

JOHNSON CITY MTPO
Minutes of the Executive Board / Executive Staff Meeting
Monday, March 27, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.
137 West Market Street, Johnson City, TN
Johnson City Transit Center, Training Room

Executive Board Present

The Honorable Mayor Irene Wells, Town of Bluff City
Jon Hartman for the Honorable Mayor Curt Alexander, City of Elizabethton
The Honorable Commissioner Joe Wise for Mayor David Tomita, City of Johnson City, Chairman
Bob Browning for the Honorable Mayor Kelly Wolfe, Town of Jonesborough
The Honorable Mayor Johnny Lynch, Town of Unicoi
The Honorable Mayor Leon Humphrey, Carter County
The Honorable Mayor Daniel Eldridge, Washington County
Josh Suddath for the Honorable Governor Bill Haslam, State of Tennessee
Doug Jones for John Deakins, Jr., Tennessee County Highway Officials Association

Executive Staff Present

The Honorable Mayor Irene Wells, Town of Bluff City
Jerome Kitchens, City of Elizabethton
M. Denis Peterson, City of Johnson City
Bob Browning, Town of Jonesborough
Mike Housewright, Town of Unicoi
Eldonna Janutolo, Johnson City Transit
Doug Jones for John Deakins, Jr., Washington County Highway Department
Chris Craig, First Tennessee Development District
Michelle Christian, Tennessee Department of Transportation

Executive Staff Not Present

Roger Colbaugh, Carter County Highway Department

Others Attending

The Honorable Greg Lynch, Mayor of Unicoi County
The Honorable Chris Jones, Mayor of Mount Carmel
Chief of Police Jeff Jackson, Mount Carmel
Charlie Stahl, City of Johnson City
Angie Carrier, City of Johnson City
Glenn Berry, Johnson City MTPO
Mary Butler, Johnson City MTPO
Jeff Rawles, Johnson City Transit
Bradley Osborne, Johnson City Transit
Lisa Townsend, Johnson City Transit
Linda Copas, Johnson City Transit
Shauna Crowe, Johnson City Transit
Liza Joffrion, Tennessee Department of Transportation
Trey Joiner, Tennessee Department of Transportation
Jason Cody, First Tennessee Human Resource Agency

Candace Gump, First Tennessee Human Resource Agency
Cory Osborne, First Tennessee Development District
Bill Albright, Kingsport MTPO
Troy Ebbert, Kingsport MTPO
Gary Taylor, Kingsport Area Transit Service
Chris Campbell, Kingsport Area Transit Service
Rex Montgomery, Bristol MPO / Bristol Transit
Ambre Torbett, Sullivan County
Kathy Whitaker, First Tennessee Area Agency on Aging and Disability
Stephanie Livingston, LDA Engineering
Erin Jones, Davita Dialysis
Joan Dauerty, Citizen
Charles "Vern" Dauerty, Citizen, VFW, Jonesborough Seniors Center
James Bodenheimer, Citizen
Zach Vance, Johnson City Press
Karissa Winstead, WJHL
Curtis Carden, Elizabethton Star

Summary of Motions:

- **Authorization approved – 1st Amendment to the motion on the floor to approve Resolution 2017-03** – to add to the resolution that NET Trans, a division of First Tennessee Human Resource Agency, will continue to provide service to the urban areas until June 30, 2017, with funding provided by the Tennessee Department of Transportation;
- **Withdrawn (moot) – 2nd Amendment to the motion on the floor to approve Resolution 2017-03** – for NET Trans to come back before the Executive Board to add their project to the Transportation Improvement Program;
- **Authorization fell for lack of a second – 3rd Amendment to the motion on the floor to approve Resolution 2017-03** – to add to the resolution that approval is contingent on no negative impact to Johnson City Transit;
- **Approved – Resolution 2017-03** –approved resolution, as amended, in support of allowing the First Tennessee Human Resource Agency’s Executive Director to apply to the Federal Transit Administration to become a direct recipient of Section 5307 Federal Transit Administration funds in the Johnson City Urbanized Area.

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 11:00 a.m. by the Chairman, the Honorable Commissioner Joe Wise, who was appointed the alternate during Mayor David Tomita's absence.

Agenda Item 1: Chairman Commissioner Wise proceeded to open up for comments from the public. There were no comments from the public attending the meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Consider resolution in support of allowing the First Tennessee Human Resource Agency's Executive Director to apply to the Federal Transit Administration to become a direct recipient of Section 5307 Federal Transit Administration funds in the Johnson City Urbanized Area.

The Honorable Mayor Leon Humphrey made a motion for the Executive Board to approve the resolution to support of allowing the First Tennessee Human Resource Agency's (FTHRA) Executive Director to apply to the Federal Transit Administration to become a direct recipient of Section 5307 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds in the Johnson City Urbanized Area. The Honorable Mayor Johnny Lynch seconded the motion.

