

**Monterey County Regional Tax Authority
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES**

January 23, 2012

1 Ryan Ranch Rd., Monterey, CA 93940

1. CALL TO ORDER

Director Sanchez called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. Roll call was conducted and The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Present:	Fernando Armenta	County of Monterey
	Jerry Edelen (alt.)	City of Del Rey Oaks
	Alan Cohen	City of Pacific Grove
	Libby Downey	City of Monterey
	Alvin Edwards	City of Seaside
	MaryAnn Leffel	Monterey Peninsula Airport District
	David Pendergrass	City of Sand City
	Sergio Sanchez	City of Salinas
	Karen Sharp	City of Carmel-By-The-Sea

Absent: None

Staff:	Hunter Harvath	AGM/Finance & Administration
	Michael Hernandez	AGM/COO
	Tom Hicks	Mobility Manager
	Carl Sedoryk	General Manager/CEO
	Deanna Smith	Deputy Secretary
	Kelly Halcon	Director, Human Resources & Risk Management

Others:	Kathi Krystal	Associated Taxi
	Alex Lorca	De Lay & Laredo
	Tom Mancini	TAC Member
	John Narigi	MCHA
	Steve McNally	MCHA
	Dale Ellis	MCHA
	Steve Cardinalli	TAC Member
	Michael P. Cardinalli	Salinas Yellow Cab
	David Laredo	De Lay & Laredo
	Ken Griggs	MPAD
	Tom Greer	MPAD
	Roy Graham	TAC Member
	Mike Aspland	Assistant Chief of Police City of Monterey

Apology is made for any misspelling of a name.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2-1. Review highlights of Agenda.

Mr. Sedoryk announced the highlights of the agenda.

2-2. Minutes from the Regular Meeting of December 5, 2011.

2-3. Receive November, 2011 Financial Statements.

Director Edelen made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Director Leffel. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – none.

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Kathy Krystal of Associated Taxi requested that the RTA Administrator not place the personal addresses of taxi drivers on any RTA permits or vehicle stickers. For security purposes she requests that only the address of the Taxi Dispatching Company be displayed.

Mike Aspland, Assistant Chief of Police for the City of Monterey, introduced himself and stated that he would assume responsibility for following up on Ms. Krystal's request.

Roy Graham of the TAC requested that the issue of competing taxi company color schemes be addressed. He requested further clarification on the Senior Voucher Program.

Michael P. Cardinalli of Salinas Yellow Cab handed out a formal letter to the RTA Board requesting a review of the color schemes of Coastal Yellow Cab and Yellow Cab Monterey per the Equipment, Safety, Security, and Operational Policy (ESSOP) guidelines. He requested clarification on the Senior Voucher Program.

Steve Cardinalli of the TAC requested that the complaint of Michael P. Cardinalli be addressed. He stated that the issue was supposed to be resolved before Coastal Yellow Cab was issued a permanent permit. He requested clarification on the Senior Voucher Program and asked why only one company is authorized to provide Senior Voucher services.

Close Public Comment

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5-1. Receive update from RTA staff.

Mr. Harvath stated that January marked the transfer of all taxi driver and vehicle administrative responsibilities to the City of Monterey. MST staff continues to provide administrative services to all taxi dispatching companies. There are no new taxi companies in the queue; staff is currently working on permitting company renewal requests. The Senior Voucher Program is up and running, with one hundred (100) seniors served in its first month. Mr. Harvath confirmed the procedure for obtaining and using the Senior Vouchers. The cities of Monterey, Seaside, Del Rey Oaks, and Sand City are currently the only cities providing funds and participating in the program. He explained that current MST RIDES customers are able to use the Senior Vouchers. He explained that when the first RFQ was sent out, only one company qualified to provide services. Another RFQ will be sent out in approximately one month; however, it is necessary for all taxi companies to qualify to provide the service including holding a valid RTA permit, carrying valid insurance coverage with required coverage amounts, and providing at least one wheelchair accessible taxi.

Directors Cohen, Edwards, and Downey requested more clarification on the Senior Voucher Program.

Director Leffel stated that she remembered Coastal Yellow Cab confirming that they would be willing to change their color scheme if necessary when their permit request was approved.

Director Armenta asked how many taxi companies and drivers are working with expired permits.

Public Comment

Assistant Chief Aspland stated that the City of Monterey is reviewing all taxi operators to ascertain which are currently working with expired permits.

