

AGENDA – DIVISION 175 – COUNCIL MEETING

Find Archived Minutes at: www.pef175.org/

I. CALL TO ORDER: 12:15PM, 12-27-12, Hornell Pizza Hut

II. ROLL CALL: K. Button, A. Puleo, Keith Brewster

III. READING OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

LAST MEETING WAS: 11-29-12

CORRECTIONS: None

MOTION to:

ACCEPT: KB **SECOND:** AP **APPROVED:** All

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT – Current balance is \$847.72.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Standing

Audit - N/A

Budget - No Report, however budget committee was requested to allocate funds to NYSATE for their recently proposed new library.

Communication

a) Internal

Website (www.pef175.org) – updated as needed

Bulletin Board – updated as needed

b) External

1. PAC/PAL – No Report

2. NASHTU – National Association of Highway Transportation Unions

If you study it... VMT will come? (Vehicle Mileage Tax)

Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) wants a national study on the viability of raising new highway funds based on the vehicle miles traveled (VMT) by motorists. His legislation (H.R. 6662), introduced last Thursday, asks the Treasury Department to complete the study and address issues such as privacy and ease of administration. While the congressional session ends in just a few weeks, the bill immediately generated new conversations about whether transitioning to a VMT-based system is feasible and a viable revenue alternative to prevent the Highway Trust Fund from going broke. [Click here to read the full bill.](#) [Click here to read The Hill's article about the bill.](#)

Per below, A. Puleo has forwarded a copy of NASHTU's letter to PEF

From: Puleo, Andrew (DOT)

Sent: Thursday, December 27, 2012 11:25 AM

To: 'Stachowski, Vanessa'

Cc: 'wspence@pef.org'; Gendron, Paul (DOT); cgarcia@pef.org; 'Wood, Bonnie'; Holthausen, William (DOT)

Subject: Please forward

Attachment: NASHTU Ltr. 12-20-12.pdf

Hi Vanessa,

I am a PEF Delegate to NASHTU, National Association of State Highway Transportation Unions, and as we have a new administration please forward the attached to the appropriate PEF Staff.

Thank you,

A. Puleo

607.324.8517

From: Puleo, Andrew (DOT)

Sent: Monday, December 31, 2012 1:45 PM

To: Kelefant, Charles (DOT); Holthausen, William (DOT); Canarelli, John (DOT); Duengfelder, John (DOT); Gendron, Paul (DOT); Geyer, Steve (DOT); Jobson, Jerry (DOT); Majeski, Dan (DOT); McRorie, Chuck (DOT); Stella, Michael (DOT); Turturro, Lorraine (DOT); Viera, Juan (DOT)

Cc: 'WBayer@pef.org'; 'Spence, Wayne'; 'Stachowski, Vanessa'; 'Wood, Bonnie'; Quarles, Lisa

Subject: RE: NASHTU: mandated the outsourcing of all design and engineering work on transportation projects

Attached: NASHTU Ltr. 12-20-12.pdf

We, the S/W L/M Committee, should present our own version of the attached letter to the NYSDOT Commissioner.

PEF HQ should present their own version of this letter to the Governor, and post same in the Communicator.

Our members in Rep. Hanna's District should be 'encouraged and advised' as to how to advise Hanna that his proposal is not cost effective.

2. Steuben/Livingston County Labor Council –

A. Puleo participated in the recent call for action, protest street Rally at Bath NY, against the laying off CSEA members employed by Steuben County Dept. of Health. The next Steuben Livingston Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Executive Board Meeting is : Thursday, January 31, 2013, CSEA Unit in Bath, NY.

3. R&GV ALF, Rochester & Gensesse Valley Area Labor Federation

The Voters Have Spoken; Now Let Democrats Govern as Mandated

Friday, December 14, 2012
(Rochester Business Journal)

The voters have spoken; now let Democrats govern as mandated

By JAMES BERTOLONE

Labor

Rochester Business Journal

December 14, 2012

As deficit hawks circle the fiscal cliff, the corporate media's consensus building on "bipartisanship" reminds me of a line from comedian and political humorist Lewis Black about our Congress. Black described bipartisanship as a Republican rising to proclaim his legislation "a really bad idea" and a Democrat standing up to add "and I can make it worse."