Mr. M. Denis Peterson made a statement that this resolution has nothing to do with the short term funding offered by the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). He asked if the resolution is approved will it fix the long-term funding issue.

Chairman Commissioner Wise wanted to ask a few questions before discussion began. He asked about the funding secured by Representatives Van Huss and Hill and if it was accepted by the FTHRA to continue service in the short term.

Mr. Jason Cody said he appreciated the City of Johnson City stepping forward to provide funding in the short term. He mentioned that TDOT will organize a summit in April to discuss long term funding. He also mentioned that this has been in discussion for one year. He intends to continue service; however due to budget impacts, he is not sure funding is available for long term. He is willing to take the short term (stop gap) funding to help the public.

Chairman Commissioner Wise asked Mr. Cody about the local match required. Mr. Cody started to discuss local match and asked Ms. Liza Joffrion to elaborate. Ms. Joffrion said that the offer of the stop gap funding was on the table and requires a dollar for dollar local match. The stop gap funding is not approved yet, as it is still in draft form.

The Honorable Mayor Daniel Eldridge directly asked Mr. Cody if he was accepting the stop gap funding. Mr. Cody said yes. Mr. Cody said that fares should match up to \$25,000 and he believes they will not have a short fall to continue service. Chairman Commissioner Wise said that the City Commission did not vote on the \$25,000, that it was only informational at the time and has not been approved as the City Commission did not take action. Mr. Cody asked if the City of Johnson City intended to give \$25,000. Chairman Commissioner Wise said he could not speak for the other commissioners and deferred for more questions and clarifications.

Chairman Commissioner Wise asked what would happen if there are not more funds allocated to the area. Ms. Candace Gump discussed the TDOT formula and NET Trans would have a continuation of service if Section 5307 funding is received. However, she was not sure how it will impact the service if funding is not received.

Mr. Cody discussed the local match and said the short term funding would be matched by TDOT at 50%, dollar for dollar. Mr. Cody asked if this 25% state match would continue in the future as it does for Johnson City. Ms. Joffrion said that the state match would be 25% with future Section 5307 funding.

Mr. Bob Browning asked if NET Trans will continue for now to provide service. He also asked if they would be penalized for providing urban to urban service. Ms. Joffrion said they would not, because the short term funding is not restricted. Mr. Browning then asked if the Section 5307 funding to provide long term funding was a yearly process. Chairman Commissioner Wise asked if NET Trans has local match available if they received the Section 5307. Mr. Cody said they have been servicing this area for 40 years. Local match is already being received and will continue to be used to provide service. He thinks that additional local match is not needed at this time.

Mr. Jerome Kitchens asked if NET Trans anticipated service changing. Mr. Cody said no, there are not service changes and he doesn't think the cost will change.

Mr. Josh Suddath asked if there was a regional meeting coming up. Ms. Gump responded that TDOT is organizing a summit in April with Johnson City, Kingsport, and Bristol, as well as TDOT and NET Trans to sit down and discuss the funding. Mr. Suddath said his office would support that meeting.

Mr. Browning asked Ms. Joffrion how this will impact Johnson City Transit (JCT) and if there will be any new funding to alleviate any shortages or reallocation. He asked if there had been any progress in finding money or if this will be discussed at the summit. Ms. Joffrion said the funding is a modification and not new money because some funds are not being used that have already been allocated to other agencies. There is a potential to reallocated Section 5310 money for short term funding but she will have more information at the summit meeting.

Mayor Eldridge asked if this funding is based on a year to year budget or is it subject to change. Ms. Joffrion said yes, that it is year to year. They could use "old" funds to patch but reallocation will need to cover long term funding.

Mr. Kitchens stated that when FTHRA applies for Section 5307 funding, it goes to the state first, then local, then comes before this Board to allocate Direct Recipient funds. Mr. Glenn Berry that was correct and it would go into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Ms. Joffrion said that a "pre-award authority" clause could help to bill back for earlier expenses but she is uncertain of this right now. Mr. Berry said that if it came back to this Board, they would have to advertise for 14 days prior to put it into the TIP and have to hold a public hearing.

Mr. Peterson reiterated that this is the intent to cover the service short term and long term and to make sure that this does not negatively impact Johnson City in the future if NET Trans is approved as a direct recipient.

Chairman Commissioner Wise asked how Bristol and Kingsport were handling this. Ms. Gump said they have addressed it before either board, just Johnson City. Mr. Cody said Bristol and Kingsport were supportive and that the issue was the way maps have changed and what is considered urban has changed. NET Trans is fully utilizing rural funds and it is JCT's responsibility to cover urban areas. Ms. Gump they are currently covering services. Mr. Browning made a comment that the maps were changed 20 years ago and maybe things should have been addressed then.

