

Minutes by Board Secretary John G. Donnelly of actions taken at the Open Session of the regularly scheduled meeting of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) Board held at Floor 8E, Motor Vehicle Commission Headquarters, 225 East State Street, Trenton, New Jersey on Friday, December 17, 2010.

Present:

Raymond P. Martinez, Chair
Stephen S. Scaturro, Vice Chair
Scott Kisch, Public Board Member
Walter Orcutt, Public Board Member participated by telephone
Miriam Weeks, Transportation Designee participated by telephone
Gary Poedubicky, Attorney General Designee
David Patella, Treasury Designee participated by telephone

Absent:

Laurette K. Asante, Public Board Member notified the Chair in advance of her absence.

Chair Raymond P. Martinez convened the Open Session at 2:00 p.m. in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, and followed with The Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Approval. Vice Chair Stephen S. Scaturro moved to accept the revised proposed agenda, Mr. Kisch seconded the motion and it was unanimously adopted.

The Chair then presented the Chair's Report with these highlights since the October 12, 2010 meeting:

Agency Overview

- LODI
 - The last of the originally planned, modernized facilities opened to the public on Dec. 15.
 - Bergen County has its first super agency in Lodi, one of the busiest facilities in the entire state.

- WYCKOFF/OAKLAND
 - The first of our FY 11 budgeted agency closures occurred over the weekend.
 - The Wyckoff Agency closed its doors permanently on Saturday, December 11.
 - Most of the staff was transferred to nearby Oakland, which recently underwent an expansion to better handle the customer volume and additional employees.
 - We held a media event yesterday to mark the reopening of the improved Oakland Agency.

- OTHER BUDGET-RELATED CLOSURES
 - As of December 31, agencies in Elizabeth and Bridgeton will permanently close their doors.
 - The closures prompted the elimination of a number of positions.

- These employees, along with others that were affected by the elimination, were notified of the decision.
- I commend our HR staff members and union representatives who worked with employees on the workforce reduction plan.
- I'm pleased to report that we were able to place most affected employees into vacant positions elsewhere, while a small handful accepted a voluntary layoff.
- We will be able to achieve our intended savings with the closures.

Sport Plates

- The rollout of our line of sports team logo license plates is going extremely well.
- We've gotten a lot of media coverage about the new plates.
- We began with an October unveiling of 12 different NASCAR plates at Wall Speedway where we were joined by the Truex family.
- New Jersey-born Martin Truex is one of the featured drivers on the plates.
- The MVC also had a great event with Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno at the Prudential Center as we announced the sale of New Jersey Devils hockey plates.
- We also kicked off the sale of plates recognizing baseball greats: The Philadelphia Phillies, New York Yankees and New York Mets, as well as plates for the NBA: New Jersey Nets, Philadelphia 76ers and the New York Knicks.
- Events are planned for plates for the New York Giants and Jets and the Philadelphia Eagles.

Project Updates

- MATRX
 - We will finish the introduction of MATRX Release 1 by the end of next month.
 - Under Release 1, MVC agencies will gain the ability to digitally scan driver license, vehicle registration and handicapped applications and print a universal agency receipt as part of a new content management function.
 - Additionally in Release 1, we gain the ability for single sign-on for all MATRX functions.
- DARTSS
 - Our folks have been installing the knowledge portion of the new DARTSS system agency by agency and will have that wrapped up by the end the month.
 - Next month, we'll begin rolling out the road test portion of DARTSS.
 - Our goal is to complete full installation by spring of 2011.
- ENHANCED DIGITAL DRIVER LICENSE (EDDL)
 - This week we began an in-house pilot for our new licenses.
 - This will be followed by an agency pilot in January.
 - We anticipate full system rollout in February 2011 with completion by the end of April 2011.
 - Planning is underway for a formal announcement of the new licenses in early 2011.
 - We have already notified law enforcement and other stakeholders about our pilots.
 - Although the look of the new license is not significantly different, we'll gain a number of benefits and security features from the EDDL.