In most cases I am not a fan of bipartisanship. During my lifetime I have seen the zenith of the two greatest movements of the 20th century, labor and civil rights. These movements were intertwined and at times indistinguishable from each other. The Memphis sanitation workers in 1968 and the farmworkers' union movement on the West Coast in the late 1960s and '70s come to mind, though there are other examples. How do you compromise on such issues? Was not the separate-but-equal doctrine of Plessy v. Ferguson and Jim Crow laws just such a compromise on racism and inequality? Are not right-to-work laws, which keep wages down, a compromise on workers' rights that pre-empts federal law?

We heard quite a bit even from the GOP in this election cycle about Bill Clinton and bipartisanship, but it's interesting that some important bipartisan legislation was not mentioned. The North American Free Trade Agreement was a bipartisan agreement that lacked enforceable labor or environmental standards and imposed no value-added tax on imports to protect industries and jobs, unlike other First World democracies. Clinton's time as president also gave us a bipartisan deregulation of banking and finance. That worked out well. Certainly there are those who have noticed that Canada has not had a major recession since 1983 and this year passed the United States in standard of living. But then again Canada has universal health care, protects against outsourcing and has twice our union density.

Now we see Republicans spinning the 2012 election, blaming the candidates and claiming we need a bipartisan solution to the budget and the fiscal cliff. The fact is the GOP lost because it sticks to bad policies that don't work. A majority of Americans do not want cuts to Social Security, Medicare, education and do want corporate welfare curbed and the rich paying more taxes.

The issue is not fixing the economy and the deficit; it is a choice of fixing one or the other. Nearly 350 prominent economists, under the banner "Jobs, Not Austerity," have warned of "obsessive concern with cutting deficits that has infected both parties" and is a serious threat to sound economic policy. These economists state: "Too many in Washington are fixated on cutting public spending to balance the budget, not on how to put people back to work and get our economy going. There is no theory of economics that explains how we can deflate our way to

recovery."

Voters pretty much said the same thing in the elections, insisting that growing the economy and creating good jobs is far more important than cutting deficits during a weak recovery. The immediate danger is not that the deficit is too large but that if it is cut too much we will go back into recession.

To push the failed policies of the past, a new group of CEOs calls itself "Fix the Debt." These are many of the same CEOs who created the financial crisis, were bailed out with taxpayer money and now are trying to get members of Congress to sign their debt-reduction pledge.

Fix the Debt has a \$60 million war chest and is run by a leadership council of 80 CEOs from many of America's largest corporations. This group personally received more than \$40 million from the Bush tax cuts. Sixty-three of the Fix the Debt companies that have public records could gain \$134 billion in windfalls under the territorial tax system, which the group advocates to eliminate taxes on offshore corporate profits. Twenty-four of these CEOs received more compensation last year than their corporations paid in federal income tax.

The CEOs want to pay for this "Fix the Debt" policy by cutting benefits for Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. They claim the deficit leaves no choice-but they think we have plenty of money to give them more.

The president and the Democratic Party ran a great campaign, standing with the middle class for workers' rights, a fair system for taxes and opportunity, expansion of civil and legal rights, protection of Social Security and health care reform. This is what they promised, and this is what the people voted for. They strengthened their position in the Senate and even won seats in the House despite ridiculously gerrymandered districts.

Labor remains in election fighting mode to shore up some Democratic spines and fight the immeasurable influence-buying wealth of the 1 percent. The Democrats can legitimately claim that they inherited the worst recession since the 1930s and pulled us out of it, as anemic as the recovery is. They can say they advanced health care and protected Medicare and Social Security. They can also say they protected and in some cases expanded the rights of women, minorities, immigrants and gays.

