



Memphis Area Transit Authority

MATA'S MISSION: To provide a reliable, safe, accessible, clean and customer-friendly Public Transportation System that meets the needs of the community.

Board of Commissioners

Chairman – Sean Healy

Vice Chairman – Andre Gibson

Commissioners

Charles “Chooch” Pickard

John C. Vergos

Martin Lipinski

Roquita Coleman

Shelia Williams

Kristen Bland

Lauren Taylor

**Board of Commissioners
Special Call Meeting
Central Station, 545 So. Main Street
Tuesday, July 15, 2014
5:30 p.m.**

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|------|---|----------------|
| I. | CALL TO ORDER | Sean Healy |
| II. | BOARD ROLL CALL | Linda Eskridge |
| III. | ACTION ITEM(s): | Sean Healy |
| | A. <u>FINANCE COMMITTEE</u> | |
| | None | |
| | B. <u>SERVICE AND DEVELOPMENT</u> | |
| | 1. Resolution to Authorize Chairman of the MATA Board of Commissioners to Negotiate Contract with Candidate for President/General Manager
- Res. No. 14-32 | Sean Healy |
| | 2. Resolution to Recognize Dr. Tom Fox Service as the Interim President/General Manager - Res. No. 14-33 | Sean Healy |
| IV. | OLD/NEW BUSINESS | |

**MEMPHIS AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION NO. 14-32

**RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO
NEGOTIATE CONTRACT WITH CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT-GENERAL
MANAGER**

WHEREAS, Section 2-56-5, Code Of Ordinances, City Of Memphis, Tennessee (City Code) authorizes the Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) Board of Commissioners to hire or contract with a general manager to operate the MATA transportation system; and

WHEREAS, following the retirement of William Hudson Jr., a national search has been conducted for the position of President/General Manager, and the Authority entered into a contract with KL Executive Search LLC as to the search; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners believes that it is in the best interest of the Authority to conduct negotiations with Ron Garrison as to the terms and conditions of the potential appointment of Ron Garrison as MATA President/General Manager, including but not limited to the terms and conditions of a potential contract of employment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMPHIS AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS That Sean Healy, Chairman, MATA Board Of Commissioners is authorized and directed to negotiate with Ron Garrison as to potential terms and conditions of a contract of employment to serve as MATA President/General Manager. KL Executive Search LLC is authorized to assist and work with Mr. Healy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the appointment of the President/General Manager and the terms of his/her employment, including compensation, are reserved to further action of the Board of Commissioners.

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**MEMPHIS AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION NO. 14-33

**RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE DR. TOM FOX FOR SERVICE AS THE INTERIM
PRESIDENT-GENERAL MANAGER**

WHEREAS, the Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) Board of Commissioners named Tom Fox to the position of Interim President and General Manager for the Authority beginning on January 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, following the retirement of William Hudson Jr., Tom Fox has graciously and faithfully executed the duties of Interim President and General manager; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners believes Tom Fox has been and will continue to be an integral part of the Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMPHIS AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS That Tom Fox be recognized for his service above and beyond the call of duty in performing the role of Interim President and General Manager since January 1, 2014.

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MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
MEMPHIS AREA TRANSIT AUTHORITY
July 15, 2014

CALL TO ORDER: A Special Board Meeting of the MATA Board of Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Sean Healy, at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, 2014 at Central Station Board Room at 545 So. Main Street.

BOARD ROLL CALL:

Present: Chairman, Sean Healy
Commissioners: Charles Pickard; Andre Gibson; Shelia Williams; Martin Lipinski; Lauren Taylor; Kristen Bland

Absent: John Vergos; Roquita Coleman

Quorum: Yes

Staff: Lawson Albritton; Alison Burton; Yuri Chambers; Tom Clay; Phyllis Dodson; Linda Eskridge; John Lancaster; Maury Miles; Gilbert Noble; Alvin Pearson; Delois Slater; Fred Williams

Guests: **MCIL/STAC Attendees:** Rexcey Bowers; Tina Murphy;
Memphis Bus Riders Union: Cynthia Bailey; Sarah Clark; Leonard Ewing; Jackie Heath; Charles Johnson; Jewel Jones; Michael Krause; Ray McClanahan; Shahin Saniei;
Others: Betty Anderson, Travel Trainer; Juanita Brooks, Bus Rider; Kenneth Brooks, Citizens for Better Services; Mary Godwin; Ernest Holton, MATA Protech Security; Terry Johnson, Trolley; Charles Miller, Bus Rider; Johnnie Mosley, Citizens for Better Services; Montrell Nelson; Henry Wilson, Retiree;

Chairman Healy stated that the purpose of this meeting was to vote on the two action items listed on the agenda as Res. Nos. 14-32 and 14-33. Speakers are allowed to speak only on the two items at hand. Any other discussion matters can be discussed at the next regular MATA Board Meeting scheduled for July 28, 2014 at 1370 Levee Road Board Room at 3:30p.m. There were two speakers that requested to speak on Resolution No. 14-32.

