



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING  
June 10, 2021 - 4 p.m.**

Per the Governor’s COVID-19 Proclamation 20-28 Open Public Meetings Act, the Board of Directors Regular Meeting was remote and telephonic, with call-in access provided to all participants and attendees.

**MINUTES**

**1. CONVENE BOARD MEETING**

CHAIR BLOOM called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Representing	Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Pasco	Ruben Alvarado	Director	Present	
Kennewick	Chuck Torelli	Director	Present	
Richland	Phillip Lemley	Director	Present	
West Richland	Richard Bloom	Chair	Present	
Franklin County #2	Rocky Mullen	Director	Present	
Franklin County #1	Clint Didier	Director	Present	
Benton County	Shon Small	Director	Present	
Prosser	Steve Becken	Director	Present	
Benton City	Lisa Stade	Vice Chair	Present	
The Union	Norma Nelson	Nonvoting Union Rep.	Present	

**BFT Staff:** Gloria Boyce, Ayodeji Arojo, Bill Barlow, Janet Brett, Carina Cassel, Chad Crouch, Terry DeJuan, Mindy Eakin, Bill Hale, Keith Hall, Mona Jamison, Jeff Lubeck, Lisa Larson, Kim Newton, Rob Orvis, Jerry Otto, Mike Roberts, Wendi Warner

**Legal Counsel:** Jeremy Bishop

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

CHAIR BLOOM led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There were no requested additions or changes to the agenda.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED (Unanimously)</b>
<b>MOTION:</b>	<b>LEMLEY</b>
<b>SECOND:</b>	<b>ALVARADO</b>

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

CHAIR BLOOM explained there are two comment periods and instructed the public on the process to be used to address the Board. This portion of the meeting is for general comments from the public; comments on Agenda Item 11A will be taken during that portion of the meeting.

No public comment was received.

**6. RECOGNITIONS**

Chair Bloom introduced the new Clerk of the Board, Janet Brett, who began work Monday.

**7. CITIZENS ADVISORY NETWORK (CAN) REPORT**

There was no CAN Report for this Board meeting.

**8. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS**

CHAIR BLOOM invited the committee chairs to report on their respective committee meetings, which were held remotely. The meeting minutes were in the Board packet.

- A. **Operations & Maintenance Committee** -- This month's meeting of June 2, 2021, was canceled.
- B. **Planning & Marketing Committee** -- The June 2, 2021, meeting included discussion about Resolution 29-2021: Authorization to Extend Columbia Basin College Contract #893 through June 30, 2022.
- C. **Administration & Finance Committee** -- STEVE BECKEN, committee chair, reported at the June 3, 2021, meeting they discussed Resolution 30-2021: Authorizing General Manager to Release the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Public Comment, which is an action item on the agenda today.

**9. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board convened in executive session under RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) for review of labor negotiations and proposals at 4:14 p.m. and returned to open session at 4:30 p.m.

CHAIR BLOOM stated he would entertain a motion. Director Lemley made a motion to approve Resolution 31-2021 authorizing the General Manager to adopt the June 2021 to June 2022 wage schedule for the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Ben Franklin Transit (BFT) and Teamsters Local 839 Representing Mechanics, Equipment Body Repair, Fuelers, Washer/Cleaners, Equipment Service Workers, Facilities Maintenance Workers, Facilities Support Specialists, and Materials Coordinators.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED (Unanimously)</b>
<b>MOTION:</b>	<b>LEMLEY</b>
<b>SECOND:</b>	<b>BECKEN</b>

Roll call vote:

Alvarado-Aye

Torelli-Aye

Lemley-Aye

Bloom-Aye

Didier-Aye

Small-Aye

Becken-Aye

Stade-Aye

Mullen-Aye

**10. CONSENT ITEMS**

CHAIR BLOOM read the consent items and invited a motion.

