

# Documenters

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## Board of Trustees

Documenter name: Janenell Smith

Agency: [Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority \(GCRTA\)](#)

Date: July 25, 2023

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## Summary

- The board president explained that there were really no comments or discussions made on any of the resolutions on the agenda because board members previously discussed them in committees.
- The board congratulated retirees for their service at GCRTA.

## Notes

*The [Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority \(GCRTA\)](#), or RTA, is a political subdivision of the state. Its board is charged with managing and conducting RTA's affairs. The board also establishes overall RTA administrative policies, which are implemented by the general manager. It is the decision-making body of GCRTA.*

RTA Board of Trustees meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

### **Eight trustees present:**

Rev. Charles P. Lucas, president

Karen Gabriel Moss

Anthony D. Biasiotta

Terence P. Joyce

Paul A. Koomar

Jeffrey W. Sleasman

David E. Weiss

Lauren R. Welch

Lucas, following the [agenda](#), asked for approval of the June 27 board [meeting minutes](#). They were approved.

Then he asked if there were any public comments. There were none.

He then asked for any board committee reports. None were presented.

Next was the introduction of new employees and promotion announcements for the month of July. There were 47 new hires--including 31 operators--and eight promotions in the month of July.

As noted in the agenda, an [executive session](#) was requested. The trustees went into a private room where the public was not invited. All trustees who were present went into the private room.

Not expecting this procedure, I didn't note the time the board left the room, but I did note when they returned.

Meeting was re-called to order at 9:40 a.m. and roll call was repeated.

**Next was the introduction of resolutions.**

Res. 2023-47 - Amending and restating employment agreement of India L. Birdsong Terry as general manager, chief executive of the GCRTA. The board tabled it on June 27, so it had to be taken off the table to be considered for approval or denial.

This resolution includes a \$56,000 raise for Terry, making her total yearly salary \$335,000, according to GCRTA attorney Ralph Cascarilla.

Trustee David Weiss talked about how seriously the committee took their responsibility on deciding on this resolution - **Approved.**

Res. 2023-48 - Expressing congratulations to the RTA employees who retired during the second quarter of 2023.

Fifteen employees retired. Three were present to receive their certificates.

Res. 2023-49 - Authorizing the increase to Contract No-2019-123 with Hatzel & Buehler, Inc. for Project 60B - Warrensville Van Aken Substation replacement.

Trustee Karen Moss thanked the GCRTA staff for keeping the budget low for this project. The total contract amount is about \$3.1 million. **Approved**

Res. 2023-50 - Authorizing an increase to Contract No. 2022-115 with Northeast Ohio

Trenching Service Inc for Project 19.05 - airport tunnel and pump station repairs. The total contract amount is about \$115,000.

**No questions/comments - Approved**

Res. 2023-51 - Authorizing a \$300,000 contract with Share Mobility to provide Micro Transit Program Services.

Moss asked what would be the success measure of usage for this program. There was no answer to this question. Presenters expressed that they would have to get back to the board with an answer for that question - **Approved**

Res. 2023-52 - Authorizing Contract No. 2023-048 with Richard L. Bowen & Associates Inc. for Project 24X - Ave Services for East 79th Street Light Rail Station reconstruction. Total contract not to exceed \$859,825.

**(No questions/comments - Approved)**

Res. 2023-53 - Authorizing Contract No. 2023-61 with Hatzel & Buehler, Inc. for Project 12 F - addition of 515 turnout at the west end of Brookpark yard. Contract not to exceed \$2,715,000.

**(No questions/comments - Approved)**

Res. 2023-54 - Authorizing Contract No. 2023-65 with EDM Technology, Inc. for the purchase of magnetic fare media. Contract \$650,865 for the first three years.

**(No questions/comments - Approved)**

At this point, Lucas stated, for us the general public, that if it seemed as though the board was breezing through the resolutions without much concern it was only because the board had already combed through each of the resolutions thoroughly.

Res. 2023-55 - Authorizing Contract No. 2023-067 with Safety-Kleen Systems, Inc. for the furnishing of antifreeze, as specified and as required for a period of one year. Contract not to exceed \$120,128.

**(No questions/comments - Approved)**

Res. 2023-56 - Authorizing Contract No. 2023-060 with ECS Midwest, LLC for Project 19.78 - On Call Testing and Reporting 2023 for a period of 24 months.

**(No questions/comments - Approved)**

Res. 2023-57 - Adopting the tax budget of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority for the fiscal year beginning Jan. 1, 2024, and submitting the same to the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer. The total 2024 tax budget for expenses is about \$330 million.

**(No questions/comments - Approved)**

Res. 2023-58 - Removing section 644.14 professional society membership from the Codified Rules and Regulations of the GCRTA as a duplicate of Personnel Policy 400.14 and amending Personnel Policy 400.14.

**(No questions/comments - Approved)**

Res. 2023-59 - Removing section 644.11 from the Codified Rules and Regulations of the GCRTA as a duplicate of Personnel Policy 400.11.

**(No questions/comments - Approved)**

Res. 2023-60 - Amending sections 1014.01 Transit Amenities and 1014.02 Vehicle Assignment of the Codified Rules and Regulations of the GCRTA.

**(No questions/comments - Approved)**

Res. 2023-61 - Authorizing the general manager and chief executive officer to enter into an agreement with Medina County to exchange operating funds for Medina County's capital grant funds and to provide for Medina County to fund a portion of the cost of GCRTA's 251 Flyer Route.

**(No questions/comments - Approved)**

Res. 2023-62 - Authorizing the general manager and chief executive officer to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the Cleveland Metropolitan School District for student fares for the 2023-2024 school year.

**(No questions/comments - Approved)**

Rajan D. Gautam, deputy general manager of finance and secretary treasurer, gave a report on GCRTA general fund revenue status as of June 30 versus 2022's actual fund revenue and the 2023 budget. He reported on sales and use tax receipts through July, inventory of treasury investments and status of the bond retirements fund as of June 30.

Terry [gave her 30-day report](#) on:

- 2023 Conference of Minority Transportation Officials National Meeting and Training Conference
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Stakeholders Workshop
- Golden Hour the Last Mile and Equitable Transit Panel
- Transit Voices Podcast
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Field Visit
- Government Finance Officers' Association (GFOA)
- 2023 Distinguished Budget Presentation Award

Find all presentation slides [here](#).

Lucas called once again for public comment:

**Public comment (in person)**

A public commenter asked the board when were they going to add an app that will accommodate deaf people.

Terry said she would talk to him after the meeting.

Another speaker said some RTA drivers are not letting the ramps down for passengers who need the service. The Rapid and buses are too cold, the speaker said, adding that RTA should remove the mesh on some of the windows because people who have trouble seeing can't see anything through the mesh. The speaker went on to say the RTA signs are not very visible for the vision-impaired at night. Also, there should be no smoking in the bus shelters, the public commenter said.

Another speaker said that transit police should be better trained in dealing with disability issues.

Public comment (on the phone): Criticized the pay raise for the general manager.

The meeting was adjourned at: 10:54 a.m.

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