A. FINANCE COMMITTEE

None

B. SERVICE AND DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Resolution to Authorize Chairman of the MATA Board of Commissioners to Negotiate Contract with Candidate for President/General Manager
- Res. No. 14-32**

Discussion: Chairman Healy stated part of the City Council Ordinance gives the Board Commissioners the authorization to hire or contract with a general manager to operate the MATA transportation system. Mr. Hudson retired after 49 years of service with MATA. Chairman Healy stated that the authority entered into a contract with KL Search Firm LLC, who specialize in hiring transportation professionals to help with the process of hiring a general manager. The list began with 45 candidates and it was narrowed down to 13. Board interviewed five candidates and would like to pass a resolution to begin to negotiate with Ron Garrison on potential terms and conditions of a contract to become MATA's new president/general manger. **Mr. Lipinski moved that Res. No. 14-32 be put on the floor for discussion. Ms. Bland seconded the motion.** Chairman Healy then called for the speakers requesting to speak on this resolution.

1) **Mr. Willie Barber, ATU Local 713** - Mr. Barber addressed the Board with four questions concerning the negotiation with the candidate for general manager:

- **Will this candidate be a Resume Builder**
- **Housing/Salary/cars expenses**
- **Knowledge of our city**
- **The concept of the authority being broke**

Mr. Barber stated that we have been stating that the authority is broke, but is making plans to negotiation some money that we don't have for an outside source, when we already have someone on Board that can do the job and is a long-time resident.

Chairman Healy addressed all the questions as follows: 1) Mr. Garrison was very specific about his intentions and desire to stay and build a transit authority that we all want it to be. 2) This question can only be answered after the resolution is passed, as the resolution is about the terms and conditions of the contract. 3) Mr. Garrison did a lot of research about the city, which was evident in his interview process. Ms. Williams stated that Mr. Garrison was very knowledgeable of the city. He knew that she was transit dependent. He stated that he was very interested in working with the MBRU to assist with their needs as well as start the process of resolving current issues of the MBRU. She stated that she feels very comfortable with the choice that the Board has made in Mr. Garrison. 4) The search process was funded by a grant from the Hyde Foundation, and no MATA money was spent for the search process. Mr. Hudson's salary is still a part of the budget for the past six months, which has helped. Chairman Healy stated after hearing from the constituents, the kinds of qualities needed in a leader we believe Mr. Garrison fills those qualities.

2) **Mr. Henry Wilson - MATA Retiree** - Mr. Wilson recognized the Board and thanked them for giving him an opportunity to express himself. Mr. Wilson begin by stating that he worked for MATA for 35 years, and he does not see how a person can go to school, earn a Ph.D, and reside in the city, and get overlooked for a position that he has already worked for as interim for six months. This statement, in his opinion, says that Memphis does not have any qualified people to do the job. MATA had two candidates running for the position of general manager. If the Board felt the interim general manager was not qualified, why even allow him to be in the interim position for the six months that he served. Mr. Wilson also feels that MATA could save money if one of the MATA candidates would have been considered for the position. It will cost the city to move the new general manager to Memphis, and then after coming to Memphis paying him a possible \$200,000 salary. Mr. Wilson stated that he feels that the decision that is being made comes from higher sources other than the MATA Board of Commissioners. He also stated that he feels that this is a major setback for the MBRU as well. Mr. Wilson stated in closing, when the new general manager comes on board, he will have to be trained by two MATA candidates that were overlooked for the position.

Chairman Healy stated that sometimes you have to agree to disagree. Chairman Healy also stated that this decision comes directly from the MATA Board and no one else. He also said that the Board was heavily influenced by all the people they talked to give us the kind of qualities to look for in the next general manager. Mr. Pickard stated that Dr. Fox would not have been interviewed had the Board not felt he was qualified. The Board interviewed five very qualified individuals, and chose the one that they felt would be the best change agent for Memphis. Mr. Pickard stated that Mr. Garrison is very energetic and excited about making positive changes for MATA. **Resolution No. 14-32 was unanimously approved by the MATA Board.**

2. Resolution to Recognize Dr. Tom Fox Service as the Interim President/General Manager - Res. No. 14-33

Discussion: Chairman Healy stated that the Board also recognizes the excellent leadership of Dr. Tom Fox since he took over the interim position since January 1, 2014. This resolution is to recognize Dr. Fox for his efforts above and beyond the call of duty to serve as interim general manager over the past seven months. **Mr. Pickard moved that Resolution No. 14-33 be put on the floor for discussion. Mr. Gibson seconded the motion.** Mr. Pickard would also like to commend Mr. Alvin Pearson for the job that he has done over the past few months as well. A lot of great changes have happened over the past few months, and Mr. Pickard stated it is because of both Dr. Fox and Mr. Pearson's efforts and the great job they both have done.

IV. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Linda Eskridge again emphasized that the next Regular Board Meeting of the MATA Board of Commissioners will be July 28, 2014 at 1370 Levee Road Board Room. Chairman Healy called for a motion to adjourn. **Mr. Gibson moved that the meeting be adjourned and Ms. Taylor seconded the motion. The Special Board Meeting was adjourned.**

Mr. Sean Healy, Chairman