



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 6 p.m.
Ben Franklin Transit Boardroom
1000 Columbia Park Trail, Richland, 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	Brad Beauchamp	Vice Chair	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	Excused
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	Union Representative	Present

BFT Staff: Brittany Archibald, Jamie Bergstrom, Imelda Collop, Jon Comfort, Terry DeJuan, Michaela Dimas, Brian Lubanski, Rob Orvis, Joshua Rosas, Kevin Slinger, Denise Sommer, Sean Taylor, Solomon Torelli, Michael Wells

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.

Denise Sommer, resident of Richland, addressed the Board about payroll issues employees are having.

Solomon Torelli, resident of Richland, addressed the Board and spoke in favor of public transit.

Michael Wells, resident of Pasco, addressed the Board about staff shortages.

Sean Taylor, resident of Kennewick, and a Dial-A-Ride driver for Ben Franklin Transit, addressed the Board about staff shortages.

Written Public Comments Received Prior to the Meeting

A Customer Comment was received and spoke against getting rid of youth ride free passes.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair McKay asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Director Bauman moved to approve the agenda, and Director Sandretto seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

6. RECOGNITIONS

A. Resolution 41-2024 Retirement of Darlene Pinney

Senior Manager of Customer Service Brian Lubanski read the Board resolution recognizing Darlene Pinney, who was not present for her 16 years of service.

Director Sandretto moved for approval of Resolution 41-2024. The motion was seconded by Director Maier and passed unanimously.

7. CITIZENS ADVISORY NETWORK (CAN)

A. Report

Mr. Dennis Kreutz presented and highlighted items in their minutes from their September 16, 2024, Citizens Advisory Network meeting.

B. Recommendation CAN 2024-04 Method of tracking and responding to CAN Advocacy Items

BFT Legal Counsel Jeremy Bishop addressed the Board regarding the Citizen Advisory Network's recommendation CAN2024-04 regarding the method of tracking and responding to the advocacy items. A numbering system was established, the first three letters to be CAN, the four numbers are the current calendar year, and the following numbers are the number item. The recommendations are to be presented early enough to be on the agenda for the Board to provide feedback, or if more time is needed to be moved to the next board meeting.

C. Recommendation CAN 2024-07

Mr. Bishop addressed the Board regarding the Citizen Advisory Network's recommendation CAN2024-07 regarding BFT Board and Directors take a public stance to Vote No on I-2117. Mr. Bishop recommended that the Board deny the proposal.

8. CONSENT AGENDA

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

A. September 5, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes

B. September Voucher Summary

C. Resolution 42-2024 to Amend Resolution 41-2023, Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to purchase up to eighty (80) replacement Vanpool vehicles, Chief Executive Officer to enter into a contract to purchase up to thirty-two (32) 7-passenger vehicles utilizing Washington State Contract #05916; Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a contract to purchase up to nineteen (19) 7-passenger Sport Utility Vehicles (SUV) utilizing Washington State Contract #05916; Authorize the Chief Executive Officer to purchase up to twenty-nine (29) 12- and/or 15-passenger full size vehicles utilizing Washington State Contract #05916

D. Resolution 43-2024 Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to enter into contract with Bridgestone, Americas Tire Operations LLC

E. Resolution 44-2024 Adopting the Updated Policy 6.1, Donations, Devises of Bequests Gifts, Entertainment, or Favors

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

9. DISCUSSION & INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Pursuing 791 Cooperative Partnership with Nomad Transit LLC, dba Via (VIA)

Chief Planning & Development Officer Kevin Sliger presented a memo for Board information to enter into a cooperative partnership with Nomad Transit LLC, dba Via. It will be brought back before the Board for approval in November.

10. STAFF REPORTS & COMMENTS

A. Legal Report

BFT Legal Counsel Jeremy Bishop stated no real news and has been working with BFT staff on contracts, RFPs and hoping to provide a report in the next month or two on a couple of items.

B. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Chief Executive Officer Thomas Drozt addressed the Board and provided an update on the Finance Department and the overall financial for the year remains strong.

Mr. Drozt has been working with each of the departments to establish Key Performance Indicators (KPI) that are standard in the transit industry to show industry, standard goals or goals specific in nature to be published on BFT's website to show the public what is being delivered. He stated at the next board meeting everyone will be able to see what everyone has been doing over the last five months. We are working on getting the remainder of the year done to see what 2024 looks like overall and will be the norm from here on out.

He touched on the organizational needs to ensure they are aligned with the strategic goals and adjusting where needed.

Mr. Drozt provided an update on the smaller fleet that was purchased about two years ago, making them design ready to put out on the road.

He also touched on job postings on the BFT website for Coach and Dial-A-Ride operators as there is a need and are short in both those areas. There is a Dial-A-Ride class going on with eight students and they are in week three of training. We are also accepting applications for Coach operators as we are understanding the need and needing to bump up those numbers.

Mr. Drozt stated he purchased a home and will be living in Pasco.

11. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board comments were made.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session was held.

13. OTHER

There were no other agenda items.

14. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Chair McKay adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.



Anel Montejano, Clerk of the Board

11-14-2024

Date