



BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, August 8, 2024, at 6 p.m.

Benton County Administration Building, Room 303
7122 W. Okanogan Place Building E, Kennewick, Washington

Meeting attendance options included in-person and virtual via Zoom

MINUTES

1. CONVENE BOARD MEETING

Chair Will McKay called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Clerk of the Board Anel Montejano asked the Board of Directors to state their name when their jurisdiction was called.

2. ROLL CALL

Representing	Attendee Name	Title	Status
City of Pasco	Charles Grimm	Director	Present
City of Kennewick	John Trumbo	Alternate	Present
City of Richland	Kurt Maier	Director	Present
City of West Richland	Richard Bloom	Director	Present
Franklin County #2	Stephen Bauman	Director	Present
Franklin County #1	Clint Didier	Director	Present
Benton County	Will McKay	Chair	Present
City of Prosser	Steve Becken	Director	Present
City of Benton City	David Sandretto	Director	Present
Teamsters Union 839	Traci Bronson	Alternate	Present

BFT Staff: Tina Braswell, Janet Brett, Terry DeJuan, Steve Frazier, Brian Lubanski, Gabe Martin, Shawna Munyan, Rob Orvis, Emily Pearce, Joshua Rosas, Megan Schmidt, Kevin Sliger, Solomon Torelli, Kathryn Wall, Wayne Welle

Legal Counsel: Jeremy Bishop

Interpreters: Ruth Medina, Ynez Vargas

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair McKay led the meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair McKay then opened the meeting to comments from the public.

Solomon Torelli, a resident of Richland, addressed the board about the Annual Service Plan and increasing transit services.

Pierre Saget, a resident of Richland, spoke about sources of revenue for transit without increasing taxation.

Emily Pearce, a resident of Prosser, addressed the Board about putting community needs first when looking at the Annual Service Plan and the Long-Range Plan.

Michelle Andres, a resident of Pasco, and Jerry Martin, a resident of Kennewick, spoke in favor of improving and modernizing communication systems in Benton and Franklin Counties.

Kathryn Torelli, a resident of Richland, spoke in favor of fixed route services and how they work.

No Written Public Comments were received.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair McKay asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Director Becken moved to approve the agenda, and Director Maier seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair McKay presented the Consent Agenda items and invited a motion.

A. July 18, 2024, Special Board Meeting Minutes

B. July 18, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

C. July Voucher Summary

D. Resolution 38-2024 Authorizing the Interim General Manager to Declare the Items Identified on Exhibit A: “List of Surplus Information Technology Items” as Surplus and Dispose of per Resolution 62-2024

E. Resolution 39-2024 Authorizing the Interim General Manager to Enter into a Contract for Mobile Ticketing Services with Cubic Transportation Systems, Inc.

Director Becken moved for approval of the Consent Agenda items. The motion was seconded by Director Maier and passed unanimously.

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. Adoption of the 2024-2030 Transit Development Plan

i. Presentation

Chief Planning & Development Officer Kevin Sliger presented information on the Ben Franklin Transit (BFT) 2024-2030 Transit Development Plan, which is a state

requirement to project out services, capital improvement plans, and how to grow and maintain service as an agency for the next six years. He added that no comments were received, but modifications were made during the public comment period to include omissions that needed to be added.

ii. Public Hearing

Chair McKay opened the Public Hearing on the adoption of the TDP. No public comments were offered.

iii. Resolution 40-2024: Adoption of the 2024-2030 Transit Development Plan as Presented

Mr. Sliger asked the Board to adopt the 2024-2030 Transit Development Plan as presented.

Director Sandretto moved for approval of Resolution 40-2024. The motion was seconded by Director Maier and passed unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION & INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Second Quarter 2024 Agency Performance Report

Mr. Sliger presented the Second Quarter 2024 Agency Performance Report highlighting ridership data, capital projects, and community events.

B. Long-Range Transit Plan

Mr. Sliger presented information on the Long-Range Transit Plan, which is meant to make sure that Ben Franklin Transit grows consistent with the jurisdictions it serves and provides a 20-year outlook.

9. STAFF REPORTS & COMMENTS

A. Legal Report

BFT Legal Counsel Jeremy Bishop stated he has been busy with staff working on RFP's and contracts and working with Prothman, our recruiter, on the recruitment of the Chief Executive Officer and will have an update in executive session. He announced there will be an executive session regarding an issue of potential litigation and an update on bargaining.

B. Interim General Manager's Report

Interim General Manager & Chief Financial Officer Sarah Funk stated we are kicking off this Sunday with the WSTA Conference and State Rodeo. You can see the cones and Ben Franklin Transit buses set up already behind the Toyota Center. Hundreds of people will be in attendance, and she invited the Board to attend if they can.

She stated new vans are coming in and will have a new look. It takes a lot of work and effort to get these vans out and thanked the Marketing and Maintenance teams.

Ms. Funk stated we have the parade in downtown Kennewick to kick off the fair and rodeo on Saturday, August 17, and if they are interested in riding along, they are welcome to join, as a number of people from the Citizens Advisory Network are going to be riding on one of the buses.

She stated we had a Dial-A-Ride hiring event, as we continue to get staffing levels back to where they need to be due to attrition and retirements and will be starting a new class in

September.

10. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There was discussion among the Board members about what can or cannot be put on the ballot.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Bishop announced an Executive Session would be held under RCW 42.30.140(4)(b), RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for twenty (20) minutes. The Board recessed at 6:50 p.m. and returned to open session at 7:10 p.m., when they extended Executive Session for an additional 20 minutes. The Board returned to open session at 7:29 p.m. and announced that discussion was held, but no decisions were made, with motions following executive session.

Director Bauman moved to make Joshua Rosas the Interim General Manager effective August 9, 2024, through the October Board meeting, or until a Chief Executive Officer has been hired. The motion was seconded by Director Grimm and passed unanimously.

Director Bauman moved to authorize the Chair of the Board, as well as legal counsel, to negotiate a contract with one of the leading candidates for Chief Executive Officer. The motion was seconded by Director Grimm and passed unanimously.

12. OTHER

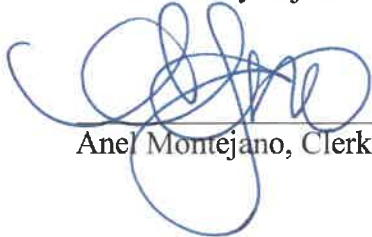
There were no other agenda items.

13. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Thursday, September 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Chair McKay adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.



Aneel Montejano, Clerk of the Board



Date