



MINUTES
Board of Directors' Meeting
MARCH 19, 2025

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by the Chairperson of the Board, Mr. Jeffrey Laing. The following were present:

Board of Directors: Mr. Albert J. Christopher, Agawam
 Mr. Gregory Thompson, East Longmeadow
 Ms. Lisa Murray, Hampden-Wilbraham Regional
 Mr. Jeffrey Laing, Ludlow

Collaborative: Mr. Alvin W. Morton, I, Executive Director
 Ms. Anna Bishop, Director of Finance

Guests: Ms. Catherine McDougal, Agawam
 Ms. Sarah Bowler, Ludlow
 Dr. Adam Rosenblum, Longmeadow
 Ms. Kira Thompson, West Springfield

Anderson Motors Inc.: Jim Anderson, Vice President
 John Anderson, Vice President
 Eric Zimmerman, Outside Sales Representative
 Robert Girardi, Outside Sales Representative

2. A public forum was offered. Representatives from Anderson Motors reviewed EPA grant requirements with regard to the purchase of electric school buses as well as site improvements that still remain to be completed. Certain obligations and conditions need to be met in order to comply with the closing requirements by the April 22nd deadline. Investigation continues as to the cause of the electric bus fire in January with no determination at this time. The Board discussed whether or not to continue with the launch of the electric bus fleet as previous anticipated or delay until the cause of the fire has been determined. If the electric buses are not put into service, it will result in a shortage of regular buses as several have already been decommissioned as a condition of the grant. Ms. Bishop will investigate all possibilities to obtain additional vehicles should there be a delay in the launch of the electric buses. She will report to the Board as soon as she has information available. The launch of the electric bus fleet will remain on hold.
5. C. Mr. Christopher moved that all obligations required to complete the EPA grant shall be fulfilled as directed by the due date of April 22, 2025. Ms. Murphy seconded. Approved unanimously.
6. Ms. Murray moved to enter into Executive Session at 8:03 p.m. to conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining and to return to Open Session at its conclusion. Mr. Christopher seconded.

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On a roll call vote, the following voted YES: Mr. Christopher, Mr. Thompson, Ms. Murray, and Mr. Laing.

Open Session resumed at 8:20 p.m.

Mr. Christopher moved to uphold the decision of the Executive Director to deny the grievance filed and brought forth by the UFCW on February 11, 2025, alleging a violation of the MOA and CBA with regard to wages. Ms. Murray seconded. Approved unanimously.

3. Mr. Christopher moved to approve this evening's consent agenda as presented. Ms. Murray seconded. Approved unanimously.
4. Mr. Morton noted that as the need arises, policies and job descriptions are being updated.
 - A.
 - (1) Mr. Christopher moved to approve the LPVEC Wellness Program as presented at this second and final reading. Ms. Murray seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - (2) Mr. Christopher moved to approve the School Nutrition Program Charge Policy as presented at this second and final reading. Ms. Murray seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - (3) Mr. Christopher moved to approve the Civil Rights Complaint Policy for Child Nutrition Programs as presented at this second and final reading. Ms. Murray seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - B.
 - (1) Mr. Christopher moved to approve the revised job description of School Social Worker/Adjustment Counselor as presented. Ms. Murray seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - (2) Ms. Murray moved to approve the revised job description of Speech and Language Pathologist as presented. Mr. Christopher seconded. Approved unanimously.
5. C. Mr. Christopher moved to empower the Director of Finance and Operations to negotiate the most fiscally-responsible decision for the purchase or lease of seven to ten buses to bridge the gap in vehicles needed for transportation services from April 22 to June 30 as discussed. Ms. Murray seconded. Approved unanimously.
 - A. Ms. Bishop reviewed a number of appropriations recommended to address purchases and transfers.

Ms. Murray moved to appropriate from the Enterprise Fund, Unreserved Fund Balance, the amount of \$47.58 to reimburse Ms. Lory Sleeper for petty cash expenses incurred in the prior fiscal year. Mr. Christopher seconded. Approved unanimously.

Mr. Christopher moved to appropriate from the Enterprise Capital Projects Fund the amount of \$364,180.00 for the purchase of four new 2024 Chevrolet Minotour buses from New England Transit Sales Inc. The remaining balance of \$38,998 will be reallocated to the

Agawam Fuel and Paving Project. Ms. Murray seconded. Approved unanimously.

- B. Ms. Murray moved to transfer from the Enterprise Fund Unreserved Fund Balance to the Enterprise Capital Project Fund the amount of \$1,977,691 bringing the total of the Enterprise Capital Project Fund to \$3,766,689 to be used for the Agawam Bus Maintenance Facility Site Improvements and Fuel Station Project. This includes the Corporation bid award to SRS Petroleum Services, Corp. in the amount of \$3,520,270 plus 7 percent contingency for unforeseen change orders. Mr. Christopher seconded. Approved unanimously.

- E. Ms. Bishop noted nothing extraordinary to report with regard to this month' revenue and expenditure report for the period ending February 28, 2025. Mr. Morton and Ms. Bishop also noted that programs housed in Wilbraham will need to be vacated and alternative space has been located in Ludlow that will need to be updated. Also, if CTEC programming expands to include an electrical program, space at the Brush Hill location will need to be identified as well.

Mr. Thompson moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Murray seconded. Approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

6-18-25

(date)



, Clerk