Public Comments:

Bridgeton Mayor Albert B. Kelly presented a petition in opposition to the closing on December 31, 2010 of the MVC Bridgeton Agency. Further, he remarked that the citizens of New Jersey are proud of MVC, and the Bridgeton area of approximately nine municipalities and 65,000 citizens rely on the local agency, and are suffering from the current economic downturn. He noted that state transitional aid is down, and the local per capita and median household incomes are below that of the county and state, while unemployment is higher. Despite these problems, the Mayor feels that the biggest problem is the closing of the MVC Bridgeton Agency given the high volume of activity it creates in the downtown, which boasts two state highways and several food establishments and other businesses that thrive due to the Agency. He also noted that Bridgeton will be one of the few county seats without an Agency, even though the building remains under lease and the city is a Regional Center in the State Smart Growth Plan.

Bridgeton Council President William D. Spence reiterated Mayor Kelly's comments, and noted there are numerous senior citizens who rely on MVC and are among the approximately 50 individuals who are in today's audience with the Mayor.

Bridgeton resident Mr. Charles James said the region around Bridgeton, Vineland and Millville relies on the Bridgeton Agency, and asked that MVC reverse the decision to close the Bridgeton Agency.

Chair Martinez thanked Mayor Kelly, Council President Spence and Mr. James for their comments. He also commended the area's State Legislators for the efforts on behalf of local citizens regarding the closing of the Bridgeton Agency. He noted that when the MVC's budget plan for the current fiscal year was first announced in April, it was clear MVC faced difficult choices given the fiscal crisis that New Jersey is facing. It was understood that some decisions might be unpopular but were necessary to address the state's budget problems. The closings of a number of motor vehicle agencies, as well as other decisions, were based on the nature of motor vehicle services and the impact on the customers who require them as well as MVC employees. Motor vehicle services are unique. They are not something that an individual requires on a regular basis, necessitating a trip to an agency. MVC core services for example, which make up the majority of agency business, include Driver testing that is typically once in a lifetime, Driver Licenses that are renewed every four years, and Registrations that even though renewed annually can be handled through the mail or online, and other items such as road test scheduling, driver abstract requests, address changes and surcharge payments; most actions regarding most of these items can be done via the Web. Chair Martinez confidently stated that regardless of the agency closings, the MVC remains fully committed to serving its customers around the state, including in Cumberland County. This is why MVC is continuously working to add more convenience including Web services for customers so that they don't have to visit an agency, or if they do, only for very special cases. Chair Martinez concluded by noting that Mayor Kelly and Mr. Spence, as elected officials, are very familiar with the difficulties budgeting in this current climate, and noted that MVC is faced with those challenges as well. Chair Martinez concluded by commending all those present for making their position known.

The following Agenda Items were presented for approval:

Minutes: October 12, 2010. This item is to fulfill the requirements of The Motor Vehicle Security and Customer Service Act and of the Bylaws to approve the minutes of each MVC Board meeting, by approving the Minutes of the MVC Board meeting of October 12, 2010.

Vice Chair Stephen S. Scaturro moved the resolution, Mr. Kisch seconded it and it was unanimously adopted.

1012-01: Autobus and Trolley Regulation. This action is to meet the statutory requirement of The Motor Vehicle Security and Customer Service Act to promulgate regulations for the proper functioning of the Commission, including this proposed readoption without amendments of the Commission's regulations regarding the operation of autobus and trolley transportation services. Board Secretary Jack Donnelly presented the regulation, and noted the Chair's new policy of making all proposed regulations available at the Board meetings at which they are considered.

Vice Chair Stephen S. Scaturro moved the resolution, Mr. Orcutt seconded it and it was unanimously adopted.

Legislative Report. A briefing was provided by Legislative Liaison Jonathan Pushman on a number of legislative issues, including bills on Governor Christie's desk regarding advertising on the exterior of school buses, and a special Gold Star Family motor vehicle license plate.

Chair Martinez thanked the Board Members, staff and public for their participation today and noted that Board Meetings are an important means of assuring the public that MVC is working to be responsive to their needs.

Since there were no further comments or business, a motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chair Scaturro and seconded by Public Board Member Orcutt and unanimously adopted at 3:05 p.m.