

Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization
“Local Governments and Citizens Working Together”

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
January 29, 2004

MEMBERS

PRESENT: Supervisor Casey Prochaska, Yuma County
Mayor Larry Nelson, City of Yuma
Mayor Guillermina Fuentes, City of San Luis
Council Member Bobby Brooks, City of Yuma
Mayor Agustin Tumbaga, City of Somerton
Supervisor Lucy Shipp, Yuma County
Council Member Ema Lea Shoop, City of Yuma
Dallas Hammit for Dick Hileman, ADOT

MEMBERS

ABSENT: Paul Soto, Cocopah Indian Tribe
Mayor John Nussbaumer, Town of Wellton
Dick Hileman, ADOT STB

OTHERS

PRESENT: John Hudson, Chamber of Commerce
Tom Manfredi, MCAS Yuma
Ken Rosevear, Chamber of Commerce
Miguel Bravo, GYEDC
Robert Fair, YCAT Employee
Linda McFarland, YMPO

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Casey Prochaska called the meeting of December 11, 2003 to order at 1:30 p.m.

Due to illness, Executive Director John Gross phoned into the meeting at 1:35 p.m. to participate via telephone conferencing.

City of Yuma declared votes: Council Member Ema Lea Shoop – 2 votes, Chair Bobby Brooks – 2 votes, Mayor Larry Nelson – 1 vote.

IV. TRANSIT (Taken out of agenda order)

The Board reviewed the content of written correspondence sent to YMPO by Rosa Maria Dorsey, co-owner of San Luis-Yuma Transit / YCAT. Mrs. Dorsey was writing to inform YMPO that without an increase in funding from YMPO she would be ceasing YCAT operations on February 1, 2004.

Supervisor Lucy Shipp asked Mr. Gross if a passenger rate increase would cover the amount Mrs. Dorsey was requesting. Mr. Gross replied no.

Chair Bobby Brooks asked who would run the business if she did get an increase. Mr. Gross replied he did not know.

Mayor Agustin Tumbaga asked if carriers could be changed without going through a formal process. Mr. Gross replied yes, it was an option.

Mayor Larry Nelson questioned who was available to pick up the transit service.

Mayor Tumbaga stated that maybe different groups, for example one from San Luis to Somerton, another from Somerton to Yuma.

Mayor Guillermina Fuentes stated that transit was necessary for San Luis residents.

Robert Fair, an employee of YCAT, stated he had placed a call to the Governor's office and spoke with a woman named Betty. The purpose of his call was to see if the state had any emergency funding for circumstances like this one.

Supervisor Casey Prochaska stated the State is not going to provide any more money; that the HURF funds were getting smaller.

Mayor Nelson asked if it would be allowable for the local school transportation consortium to take over the equipment and run the system. Mr. Gross responded that he thought so, that he would have to look into it.

Mr. Fair read a prepared text stating his opinion on the need for public transportation in the populated areas of Yuma County. He offered his assistance to Mrs. Dorsey to work out some of the problems she may have and help her manage the business if needed.

Supervisor Prochaska responded to Mr. Fair by stating that it was the desire of the Executive Board to have the busses but that there were no additional dollars to pay for it.

Supervisor Shipp added that maybe if service was to be cut back to fewer route runs daily, that the savings could be used to lessen the loss.

Mayor Nelson suggested the elimination of the lowest ridership routes and just keep the routes with the higher number of riders.

Mayor Fuentes asked if San Luis Yuma Transit (SLYT) sold their equipment, could the same contract be honored. John Gross responded that YMPO would have to go out for a new RFP; that a lease from the Dorsey's could keep the current contract.

Supervisor Prochaska stated she would like to convey the concerns of the Executive Board to Mrs. Dorsey and advise her of all of the options that may be available to her if she should choose to pursue one and not cease operations on February 1, 2004 as her letter indicates. She recommended that Mrs. Dorsey should be told of this Board discussion and to give her until noon on Friday, January 30, 2004 to inform YMPO of her decision.

MOTION: Supervisor Lucy Shipp made a motion to hold off on announcing the termination of the YCAT transportation service in Yuma County until Friday, January 30, 2004 at 12:00 noon. Further, that Mrs. Dorsey be informed immediately of the time deadline and request that she respond to YMPO by that deadline stating yes or no, as to whether she and Robert Fair can put something together to make service continue for another 30 days on some level, even if scaled back to a minimum number of daily runs.

To TAC for review and recommendation at their next meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2004.