But in four years they will not be able to get away with saying they cut Social Security less than the Republicans would have-and the same is true for Medicare. They will not be able to sell claims that unemployment of 9 percent or 10 percent is OK and that wage stagnation is the new normal in the global economy. And if they fail, they will not be able to whine about the filibuster stopping them more than 300 times. There are those of us who have lobbied Congress since 2008 and know what needs to be done: It will take only 51 votes to change Senate rules for the new Congress in January and limit filibusters. If the Democrats do not show they can govern-and govern in the manner they promised-they will lose the Senate and White House in four years.

President Barack Obama's victory has given rise in the media to the conventional wisdom that the Citizens United ruling has been overcome by the electorate. Nothing could be further from the truth. The GOP ran a candidate who was the poster boy for outsourcing corporations, unfair tax subsidies for the rich and the bankers, offshore tax shelters, oil companies that are squeezing our economy, deregulation and the casino capitalism that has plunged the world into the hardest times since the 1930s. Were it not for the \$6 billion to \$8 billion spent by Citizens United groups, this election would have been a landslide defeat for Mitt Romney. Labor and our progressive allies must keep fighting to correct the imminent threat Citizens United represents to American democracy.

James Bertolone is president of the Rochester Labor Council, AFL-CIO. He also is president of the American Postal Workers Union Local 215. 12/14/12 (c) 2012 Rochester Business Journal. To obtain permission to reprint this article, call 585-546-8303 or email service@rbj.net.

Constitution – No report, however do note that per our Division's Constitution, our E-Board rep., Jerry Jobson is a member of this council, which means he has voting rights.

Grievance – Several OOT grievances are in play.

Local Labor Management – Last meeting was December 11, 2012. Ed Johnston has joined our L/M team and we welcome him genuinely. The minutes of this meeting can be found at www.pef175.org/.

Statewide Labor Management – NEXT Meeting January 3, 2013, at PEF HQ.

a) **Membership** - totals: 149

b) **Social Committee**- No report, however they are currently tasked with selecting, securing venue for our next, and 3rd Annual, SOB, State office Building, Meeting which is scheduled for January 30, 2013. A. Puleo attended the Region 4 2012 Social as a special guest invited by their Council Leader Troy Salley.

c) **VIP** – No report

A. **Ad Hoc** -

a) **Health & Safety** –

(1) **FSS** – No report, however question was asked; “When is the next FSS?”

(2) **EAP** – No Report, however their meeting was last week.

REGIONAL COORDINATOR – No report

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – We need a secy.

Division 175 has not received a copy of the lease for the PEF Region 2 Field Office.

XI. NEW BUSINESS – Re: Dept of Civil Service, several members sit on promotional lists which are about to expire. These individuals have been encouraged to contact the dept. of Civil service and their own respected elected officials concerning this. These elected officials should be reminded that the Mission of Dept. of Civil Service is to; “...is to provide our State and local government agency partners innovative, cost-efficient human resources solutions for change and diversity based on fitness, merit and equal opportunity...” These elected officials should be reminded that tax dollars fund the Dept. of Civil Service and that the NYSDOT currently circumvents Merit & Fitness, in that every NYSDOT Region assigns employees to OOT, Out of Title, assignments of which the lawful staffing processes of the Dept. of Civil service have been deliberately disobeyed. The pattern/excuse for this abuse of law as provided by the NYSDOT, and the Dept, of Civil Service has been that the NYS Division of Budget will not provide the necessary funds to fill these positions. As the NYS Budget is submitted annually for legislative approval, it is incumbent upon PEF members to notify their Legislators of the unlawful impacts of poor fiscal policy as provided by the NYS Division of Budget.

IX. OPEN FORUM – *Proceeded in confidence, & we talked about you.*

X. ADJOURNMENT


MOTION TO ADJOURN & Pay Expenses: *KB*

Second: *AP*

Approved: *All*

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR: *Thursday, January 31, 2013, SOB Room 365*

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:



Andrew Puleo

01-10-2013