



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Board

Jennifer L. Mitchell
Chairperson

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MINUTES

Meeting of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Wednesday, April 7, 2021 - 3:00 pm Electronic Board Meeting

In light of the continuing state of emergency declared by Governor Northam, where it is impracticable or unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location, and as allowed by the General Assembly during the continuing state of emergency, this meeting to take action to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operation, the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority held an electronic meeting on April 7, 2021.

All board members participated remotely using a GotoMeeting platform. Members of the public were able to witness the meeting online and were provided with the opportunity to provide public comment online. The online internet public notice for the meeting noted that this meeting would be conducted using an electronic process due to the COVID-19 state of emergency and as a precaution to reduce the risk and spread of the novel coronavirus. The online meeting public notice also furnished the Agenda and Board materials as well as information regarding the availability of an online meeting at the noted link. The audio and meeting documents and presentation materials are on the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's website, <http://www.drpt.virginia.gov/vpra/board-meetings/>

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sharon Bulova, Deborah Bulter-Painter, Victor Cardwell, Patricia Doersch, Jay Fisette, Roderick Hall, Cynthia Moses-Nedd, James Spore, Mariia Zimmerman, Rich Dalton (Ex-Officio), Bruno Maestri (Ex-Officio), and Jennifer Mitchell (Chair).

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION STAFF PRESENT

Bridget Davis, Haley Glynn, Joy Harris, and Jeremy Latimer.

GUESTS/OTHERS PRESENT

Lisa Butler Wright (Office of the Attorney General)

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Chair, Jennifer Mitchell, presided and called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed the procedures and instructions for the electronic meeting, including all votes will be conducted by roll call vote. The following statement was made:

"On November 19th, Governor Ralph Northam signed House Bill 5005, Virginia's revised biennial budget, which includes new language for meeting electronically. In light of the continuing state of emergency declared by Governor Northam, we are conducting this meeting in a remote setting, keeping safety top of mind and mitigating the impacts and spread of COVID-19."

Administrative Assistant Joy Harris then called the roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Bulova made the following motion:

"I move that the Board convene in a Closed Session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, for the purpose of discussions related to the employment of a prospective candidate and salary; pursuant to Virginia Code Sec. 2.2-3711(A)(6) and (29), for the purpose of discussing award of a public contract and investment of public funds for banking services where discussion in open session would adversely affect the financial interest and bargaining position and negotiation strategy if discussions were public at this time; and, pursuant to Virginia Code Sec. 2.2-3711(A)(8), for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel regarding provisions in the agreement requiring legal advice. Additionally, I move that staff and attorneys attend the Closed Session because their presence is deemed necessary, and will aid the Board in its consideration of this matter."

The motion was seconded by Ms. Moses-Nedd and carried unanimously by Board roll call vote.

The Board suspended the open session at 3:08 p.m. on April 7, 2021 to move into closed session with instructions that the open session would reconvene at 4:00 pm on April 7, 2021.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION

The Chair reconvened the open session meeting at 3:38 p.m. on April 7, 2021. Upon reconvening the meeting, the Chair made the following statement:

"We are now going to take a roll call vote, and I ask that each member indicate their agreement with the following:

To the best of my knowledge, during the Closed Meeting, the only matters heard, discussed or considered were those matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and only those public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened."

The motion was conducted by a roll call vote and carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEM

The following item was presented for action in the meeting:

Action: Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Enter Contract with Executive Director

Ms. Bulova made the following motion:

WHEREAS, Section 33.2-2980 of the Code of Virginia says the Authority shall employ an Executive Director who shall direct the day-to-day operations of the Authority. WHEREAS, the Executive Director Search Committee interviewed and recommends DJ Stadtler for employment and in conjunction with the Office of Attorney General drafted a proposed employment Agreement; and NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Director Search Committee hereby recommends the Board hire DJ Stadtler under the terms in the proposed employment agreement..

Ms. Bulova moved, with a second by Mr. Cardwell to approve the executive director's contract. The motion was conducted by a roll call vote and carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m. All presentations to the Board and meeting video can be found at www.drpt.virginia.gov/vpra/board-meetings/

Respectfully Submitted:

Joy Harris, Administrative Assistant