

MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1255 Imperial Avenue, Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92101

MINUTES

June 17, 2021

[Clerk's note: Except where noted, public, staff and board member comments are paraphrased. Note that the meeting was conducted via webinar to comply with public health orders].

1. Roll Call

Chair Fletcher called the Board meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A roll call sheet listing Board member attendance is attached.

2. Approval of Minutes

Board Member Salas moved to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2021, MTS Board of Directors meeting. Board Member Goble seconded the motion, and the vote was 14 to 0 in favor with Board Member Arapostathis absent.

3. Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

CONSENT ITEMS:

6. Stormwater Management Services - Contract Award

Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute MTS Doc. No. PWG332.0-21, with SoCal Stormwater Runoff Solution Services, Inc. (SoCal), for the provision of stormwater management services for a period of five (5) years, and one (1) optional five-year extension for a total contract value of \$1,177,200.18.

7. Traction Power Substations (TPSS) Buildings Repair – Construction Change Orders (CCO)

Action would 1) Ratify CCO 01 to Work Order MTSJOC312-01, under Job Order Contract (JOC) MTS Doc No. PWL312.0-20 with HMS Construction, Inc. (HMS), totaling \$11,042.92 for sealing, caulking, and painting of the siding panels of the substations; and 2) Authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute CCO 02 to Work Order MTSJOC312-02, under JOC MTS Doc No. PWL312.0-20 with HMS, totaling \$146,341.65 for the repair of an additional seven (7) TPSS locations on the Green Line.

8. Design Services For South Bay Maintenance Facility (SBMF) Electric Bus Charging Project – Work Order Amendment

Action would 1) Ratify Work Order WOA2075-AE-50.02 under MTS Doc No. G2075.0-18 with Dokken Engineering (Dokken) totaling \$88,412.96, to support Phase 2 battery electric bus (BEB) improvements, charging to dispenser ratio changes, as well as the application and processing of a Building Permit package through the City of Chula Vista Development Services Department; and 2) Authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute Work Order WOA2075-AE-50.03 under MTS Doc. No. G2075.0-18 with Dokken in the amount of \$36,896.94 for additional design services to add a permanent natural gas generator to the project.

9. Rail Replacement - America Plaza and Kettner Grade Crossing - Work Order Agreement
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute Work Order No. MTSJOC269-11, under Job Order Contract (JOC) to MTS Doc. No. PWG269.0-19, with Herzog Contracting Corp. (Herzog), in the amount of \$698,473.76 for the replacement of the rail at America Plaza Trolley Station and the replacement of the adjacent grade crossing located at Kettner Boulevard.
10. On-Call Plumbing Repair Services - Contract Award
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute MTS Doc. No. PWG331.0-21, with Drain Medic, Inc., (Drain Medic), a Woman Owned Business Enterprise (WBE) and Small Business (SB), for on-call plumbing repair services for a period of one (1) base year and an additional two (2) option years for a total contract value of \$341,849.61.
11. Amendment to Codified San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Fare Ordinance No.4
Action would approve the revisions to MTS Fare Ordinance No.4 to comply with the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) recently adopted Regional Comprehensive Fare Ordinance revisions (as described in Attachment A) generated by the Fare Study, and other non-substantive changes.
12. Supply 115RE Head Hardened Steel Rail – Contract Award
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute MTS Doc. No. L1575.0-21 (in substantially the same format as Attachment A), with Progress Rail Services Corporation, for the one-time supply of 106 tons of 115RE head hardened steel rail, in the amount of \$132,375.19.
13. Fare Collection Change Orders – Amendment
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute Amendment No. 7 to MTS Doc. No. G2091.0-18, with Innovations in Transportation, Inc. (INIT), for a total contract increase of \$270,050.09.
14. Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) System Installation for The Mid-Coast Trolley Extension Project – Change Orders
Action would 1) Ratify Construction Change Order (CCO) 1 under MTS Doc No. PWL320.0-21 with Electro Specialty Systems (ESS) totaling \$52,939.53; and 2) Authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute CCO 2 under MTS Doc No. PWL320.2-21 with ESS in the amount of \$92,252.16 for additional camera coverage at all Mid-Coast Stations and Parking Lots/Structures.
15. Kearny Mesa Division (KMD) Hoists Construction – Contract Award
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute MTS Doc. No. PWB317.0-20, with Western Pump Inc., a Small Business (SB), for KMD Hoists Construction in the amount of \$4,213,648 plus 10% contingency, for a total of \$4,635,012.80.
16. Printed Circuit Boards (PCBs) and Electronic Components for Light Rail Vehicles (LRVs) – SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT AWARD
Action would authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute MTS Doc. No. L1572.0-21, a Sole Source award to Siemens Mobility Inc., to provide PCBs and Electronic Components

for LRVs as further described in the attached list, in the amount of \$14,600,000 for a seven (7) year period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2028.

