

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SOUTHWEST OHIO REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY**

MINUTES OF: Special Meeting of the SORTA Board of Trustees

DATE: Friday, May 2, 2014 - 2:00 p.m.
SORTA/Metro Mt. Adams Board Room
602 Main Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

PRESENT: Frank Bowen, Todd Cooper, Jason Dunn, Brennan Grayson, Gwen Robinson, Karl Schultz, Brad Thomas

**BOARD MEMBERS
ABSENT:** Suzanne Burke, Gregg Hothem, Kenneth Reed, Wael Safi, Brandi Stewart, Lamont Taylor

STAFF MEMBERS: Terry Garcia Crews, Lisa Aulick, Shawn Donaghy, Inez Evans, Paul Grether, Jennifer Haines, Darryl Haley, Mary Moning, Wright Parkes, Mike Restle, John Ravasio, Judy Ross, Frank Spataro, Terri Stevens

OTHERS: Troy Miller, ATU Local 627; Troy Hoskins, ATU Local 627; Russell Tieskoetter, MV Transportation, Inc.; Jarrett Andrews, MV Transportation, Inc.; Michael Roth, MV Transportation, Inc.; Nick Vehr, Vehr Communications; Brewster Rhoads, Vehr Communications; Chip Gerhardt, Government Strategies; Jim Benedict, Government Strategies; Tony Osterlund, Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease, LLP

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Dunn, Board Chair, called the meeting to order, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MV CONTRACT NEGOTIATION DISCUSSION

Mr. Dunn opened by stating the purpose of the meeting today is to discuss MV contract negotiations as the board is concerned about the possibility of the Access riders not having service. Ms. Crews noted that negotiations are between MV and ATU, not SORTA.

Ms. Crews provided background information. Access service is mandated by ADA. Service must be provided three quarters of a mile of fixed route service. Access provides 700 rides per day servicing 2,700 active riders. The cost to provide service is \$35 one way per ride. The MV operating contract is from March 2013 – March 2018. The current workforce is approximately 90 union employees consisting of operators, maintenance, utility, reservationists, and dispatchers. This contract was awarded because of MV's past record of safety, on-time performance, miles between road calls, efficiency and customer service.

MV and ATU began contract negotiations in 2012. The contract expired on February 28, 2013. MV has issued a final offer to the ATU, which has been rejected. The ATU has indicated that it

may vote to strike, which would be the first time Access has dealt with a strike situation. MV is contractually responsible for providing service during a strike. Metro is offering free rides on regular fixed route service for both the Access customer and companions in the event of a strike.

HEARINGS FROM CITIZENS

Mr. Miller stated that the ATU has been negotiating in good faith. Mr. Miller commented that it is unreasonable to expect an employee making \$18 an hour to pay \$1200 a month for family health insurance.

Mr. Hoskins said that the offers from MV are not acceptable and people simply can't afford reasonable health care.

Mr. Tieskoetter stated that MV has not been formally notified of a strike. MV is preparing to ensure that contractual obligations with SORTA are met in the event of a strike.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

APPROVED:

Jason Dunn
Chair, SORTA Board

ATTESTED:



Terry Garcia Crews
CEO & General Manager