

**MINUTES OF THE OHIO RAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR BIMONTHLY MEETING
NOVEMBER 8, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Ohio Rail Development Commission was called to order by Chairwoman Jolene M. Molitoris at 10:10 a.m. on Thursday, November 8, 2007.

RECOGNITION OF JIM BETTS, PAST ORDC CHAIR

Chairwoman Jolene Molitoris spoke on Jim Betts' tenure with the Rail Commission and acknowledged his professionalism and guidance over the years. Each commissioner and staff member present spoke to Jim to thank him for his efforts over the years.

The legislative members of the commission presented Mr. Betts House and Senate Resolutions.

Chairwoman Molitoris presented a gift, an engraved desk clock, from the commissioners and staff.

Mr. Betts thanked everyone for their kind words and commented on the dedication of the commissioners and staff. He applauded Chairwoman Molitoris for her desire to be a part of the commission and commented on her exceptional background and abilities to lead the organization into the future.

Terra Goodnight with Governor Strickland's office read a Proclamation to Mr. Betts from Governor Strickland and the First Lady and presented him with the document.

ROLL CALL

Chairwoman Molitoris asked Stu Nicholson to conduct roll call. Members present included: Chairwoman Jolene Molitoris, Commissioners Larry Sowers, Tom McOwen, Solomon Jackson, Kimberly Gibson, Daniel Roberts, James Hartung, Barbara Bennett, Herk Wolfe, Director James Beasley, Representatives Larry Flowers and Robert Hagan; and Senators Capri Cafaro and Larry Mumper. Ten voting members were present and four non-voting members were present. All fourteen commissioners were present at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

Chairwoman Molitoris asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2007 meeting. Commissioner Gibson moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Sowers seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/FINANCE REPORT

Executive Director Matt Dietrich directed everyone to page three of the commission packet where his report could be found.

Director Dietrich announced the Polar Express would be running again this year with special thanks to the efforts of all involved, particularly Ohio Central Railroad. He reported the ORDC recently participated in a press conference with both the Ohio Central and Dennison Depot regarding this issue.

Director Dietrich spoke about the 1st Annual Ohio Freight Conference which took place in Toledo and stated it was a huge success. Several of the commissioners attended the two-day event. Director Dietrich specifically thanked Scott Movshin of CSX and Art Arnold of Ohio Railroad Association for their assistance with the public/private partnerships section of ORDC's session at the conference.

Director Dietrich reported ORDC has been working closely with ODOT, PUCO, ODPS and ODOD on a legislatively-convened task force, the Ohio Transportation Task Force, which is charged with "examining and evaluating the state's ability to provide for safe and efficient movement of freight within the state during the next two decades."

Director Dietrich reported on the Mt Vernon rehabilitation project where 44 crossings were updated. He announced a ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place on November 19th at 10:00 a.m. in Mt Vernon and encouraged all who were able to participate in this event.

Chairwoman Molitoris commented on the Transportation Task Force and thanked Director Beasley for his commitment to this initiative. Chairwoman Molitoris reported she will likely testify at the next meeting which is scheduled for November 14th and encouraged all commissioners to review the meeting schedule and report.

Lou Jannazo, Chief of Project Development at ORDC, highlighted a few developments on his report: a \$1 million rehabilitation project on the Carrollton Branch for the Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway; the Glass Rock Branch lease with Buckeye Central Scenic Railroad to store their excursion equipment on a portion of the branch line and use the branch line for their excursion services; and finally, a request for rehabilitation projects' mailing will be going out to all Ohio railroads who might be interested in applying for funding for rehabilitation projects. Mr. Jannazo indicated this mailing will go out in January with the intent of staff bringing forth project recommendations before the commissioners at the March meeting.

Director Dietrich presented the Finance Report which is found on page 28 of the commission packet. Total funds available for projects in FY '07 are approximately \$3.4 million.

Commissioner Roberts inquired about the Shenandoah Valley Realty's (Jacobs Industries) decision to decline their previously approved loan of \$650,000 as noted in Director Dietrich's report. Director Dietrich responded their decision was due to vendor specifications of the equipment and that the company wants to handle this issue internally before coming before the commission to request further assistance.

PROJECT

Resolution 07-14; City of Trotwood/City of Dayton Rail Spur Improvements

Lou Jannazo presented the City of Trotwood's request for a \$200,000 grant to rehabilitate approximately 1,100 feet of existing track and relocate and reconstruct approximately 2,500 feet of track in a new 400,000 s.f. auto industry distribution center.

Mr. Jannazo reported this project will create 200-300 new positions and will generate 200-450 rail cars annually. He indicated this distribution center will serve one automobile manufacturer. Mr. Jannazo introduced Rhonda Finley and Sheila Moyer of the City of Trotwood and the City of Dayton, respectively. Ms. Finley spoke about the importance of such a project to the region; indicating this one project is the single, largest investment of its kind in the area.

Ms. Finley reported the groundbreaking ceremony is scheduled for December 7th.

Commissioner Gibson moved to approve Resolution 07-14. Commissioner Wolfe seconded the motion.

Commissioner Roberts noted a type-o in the Resolution in the last paragraph where is refers to "...assistance to the Company, as set forth" It should read "...assistance to the *City*, as set forth..."

Commissioner Roberts made a motion to amend Resolution 07-14 to reflect the change. Commissioner Hartung moved to approve the amendment and Commissioner McOwen seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with ten votes in the affirmative.

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION & ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bennett made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of "consideration of the appointment of ORDC Secretary-Treasurer." Commissioner Sowers seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with ten votes in the affirmative. The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 11:10 a.m.

RECONVENE FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commissioners reconvened from Executive Session at 11:35 a.m.

Note: Director Beasley had to leave and was not present for the remainder of the commission meeting.

Resolution 07-15; Appointment of Megan McClory as ORDC Secretary-Treasurer

Director Dietrich read Resolution 07-15 to the commissioners. Chairwoman Molitoris asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Commissioner Wolfe moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Gibson seconded the motion. Roll call was taken with nine votes in the affirmative. The motion is approved. Megan McClory is ORDC's new Secretary-Treasurer!

NEW BUSINESS

Director Dietrich distributed the ODOT Freight Rail ChokePoint Study. He spoke about the importance of this study and the quantification of the public benefits of rail infrastructure investment.

Chairwoman Molitoris requested meetings with each of the commissioners to identify areas in which each of them would like to contribute to the commission in the coming months/years.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting of the Ohio Rail Development Commission adjourned at 11:50 a.m.