17. Semiannual Uniform Report of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Awards and Payments
18. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Overall Goal for Federal Fiscal Years 2022-2024
Action would adopt a 6.3% Overall DBE Goal for DBE-participation in federally funded contracts for Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2022 to 2024.

COMMENTS – CONSENT ITEMS

Board Member Montgomery Steppe commented on item 18 by thanking staff for outreaching to organizations such as the National Society of Black Engineers, Society of Hispanic Engineers and Black Contractors Association in order to meet DBE goals. She also thanked MTS Chief Executive Officer Sharon Cooney for offering transportation to her district during a boil water alert over the weekend.

Action on Recommended Consent Items

Board Member Montgomery Steppe moved to approve Consent Agenda Item Nos. 6 to 18. Chair Fletcher seconded the motion, and the vote was 14 to 0 in favor with Board Member Arapostathis absent.

NOTICED PUBLIC HEARINGS

25. None.

REPORT ITEMS (ITEMS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER):

45. Draft 2021 Regional Plan Update (Hasan Ikhata, Coleen Clementson and Jennifer Williamson)

Hasan Ikhata, Coleen Clementson and Jennifer Williamson of SANDAG presented on the draft 2021 Regional Plan. They provided details on: the planning approach, challenges, data driven planning, social equity populations, 5 big moves, transit leap, mobility hub areas and flexible fleet coverage and an envisioned integrated system.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Board Member Salas emphasized the importance of integrating grade separations and improvements on the Blue Line. She acknowledged a one-hour commute from the border to UC San Diego without the grade separations. She encouraged the board to support a faster commute time by adding grade separations on the Blue Line.

Mr. Ikhata supported Board Member Salas' comment. He stated that the implementation would be costly, but an overall positive investment for the region.

Board Member Salas also referenced previous conversations to incorporate a third rail line that would increase operational hours on the Blue Line. She hoped to see that addition in future regional plans.

Board Member Moreno referenced the social equity working group and was excited to see the community involvement in the creation of the Regional Plan. She asked SANDAG staff if they believed Youth Opportunity Passes would increase ridership.

Mr. Ikhata explained that ridership for that demographic is currently low because of COVID-19. He acknowledged that in previous years, similar fare decreases have shown an increase in ridership. However, it would be difficult making a similar speculation with the current pandemic.

Board Member Moreno thanked Mr. Ikhata for his response and praised SANDAG staff for their community engagement efforts.

Board Member Montgomery Steppe thanked the SANDAG staff for the presentation and development of the vision. She asked if there were any considerations for state route 54 in transportation improvement or connections to the route. She asked if those areas may be covered through flexible fleet concepts.

Ms. Williamson stated there was not a route that operated across the 54. She referenced next generation rapid routes in Chula Vista that run east to west which provide connectivity to activity centers. She continued that the 125 provides bi-directional service into the urban areas and 805 area up to east county. She acknowledged that while the 54 isn't served directly with a rapid route, there is connectivity to other rapid routes that are connecting to that community.

Board Member Elo-Rivera noted the importance of long term and immediate needs. He supported investments in bus routes to create reliability and increase frequency, investments in high ridership lines, revisiting the Blue Line express, and 24-hour frequencies. He asked about the Taxi industry and asked how they fit into the vision. He emphasized dignity and encouraged the accessibility of bathrooms.

Ms. Williamson acknowledged Taxicabs as micro mobility forms of transportation and part of the flexible fleet network of services.

Mr. Ikhata defined flexible fleet services as an additional transportation choice for those who are not able to access a personal vehicle. He listed various modes of funding opportunities and noted that the agency is continuously seeking funding in order to improve the region.

Board Member Elo-Rivera re-emphasized that Taxi drivers are part of the future vision and encouraged that the industry is included as a vision for the future. He voiced his support for Youth Opportunity Passes. He also recognized health and dignity of transit riders to include bathrooms and hand washing stations as a public health issue and public amenity.

Vice Chair Sotelo-Solis supported the immediate improvement of the bus system, Blue Line express with 24-hour service, Youth Opportunity Passes, electrification of bus fleets in 2030, and a bathroom assessment study.