Steve Cardinalli stated that existing companies were allowed to operate with their color schemes in a “grandfathered” capacity, but that all new companies were required to conform to the RTA guidelines as stated in the ESSOP regarding color schemes.

Kathy Krystal stated that temporary permits were granted to the newer companies, and that they were supposed to change their color schemes to obtain a permanent permit.

Mr. Mancini asked how a senior was supposed to know which taxi companies provided Senior Voucher service.

Mr. Graham stated that all taxi companies should be able to service seniors under the voucher program.

Close Public Comment

Mr. Harvath stated that seniors are informed of participating taxi companies when they pick up their vouchers. MST staff will be formulating a procedure to allow taxi companies to use up to ten wheelchair accessible taxis that are being purchased by MST through federal grants. Federal guidelines require taxi companies to possess or have access to at least one wheelchair accessible vehicle to qualify to provide service. He anticipates having another RFQ ready within a month.

Director Downey requested that Mr. Harvath delegate responsibility in his absence to ensure that outstanding RTA issues are resolved.

Director Edwards asked that compliance in all cities be monitored, not just the City of Monterey.

6. BIDS/PROPOSALS

None.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 7-1. Receive update on Technical Advisory Committee AB 1234 Ethics Training completion.

Mr. Harvath referred the Board to a handout detailing all TAC members and their compliance status. All members are currently in compliance.

Director Leffel asked why it was necessary to wait until the April meeting to approve TAC Chairperson Phil Penko's replacement, Assistant Chief Aspland, to the TAC. Mr. Harvath stated that all TAC appointments must be approved by the Board, and that Mr. Penko resigned after the Board agenda had been finalized.

Director Armenta made a motion to add an urgency item to the agenda to approve the application of Assistant Chief Michael Aspland to replace Chief Penko on the Technical Advisory Committee and was seconded by Director Edwards. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – none.

Director Downey made a motion to approve the application of Assistant Chief Michael Aspland to replace Chief Penko on the Technical Advisory Committee and was seconded by Director Leffel. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – none.

8. NEW BUSINESS

None.

9. PUBLIC HEARINGS

9-1 Second reading and adoption of Administrative Hearing Ordinance.

Mr. Harvath referred the Board to a proof of publication on page 27 of the agenda and confirmed that all required notices were published in the Californian, El Sol, and Monterey County Herald. He stated that in order to follow through with Administrative requests, such as the one received by Salinas Yellow Cab, the Administrative Hearing Ordinance 2012-01 must first be approved.

Public Comment

Mr. Narigi of the Monterey County Hospitality Association thanked the RTA Board for seeing the RTA process through. He has noticed a marked improvement in taxi service and taxicab appearance and asked the Board to approve the ordinance.

Close Public Comment

Director Leffel made a motion to approve adoption of Administrative Hearing Ordinance 2012-01 and was seconded by Director Downey. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Armenta suggested that the Board discuss at a future meeting requiring a related class as part of the penalty for violations.

Director Sanchez requested that the ordinance be translated into Spanish and placed on the RTA website.

10. REPORTS & INFORMATION ITEMS

10-1 Receive December, 2011 report from RTA Administrator.

11. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

11-1. Reports on meetings attended by Board members at RTA expense.

Director Armenta suggested that MST staff consider hiring someone to act as a full time taxi administrator to assist in moving RTA issues forward in a timely manner. Director Downey believes it is premature to do so for budgetary reasons.

Director Sanchez asked staff to research further additional support that could be provided to the taxi industry including insurance pooling, purchasing or upgrading of vehicles, and grant submissions.

12. BOARD REFERRALS TO TAC

Director Edwards asked if it was appropriate to send the issue of taxicab color schemes back to the TAC. Mr. Sedoryk stated that the Board had already adopted the process for Administrative Hearings per input from the TAC; therefore, the remaining

responsibility lies with the RTA Board. Mr. Sedoryk stated that he will follow up with the Association of Taxi Regulators to discuss opportunities to assist the taxi industry with additional services.

Mr. Laredo confirmed that there might be some restriction regarding co-mingling of public and private funds, but that it was worth looking into.

Public Comment

Steve Cardinali requested that the companies whose color schemes were in dispute not be issued permanent permits until the issue had been resolved.

Close Public Comment

Director Leffel stated that based on the response from the new companies when their applications were approved, she expects them to take care of the color scheme discrepancy.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Leffel announced that Monterey Peninsula Airport now has nonstop flights to San Diego.

14. CLOSED SESSION

15. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

16. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

Prepared by:



Deanna Smith, Deputy Secretary