A. May 13, 2021, Regular Board Meeting Minutes – Approve

B. May Voucher Summary – Approve

C. Resolution 29-2021: Authorization to Extend Columbia Basin College Contract 3893 through June 30, 2022 – Approve

**PAYROLL**

Check Register Number	Check Number / Number	Date of Issue	In the Amount
509-21	80785 80790	5/7/2021	543,238.16 Payroll
510-21	VOID 80791-80795	5/21/2021	0.00 Payroll
511-21	80796 80800	5/21/2021	571,987.67 Payroll
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 1,115,225.83</b>

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Check Register Number	Check Number / Number	Date of Issue	In the Amount
134-21	77687 77752	5/5/2021	300,468.40 MDSE
135-21	ACH TRANS	5/11/2021	767,896.21 ACH TRANS
136-21	VOID 76826,77129,77172	5/11/2021	(11,037.00) VOID
137-21	77753 77801	5/11/2021	149,435.03 MDSE
138-21	77802 77892	5/20/2021	269,910.63 MDSE
139-21	77893 77894	5/25/2021	3,063.86 MDSE
140-21	77895 77939	5/26/2021	282,495.30 MDSE
141-21	ACH TRANS	5/31/2021	421,281.43 ACH TRANS
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$ 2,183,513.86</b>

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED (Unanimously)</b>
<b>MOTION:</b>	<b>ALVARADO</b>
<b>SECOND:</b>	<b>SMALL</b>

**11. DISCUSSION & INFORMATIONAL ITEMS****A. Franklin & Benton County Commissioners' Budget Concerns**

CHAIR BLOOM related that last week, in a joint meeting of the Benton and Franklin County Commissioners, it was agreed that funding for mental and substance abuse services was needed. The commissioners have directed their staff to prepare a letter asking BFT to reduce local funding for public transit. CHAIR BLOOM asked staff to prepare a presentation outlining the budget that was approved last November.

Director of Administrative Services Jeff Lubeck provided Board members with a summary of the budget including revenues, expenses, capital, and current cash position.

CHAIR BLOOM told participants he would entertain comments from the Board.

**B. Public Comments Regarding Agenda Item 11A**

Ginger at 435 Michael Avenue, Richland, Washington, spoke against cutting BFT funding.

Colin Berry voiced his support for transit and disapproves of cutting the funding.

Francesco Meyer stated that if we want a functional, thriving, vibrant community, we need transit.

CHAIR BLOOM closed the public comment period at 5:45 p.m.

**12. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Resolution 30-2021: Authorizing General Manager to Release the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Public Comment**

CHAIR BLOOM announced this could be released for public comment over the next 27 days, and we will address approval at the next Board meeting in July.

CHAIR BLOOM invited a motion.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED (Unanimously)</b>
<b>MOTION:</b>	<b>STADE</b>
<b>SECOND:</b>	<b>ALVARADO</b>

**13. STAFF REPORTS & COMMENTS**

**A. Legal Report**

Mr. Bishop has been working with staff on RFPs and contracts; they are very busy and doing a great job. He commended BFT staff on bus stop maintenance and appearance.

**B. Financial Report**

Mr. Lubeck presented a financial report to the Board, highlighting materials contained in the Board packet.

**C. General Manager's Report**

General Manager Gloria Boyce reported we anticipate moving to in-person meetings in July once the governor moves the State of Washington into Phase 4 after June 30. Board members were asked for guidance on the date and times for the monthly board meetings, moving forward. After a brief discussion, it was determined that in-person meetings would resume on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

**14. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Director Alvarado reported on the groundbreaking on the Lewis Street overpass.

Directors discussed the potential impact of a reduction in the amount of local transit sales tax from .6 percent to .5 percent.

CHAIR BLOOM closed by stating this budget discussion would continue at next month's Board of Directors meeting.

**15. NEXT MEETING**

Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, July 8, 2021, at 7 pm.

**16. ADJOURNMENT**

CHAIR BLOOM adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

  
Janet Brett, Clerk of the Board

  
Date