Board Member Sandke acknowledged the rail improvements face funding challenges along with right of way obstacles. He continued that San Diego Bay offers free right of way. He asked the status of the Ferry Services as a form of transportation to connect the military and South Bay community. He also asked about plans for trolley connectivity to the airport.

Mr. Ikhata noted connectivity to the airport is a high priority project and that the agency is analyzing data to see the most efficient and cost-effective form of connection. He clarified that one possible connection would be a subterranean connection.

Ms. Williamson replied that the plan does have funding allocated to ferry services. She clarified that routes have not been defined in the plan. She cited a South Bay to Sorrento Valley comprehensive corridor multimodal study, which would help develop future routes.

Board Member Sandke referenced Seattle and San Francisco as case studies for viable ferry services. He thanked Mr. Ikhata for his comments and urged that this service be implemented as soon as possible.

Board Member Goble commented that the regional plan is centered on an electrical powered system. He noted that California ISO issued a flex alert warning for electricity shortages. He asked about SANDAG's conversations with the state to support the anticipated electrified infrastructure.

Mr. Ikhata confirmed conversations with the State and its ability to support the infrastructure demands.

Board Member Aguirre thanked SANDAG for its outreach efforts. She emphasized the importance of the investment of transit today for the future. She encouraged the organization to think about how to best move the workforce community to job centers and reducing commuting intervals. She voiced support of bathroom necessities and acknowledged that for women this amenity incorporates safety. She also supported Youth Opportunity Passes.

Mr. Ikhata encouraged Board Member Aguirre to participate in the Social Equity Group at SANDAG to lead starting point discussions.

Board Member Galvez voiced her support towards the Blue Line express, grade separations on the Blue Line, San Ysidro Transit Center bathrooms for families, trolley to the airport and micro transit opportunities.

Chair Fletcher appreciated the transformative visionary projects presented. He acknowledged that these types of projects require time to plan and develop. He appreciated the optimism for more service and infrastructure while acknowledging the construction and monetary restrictions. He acknowledged the essential need to improve the system with increased funding and service. He listed the topics of interest previous members noted as not only infrastructure changes, but also the experience for the riders. He highlighted interest for a regional waterway system. Lastly, he urged the agency to prioritize trolley service to the airport.

Public Comment

Maria Cortez – Provided a verbal statement to the Board during the meeting. Cortez supported further improvements to the Blue Line and Purple Line. Cortez expressed enthusiasm for passage through City Heights. Cortez also supported restrooms and 24-hour Blue Line service. Cortez thanked community leaders from SANDAG, MTS and other Board representatives.

Michelle Krug – Provided a verbal statement to the Board during the meeting. Krug agreed with Maria Cortez's statements. Krug encouraged and supported 24-hour service. Krug expressed gratefulness for the SANDAG vision.

Randy Torres Van Vleck – Representing City Heights CDC made a verbal statement to the Board during the meeting. Van Vleck noted the release of the Regional Plan as a critical milestone for the region. Van Vleck highlighted various priorities such as the Commuter Rail System (Purple Line), the rapid network, 24-hour service, third track for the Blue Line, dignified

rider experiences, bathroom accessibility and Youth Opportunity Passes. Van Vleck thanked various members of the Board.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Mr. Ikhrata thanked members of the Board for their comments and stated their comments would be incorporated into the plan. He noted the short- and long-term objectives.

Action Taken

No action taken. Informational item only.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

30. Riverwalk Station Agreement (Karen Landers)

Karen Landers, MTS General Counsel, along with Pete Shearer of Hines, presented on the Riverwalk Station Agreement. They outlined: the site plan, land use map, trolley and town square, an estimated timeline, MTS proposed action plan, CEQA findings, recommendation number 1, Riverwalk station agreement, site plan, Surplus Land Act findings, and staff recommendations.

Ms. Cooney thanked Hines and Levi Cushman family for the great working relationship and their ability to carry out the agency's vision for this site.

Chair Fletcher announced his excitement for the project.

Board Member Whitburn asked about the access to the park from the trolley station.

Mr. Shearer replied there was great accessibility to the park from the station. He noted that street J will extend and connect to create a seamless walking experience.

Board Member Hall asked the developer to confirm 3,800 units would be created.

Mr. Shearer clarified there would be a total of 4,300 units, of which 3,870 would be market rate and 430 would be affordable units.

Board Member Hall asked about the distance between the park and trolley.

Mr. Shearer replied that this would be a 50 foot walkway.

Board Member Arapostathis asked about the proximity to a grocery store.

Mr. Shearer noted this area was a food desert. He stated that during phase one of the project, a grocery store will be introduced to the transit village.