Mr. Peterson said another option would be for funding to come to Johnson City and they could provide the service to the urban area. Ms. Joffrion agreed that is an option; however, she disagreed that it was Johnson City's responsibility but rather it is the MTPO's responsibility. Ms. Gump and Mr. Cody both said that NET Trans are in the position to continue service, and that they have the personnel, dispatch, drivers, and vehicles to continue service. Chairman Commissioner Wise said he did not think it was the city's intention to take the service, only that it was an option.

Mayor Humphrey said he would like to move forward with the vote on the motion. He said there would be plenty of time to discuss it after the vote about the potential to expand service. Ms. Joffrion said there would be more information that will be discussed during the summit. Local officials, FTA and representatives from Congressman Roe's office have expressed interest in attending.

Chairman Commissioner Wise made a motion to amend the current motion by Mayor Humphrey and put conditions on the resolution, as follows: 1st - that NET Trans will continue to provide service until July 1st; 2nd - the MTPO must approve funding; and 3rd - that there is no long term impact to JCT.

Mayor Humphrey said the 2nd amendment to the motion was not necessary because the MTPO is already involved. Chairman Commissioner Wise remade his motion to amend Mayor Humphrey's motion with the 1st and 3rd amendments, withdrawing the 2nd amendment. Mayor Eldridge asked Chairman Commissioner Wise to restate the motion. Chairman Commissioner Wise separated the two amendments to the motion into two parts. Chairman Commissioner Wise asked for a second to the 1st amendment to the motion. Mayor Eldridge seconded it. Mayor Humphrey was asked to authorize the 1st amendment. **Mayor Humphrey so authorized the 1st amendment to his motion.** Chairman Commissioner Wise asked if there was a second on the 3rd amendment. **The 3rd amendment to the motion was not seconded and fell to the floor.**

Mr. Peterson asked for feedback from attendees from Bristol and Kingsport on what their thoughts were concerning the issue. Mr. Troy Ebbert from Kingsport spoke and said the Board was not getting the entire truth and that Kingsport has not been in discussions with NET Trans. Ms. Gump replied that they had spoken just last Friday about Kingsport's next meeting on May 4th and presenting an agenda item with them. Mr. Ebbert said he would look at it but it had not been discussed about contracts with NET Trans and that they are not hurting for money like they say, with insurance and TennCare contracts and other matching funds. He says they have a surplus.

Mr. Chris Campbell with Kingsport Area Transit (KATS) said they are already having funding issues from the last formula change, with a loss of \$243,000. They would like to receive more funding through reallocation, but they will not be able to add additional services now because they are trying to cover the shortfall from reallocation and have no other revenue streams.

Mr. Rex Montgomery from Bristol said he had discussed the issue with Ms. Gump and received a copy of a contract referencing Murfreesboro from her. The problem is with the funding and that they want to be consistent with the other areas on the service.

The Honorable Mayor Chris Jones of Mount Carmel asked when this came to light, and was it from the 2013 audit. Ms. Joffrion said that there were audits from TDOT for Section 5307 funding for fixed route service. She said there was a Section 5310 demand response service audit back in October of 2016 and that there were major concerns.

Mayor Jones said this discussion started about a month ago and he felt this issue is being shoved down their throat to make a quick decision and grabbing for money. This needs to be coordinated for the whole area.

Mr. Cody agreed with Mayor Jones about the need to coordinate. He said they had conversations last year with agencies and boards. He said TennCare contracts were available to anyone in the urban areas.

Mayor Humphrey said that we all need to work together and he called the question, which closed debate.

Chairman Commissioner Wise asked for a roll call vote on Resolution 2017-03, as amended. The next page shows the record of the roll call vote. All approved. **Motion carried.**

After the vote, Mayor Eldridge voiced the need for plans to be made and that all parties need to be involved.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Johnson City MTPO Executive Board

Roll Call Sheet

Meeting Date: 3-27-2017

Roll Call No. 1

Item No. 2

Resolution No. 2017-03

Moved: Leon Humphrey Mayor

Seconded: Johnny Lynch Mayor

Roll Call Vote (in alphabetical order):

Member	Alternate (if applicable)	Aye	No	Not Voting
Mayor Curt Alexander	Jon HARTMAN	✓		
Mr. John Deakins, Jr.	Doug Jones	✓		
Mayor Daniel Eldridge		✓		
Governor Bill Haslam	Josh Sudduth Sotte	✓		
Mayor Leon Humphrey		✓		
Mayor Johnny Lynch		✓		
Mayor Irene Wells		✓		
Mayor Kelly Wolfe	Bob Browning	✓		
Chairman Mayor David Tomita	Joe wise	✓		

Tally: ✓ Ayes _____ Noes _____ Not Voting