

MOON TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Mailing Address:
1000 Beaver Grade Road
Moon Township, PA 15108
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2020 AUTHORITY BOARD

Mark Scappe, *President*
John Hertzner, *Vice President*
Tom Weaver, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Michael Hauser
James Vitale

Mills & Henry
Solicitor
Delta Development Group, Inc.
Executive Director

MINUTES

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

The Moon Transportation Authority (MTA) Board of Directors met on Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting, due to Covid-19, was conducted by video/phone conference rather than the typical meeting location at Moon Township Municipal Building, 1000 Beaver Grade Road, Moon Township, Allegheny County, PA 15108.

Board Members:

Michael Hauser – Present
John Hertzner – Present
Mark Scappe - Present
James Vitale – Present
Tom Weaver - Present

Also, in Attendance:

Lynn Colosi, Delta Development Group, Inc.
Austin P. Henry, Esq., Mills & Henry
Todd Alexander, Esq., Mills & Henry
David Toal, The Toal Law Firm
Don Graham, Moon Township Solicitor
Scott Brillhart, Moon Township
Brian Krul, TranSystems
Joe Rusiewicz, TranSystems
Nicholas Hamilton-Archer, Moon Area School District
(215 Lochinver Drive, Coraopolis, PA 15108)

Call to Order

Mr. Scappe opened the meeting at 4:08 p.m.

Roll Call

Mr. Scappe conducted roll call. All Board members were present. (Mr. Weaver departed the meeting at approximately 5:45 p.m.)

Ratification of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Weaver to approve and adopt the Minutes for the regular meeting of November 2020. Second by Mr. Hauser. Motion passed 5-0.

Financials

a. Ratification of Payment of October/November Invoices

Motion by Mr. Weaver to authorize the payment of October/November 2020 invoices. Second by Mr. Hauser. Motion passed 5-0.

b. Response to MASD Request

Ms. Colosi summarized Moon Area School District's (MASD) request for MTA to direct \$81,000 of LERTA RAP revenues annually for the next 10 years to the school district so that MASD can hire a teacher. Specifically, the MASD requested that real estate tax revenues on all major reconstructed/renovated commercial buildings in the LERTA RAP district go to the MASD rather than MTA, which is contrary to the exemption legislation of the Township and County, as well as the Resolutions of the MTA and Moon Area School District, and contrary to longstanding practices. Ms. Colosi evaluated financially whether it was possible for MTA to forego nearly 10 percent of its annual budget and future revenues to approve the request. After thorough analysis, it was determined that doing so would severely impact MTA's ability to pay debt incurred on previous projects approved by the MASD and other taxing body partners. Ms. Colosi's recommendation was to respectfully decline MASD's request.

The Board discussed in detail MASD's request and results of Ms. Colosi's evaluation and recommendation. To preface the discussion, Mr. Hauser commented that representing both the authority and school district gives him unique perspective and enables him to see that school district's request would cause harm to the MTA and its budget. One other Board member questioned MASD's motives for the request.

The Board directed Ms. Colosi to make a few minor changes to the memo to MASD explaining the evaluation and decision, and then submit the memo to MASD's superintendent.

Project Updates

a. Market Place District Improvements Project

Ms. Colosi presented the overall status of development efforts at Market Place District, specifically noting the submission of a Traffic Impact Study (TIS) by Kossman and Burns & Scalo and response from the Township. Ms. Colosi stated that development is underway with the Township's approval of Smith Packett Senior Living Facility, which is part of Kossman's overall development.

Because developers have begun formally submitting development plans to the Township, Ms. Colosi recommended that the Board authorize the execution of Larson Design Group's Master Services Agreement, which will subsequently lead to a work order to design traffic mitigation projects required by the Township to undertake development. At this point, Ms. Colosi handed the conversation over to Mr. Graham and Mr. Brillhart representing Moon Township.

Mr. Graham and Mr. Brillhart reported that they met with Ms. Colosi, Mills & Henry, and Mr. Toal to discuss ways to require developers to contribute financially to design and construct the traffic mitigation projects. Mr. Graham said there are strategies such as Business Improvement District and Neighborhood Improvement District. The Township is going to investigate those programs and get back to MTA with a recommendation for the most appropriate method.

Following discussion about how to advance Market Place District development and required traffic mitigation projects, the Board concurred with Ms. Colosi's recommendation to execute Larson Design Group's contract. Work Order 1 scope and cost proposal for design of the traffic mitigation projects will be drafted over the next month and presented to Board in January for review and discussion.

Motion by Mr. Hauser to approve Larson Design Group's Master Services Agreement for design and engineering for Market Place District Improvements Project. Second by Mr. Hertzler. Motion passed 5-0.

b. Thorn Run Interchange Project

i. Construction Close-Out

Ms. Colosi reported that highway lighting for Thorn Run Interchange project was installed and that the safety fence over the Parkway has not been installed. Mr. Scappe asked Ms. Colosi to continue to remind District 11 about the importance of the fence installation.

Ms. Colosi also reported that following submission of the final change orders by District 11, project costs will be reconciled with final pay-off of the Project's remaining balance likely in January 2021.

ii. Stream Mitigation Project

The Stream Mitigation project was completed in early December. All indications from the Project Manager and Project partners are that the mitigation project was completed successfully. Ms. Colosi will draft letters to the Project partners – Forest Grove Sportsmen's Association and Montour Trail Council – thanking them for their assistance.

c. Stevenson Mill Connector (SMC)/Rouser Road Connector (RRC)/Offsites

Mr. Krul, TranSystems, SMC, RRC and Offsites project engineer, and project manager, Mr. Rusiewicz were on-hand to discuss status of preliminary engineering and right-of-way for the projects.

Ms. Colosi reported on the Army's fence installation and its' potential impacts on RRC roadway alignment and that the Project team will be meeting with Army to discuss solutions. Mr. Alexander provided a summary of the issues and outcome of the previous meeting with the Army.

Executive Session

Motion by Mr. Hauser at 5:44 p.m. to enter Executive Session to discuss potential litigation. Second by Mr. Vitale. Motion passed 4-0.

Motion by Mr. Hertzler to exit Executive Session at 6:28 p.m. Second by Mr. Vitale. Motion passed 4-0.

Other Items of Interest

To avoid conflict with the Township's Board of Supervisors' meeting on Monday, January 4, 2021, MTA will hold its' Board meeting by video/phone conference on Tuesday, January 5, 2021. The Board directed Ms. Colosi to prepare the public notice and meeting materials accordingly.

Comments from the Public

Nicholas Hamilton-Archer, MASD board member, attended the meeting. Mr. Hamilton-Archer stressed the importance of better communication and coordination from this point forward between the MTA and MASD. He asked MTA's Board to engage in proactive, forward thinking conversation. The Board and Mr. Hamilton-Archer agreed that it is important to conduct regular, perhaps quarterly, meetings between the authority and school district to avoid misunderstanding.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Vitale at 6:33 p.m. Second by Mr. Hauser. Motion passed 4-0.