Bring back as an agenda item for the Executive Board meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2004.

If Mrs. Dorsey's decision remains to discontinue YCAT transportation service on February 1, 2004, issue a press release immediately.

SECOND: Councilman Bobby Brooks

ACTION: The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Bobby Brooks directed Linda McFarland to inform Mrs. Dorsey of the information in the first paragraph of the motion.

Mayor Nelson questioned if the Board should proceed with a phone call to Tom Dyson.

Mayor Fuentes stated that maybe someone in San Luis could take over the transit system.

Ken Rosevear questioned if a solution of some sort was decided, would the money go to the Dorsey's.

Dallas Hammit / ADOT, stated that it is possible that if someone buys the business the YMPO contract could go with it. It is a generally accepted practice at ADOT.

Mayor Tumbaga asked if someone pick's up the Dorsey group, is YMPO allowed to operate while we go through transition. Mr. Gross responded he would have to ask our attorney.

Supervisor Shipp suggested our attorney would be a great source for options.

V. TEA-21 REAUTHORIZATION

John Gross, continuing via telephone, spoke describing TEA-21 provisions updates. He reviewed current legislation status and the relationship of each with YMPO. He added that based on all factors he had created a 5-point letter for the Board's review.

Upon review of the letter Supervisor Shipp recommended an edit to the letter (combining two of the bulleted items) and a copy be sent to all legislative representatives in the state of Arizona.

MOTION: Mayor Larry Nelson made a motion to edit the letter as recommended by Supervisor Shipp and forward a copy to each of the Arizona legislators.

SECOND: Supervisor Lucy Shipp

ACTION: The motion carried unanimously.

The phone conferencing with Mr. Gross was discontinued.

II. MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 11, 2003 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING (out of agenda order.)

MOTION: Supervisor Lucy Shipp made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2003 Executive Board meeting, as presented.

SECOND: Council member Ema Lea Shoop

ACTION: The motion carried unanimously.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chair Casey Prochaska opened nominations for the office of Chair.

MOTION: Supervisor Lucy Shipp nominated City of Yuma Council member Bobby Brooks for the position of Chair.

SECOND: Mayor Larry Nelson

MOTION: Council member Ema Lea Shoop moved the nominations be closed.

SECOND: Supervisor Lucy Shipp

ACTION: The motion carried unanimously.

Calling for a vote on the nomination on the floor

ACTION: The vote to elect Bobby Brooks Chair passed unanimously.

MOTION: Supervisor Lucy Shipp nominated City of Somerton Mayor Agustin Tumbaga for the position of Vice-Chair.

SECOND: Mayor Larry Nelson

MOTION: Mayor Larry Nelson moved the nominations be closed.

SECOND: Supervisor Lucy Shipp

ACTION: The motion carried unanimously.

Calling for a vote on the nomination on the floor

ACTION: The vote to elect Agustin Tumbaga Vice-Chair passed unanimously.

MOTION: Supervisor Lucy Shipp nominated County Supervisor Casey Prochaska for the position of Treasurer.

SECOND: Mayor Larry Nelson

MOTION: Supervisor Lucy Shipp moved the nominations be closed.

SECOND: Mayor Larry Nelson

ACTION: The motion carried unanimously.

Calling for a vote on the nomination on the floor

ACTION: The vote to elect Casey Prochaska Treasurer passed unanimously.

VI. PROGRESS REPORT

Listed on the agenda were the following items:

- A. **TAC** / regular meeting held 1-08-04
- B. **RAVE** / progress meetings held regularly. Will be reduced to 1-day meetings. Design progressing well.
- C. **ADEQ PM10 Meetings.**
- D. **Andrade POE, EIS Public Meeting** / Held January 7, 2004. John Gross attended.
- E. **State Transportation Board Work Session** / Held January 8, 2004 in Phoenix. Casey Prochaska and John Gross attended.
- F. **Transit Usage** / Larry Hunt
- G. **Move AZ Working Group Meeting** / Held January 9, 2004 in Phoenix. John Gross attended.
- H. **2004 Rural Transportation Summit** / Held January 15 – 16, 2004 at the Shilo Inn, Yuma.

VII. ADJOURN

MOTION: Supervisor Lucy Shipp made a motion to adjourn.

SECOND: Mayor Larry Nelson

ACTION: The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Casey Prochaska adjourned the meeting at 2:44 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Minutes adopted in regular session
on the 29th day of January 2004.

John A. Gross
YMPO Executive Director

Bobby Brooks, Chair
YMPO Executive Board