Ms. Cooney replied that was an important piece to the planning of the site. She clarified that the initial motive to introduce the grocery store was intended to create jobs.

Board Member Arapostathis clarified that he is an advocate of communities of poverty and was concerned about the accessibility to grocery stores in new developments. He was otherwise in favor of the project.

Action Taken

Chair Fletcher moved to 1) In compliance with CEQA Guidelines 15096: (a) independently review the environmental effects of the project as shown in Final Environmental Impact Report No. 581984/State Clearing House No. 2018041028 certified by the City of San Diego on November 17, 2020 (EIR), and find that none of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines 15162 or 15163 exist as there has been no substantial change in the project, change in circumstances, or new information regarding a new impact or significant increase in the severity of an environmental impact in the months since the EIR was certified so no subsequent or supplemental EIR is required; (b) independently review the CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 and 15093 findings for the Riverwalk EIR, incorporated by reference herein, and adopt the findings as its own; (c) consider the EIR as prepared by the City; (d) find that, consistent with the CEQA Guidelines Section 15091 and 15093 findings, there are no feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures within MTS's powers that would substantially lessen or avoid any significant effect the project would have on the environment; and (e) order MTS staff to file a notice of determination; 2) Authorize the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to execute the Riverwalk Station Agreement, in substantially the same format as Attachment A (Agreement), and effectuate the property rights transfers set forth therein; and 3) Declare the Triangle Parcel (Exhibit I to the Agreement) and the Fashion Valley Road Dedication Parcel (Exhibit H to the Agreement) to be "Exempt Surplus Land" pursuant to Government Code section 54221(f)(1)(C), (D), and (E). Board Member Sandke seconded the motion, and the vote was 15 to 0 in favor.

31. Ridership Recovery Action Plan (Rob Schupp)

Rob Schupp, MTS Director of Marketing and Communications, presented on the agency's ridership recovery action plan including: ridership gains, ridership modeling, pre-pandemic campaigns, campaigns during pandemic, transit inducements, rider experience enhancements, upcoming recovery campaigns and ridership goals.

Chair Fletcher restated the Board's intent to reestablish its ridership through innovative ideas. He acknowledged the success the agency has had with free ride day in the past and showcases free ride month as a bold and innovative investment to entice riders back on the system.

Public Comment

Michael Horgan – Provided a verbal statement to the Board during the meeting. Horgan supported the recommendation.

Michelle Krug – Provided a verbal statement to the Board during the meeting. Krug supported the changes and supported the September free ride month. Krug encouraged the Board to make the fare systems transition from one to three months.

MEMBER COMMENTS

Board Member Salas supported the PRONTO fare collection system and appreciated that it was available on a digital platform.

Board Member Moreno acknowledged this campaign was a great initial step, but would like to see a more market research-based plan. She is concerned with getting new customers, understanding the target audience and what would convince them to use the system rather than purchasing a personal vehicle. She is hopeful that capturing data could be the backbone to the

ridership recovery plan. She also recommended staff explore the impact of Youth Opportunity Passes for ridership recovery in order to increase ridership long term.

Board Member Goble added that a common misconception about public transportation is the lack of cleanliness and security. He cited figures from an article, which referenced more work from home and potentially fewer commuting trips on transit systems. He emphasized employers as a target audience. He stated that public transportation passes can be provided as a reliable and consistent employee incentive benefit.

Board Member Elo-Rivera asked about the agency's plan to capture various ridership and demographics data.

Mr. Schupp responded that demographic and customer satisfaction survey will help contribute to the data set.

Ms. Cooney added that the Planning Department monitors ridership daily and with that data, the agency is able to analyze specific routes.

Board Member Elo-Rivera replied that September Free Ride Month could be used to build ridership long-term. He would like to see data collection efforts on new riders and survey questions to gauge fare free transit and additional amenity interest. He noted initiatives such as Youth Opportunity Passes are a key to recovering ridership and developing a sustainable transit system. He is hopeful the month of September will be the best customer service month for the agency.

Board Member Aguirre appreciated the outreach plan. She asked for the agency to post set times and days for riders to be able to seek out assistance as the agency transitions to the new fare system. She appreciated the idea of Wi-Fi on buses and encouraged the advertisement of the fare transition in Tijuana.

Board Member Whitburn commended the agency in its partnership with the unsheltered population.

Board Member Montgomery Steppe supported the effort and noted that she had additional outreach ideas and partnerships with organizations to spread the message. However, in order to preserve time, she would talk to staff about them at a later date.

