



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

### *Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Board*

Jennifer L. Mitchell  
Chairperson

600 East Main Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 786-6440 (DRPT)  
Fax: (804) 786-3725 (DRPT)

### **MINUTES**

#### **Meeting of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Monday, October 26, 2020 · 10:00 am Electronic Board Meeting**

The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority held a meeting on October 26, 2020 via electronic media. The meeting was audio recorded. The audio and meeting documents and presentation materials are on the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's website, [www.dpvt.virginia.gov](http://www.dpvt.virginia.gov).

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Sharon Bulova, Deborah Bulter Painter, Victor Cardwell, Patricia Doersch, Jay Fisette, Roderick Hall, Wick Moorman, Cynthia Moses-Nedd, Paul Nichols, Hossein Sadid, 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, Suzanne Ellison, Jeremy Latimer, Michael McLaughlin and Steve Pittard.

#### **GUESTS/OTHERS PRESENT**

Honorable Shannon Valentine, Secretary of Transportation  
Julie Whitlock, Office of the Attorney General  
Lisa Wright, Office of the Attorney General.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair, Jennifer Mitchell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone for attending the inaugural Virginia Passenger Rail Authority board meeting. She expressed her eagerness to work with the new board. Prior to taking up any agenda items Ms. Bulova made the following motion:

*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, I move that we adopt this agenda to take action to discuss or transact the business statutorily required or necessary to continue operation of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority.*



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The motion was seconded by Mr. Spore and carried unanimously by Board roll call vote.

Chair Mitchell welcomed the guest speaker, Honorable Secretary Valentine and asked her to provide remarks to the board.

### **SECRETARY'S WELCOME**

Honorable Secretary Valentine welcomed the new members and thanked them for their willingness and commitment to serve on the board. She continued by introducing herself and expressing her passion for rail. She highlighted the importance of maintaining rail initiatives and priorities to enhance transportation throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### **INTRODUCTION OF THE BOARD**

Each board member introduced themselves and provided a brief bio and statement.

### **WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS**

The following items were presented for information:

- 1. Virginia Passenger Rail Authority Overview & Early Operations Plan**  
*Presented by: Michael McLaughlin, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation*  
Referenced by attachment of presentation.
- 2. Overview of Rail in Virginia**  
*Presented by: Jeremy Latimer, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation*  
Referenced by attachment of presentation.
- 3. Review Board Member Role(s)**  
*Presented by: Lisa Wright, Office of the Attorney General*  
Referenced by attachment of presentation.



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#### **MOTION FOR CLOSED SESSION**

Following the presentations, Ms. Bulova made the following motion:

*"I move that the Board convene in a Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) and (6) of the Code of Virginia, for the purpose of discussing a personnel issue of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority which will result the expenditure of public funds where bargaining is involved and where the financial interest of the Commonwealth would be adversely affected if the discussion were made public at this time,*

*And,*

*pursuant to Va. 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 Mr. Hall and carried unanimously by Board roll call vote.

The Board suspended the open session at 11:50 a.m. on October 26, 2020 to move into closed session with instructions that the open session would reconvene at 1:30 p.m. on October 26, 2020.

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#### **RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION**

The Chair reconvened the open session meeting at 1:31 p.m. on October 26, 2020. Upon reconvening the meeting, Ms. Bulova made the following statement:

*"I move that 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 seconded by Mr. Nichols and carried unanimously by Board roll call vote.



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### **WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS**

The following item was presented for information:

#### **4. VPRA Funding Overview**

*Presented by: Steve Pittard, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation*  
Referenced by attachment of presentation.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Mitchell opened the meeting to the public for comment. No public comments were offered.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

The following items were presented for action in the meeting:

#### **1. Action: Adopting VPRA Bylaws**

*Presented by: Lisa Wright*

Mr. Moorman made the motion to adopt the VPRA Bylaws. Ms. Bulova seconded the motion. Motion carried, resolution approved, unanimously.

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#### **2. Action: Election of VPRA Board Officers**

*Presented by: Jennifer Mitchell, Chair*

Chair Mitchell asked for a nomination for slate of officers. Mr. Fissette nominated Ms. Bulova for Vice Chair, Mr. Sadid for Treasurer and Mr. Spore for Secretary. There were no other nominations.

Ms. Butler Painter made the motion to approve the VPRA Board Officer nominations. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. Motion carried, resolution approved, unanimously.

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#### **3. Action: Authorize DRPT/VPRA MOA**

*Presented by: Steve Pittard*

Mr. Sadid made the motion to authorize the DRPT/VPRA MOA. Ms. Bulova seconded the motion. Motion carried, resolution approved, unanimously.

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#### **4. Action: Authorize Executive Director Search**

*Presented by: Jennifer Mitchell, Chair*

Ms. Moses-Nedd made the motion to authorize the Executive Director search. Ms. Bulova seconded the motion. Motion carried, resolution approved, unanimously.

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#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Mitchell stated that the next board meeting will be held in early December. The expectation would be to discuss the draft budget, draft personnel policy, committee assignments and a briefing on the financial plan. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bridget Davis, Executive Assistant

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