banquer, seconded by R. Vincent to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Having no more business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 PM.


Brent Petit, Chairperson

8/8/13
Date