Chair Fletcher encouraged the idea of community outreach packets that could be distributed to Board members and community partners to promote the campaign.

Action Taken

Board Member Montgomery Steppe moved to approve the PRONTO promotional event providing free rides during September 2021 to any customer that registers with a new PRONTO account. Chair Fletcher seconded the motion, and the vote was 14 to 0 in favor, with Board Member Salas absent.

REPORT ITEMS

46. Non-Fare Operating Revenue Report (Sharon Cooney)

The Board waived the staff report for this item.

47. Operations Budget Status Report for April 2021 (Gordon Meyer)

The Board waived the staff report for this item.

OTHER ITEMS

60. Chair Report

There was no Chair report.

61. Chief Executive Officer's Report

Ms. Cooney stated that MTS's first-generation trolley cars were previously sold to operate in Mendoza, Argentina. Second-generation cars now need to be recycled and Mendoza would like to use them to expand their system. Ms. Cooney was excited to share the opportunity to upcycle the previous generation of vehicles.

62. Board Member Communications

There were no Board Member communications.

63. Additional Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda

Michelle Krug – Provided a verbal statement to the Board during the meeting. Krug is thankful for the platform transition to Zoom. Krug also encouraged staff to provide bus drivers with PRONTO cards to help in distribution.

64. Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is July 29, 2021.

CLOSED SESSION (ITEMS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER):

24. Closed Session Items

The Board convened to Closed Session at 11:15 a.m.

a. CLOSED SESSION – CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATORS Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956.8

Property: The San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway Company (SD&AE) Desert Line from approximate Mile Post 60 to approximate Mile Post 130 (Division to Plaster City) in San Diego and Imperial Counties

Agency Negotiators: Sharon Cooney, Chief Executive Officer; Karen Landers, General Counsel

Negotiating Parties: Baja California Railroad, Inc. (BJRR)

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms of Payment under Desert Line Lease and Operating Agreement

CLOSED SESSION – CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54959.9(d)(4) (One potential case – Baja California Railroad, Inc.)

- b. CLOSED SESSION - PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION/ CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54957 and 54957.6;

Agency-Designated Representative: Nathan Fletcher, Chair

Employee: Sharon Cooney, CEO

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 12:02 a.m.

Oral Report of Final Actions Taken in Closed Session

Karen Landers, General Counsel, reported the following:

- a. The Board received a report from staff and gave instructions to legal counsel and negotiators.
- b. The Board conducted a performance evaluation and gave instructions to its negotiator.

65. Adjournment

Chair Fletcher adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m.



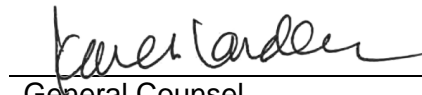
Chairperson
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

Filed by:

Approved as to form:



Clerk of the Board
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System



General Counsel
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

Attachment: Roll Call Sheet

SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ROLL CALL

MEETING OF (DATE):	<u>June 17, 2021</u>	CALL TO ORDER (TIME):	<u>9:02 am</u>
RECESS:		RECONVENE:	
CLOSED SESSION:	<u>11:15 am</u>	RECONVENE:	<u>11:58am</u>
PUBLIC HEARING:		RECONVENE:	
ORDINANCES ADOPTED:	<u>1</u>	ADJOURN:	<u>12:02 pm</u>

BOARD MEMBER		(Alternate)	PRESENT (TIME ARRIVED)	ABSENT (TIME LEFT)
FLETCHER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(Vargas) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:02 am	11:58am
SOTELO-SOLIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(Bush) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:02 am	11:58am
AGUIRRE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(Leyba-Gonzalez) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:02 am	11:58am
ELO-RIVERA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(LaCava) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:02 am	11:58am
FRANK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(Mullin) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:02 am	11:58am
GALVEZ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(Cardenas) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:02 am	11:58am
GASTIL	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Mendoza) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9:02 am	11:58am
GLORIA	<input type="checkbox"/>	(Whitburn) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	9:02 am	11:58am
GOBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(Ortiz) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:02 am	11:58am
HALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(McNelis) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:02 am	11:58am
MONTGOMERY STEPPE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(Von Wilpert) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:02 am	11:58am
MORENO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(Campillo) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:02 am	11:58am
SALAS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(Cardenas) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:02 am	11:24 am
SANDKE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(Bailey) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:02 am	11:58am
ARAPOSTATHIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(Shu) <input type="checkbox"/>	9:29am	11:58am

SIGNED BY THE CLERK OF THE BOARD:

