



## **BATA Annual Organizational Meeting Minutes**

Thursday February 15, 2024 @ 2:00pm

115 Hall Street

Traverse City, Michigan 49684

1. Call to Order by Chairperson

The Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Richard Cochrun at 2:00pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call:

**Richard Cochrun Present**

**John Somnavilla Present**

**Wayne Schmidt Present**

**Jamie Kramer Present**

**Joe Underwood Tardy (Arrived at 2:02pm)**

**Scott Sieffertt Absent**

**Brad Jewett Present**

**Richard Cochrun Present**

4. Oath of Office

-Wayne Schmidt

-Wayne Schmidt read aloud his oath of office to the board and signed his paperwork.

-Scott Sieffert (Absent)

5. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Brad Jewett, supported by Joe Underwood, the BATA Board of Directors approved the agenda for the February 15, 2024, Organizational Meeting.

**Motion Carried 6-0**

6. 2024 Election of Officers

John Somnavilla nominated Richard Cochrun for chairperson, seconded by Wayne Schmidt. No other nominations were offered.

Moved by John Somnavilla, supported by Wayne Schmidt, the BATA Board of Directors elects Richard Cochrun as the 2024 chairperson.

**Yes: John Somnavilla, Jamie Kramer, Wayne Schmidt, Richard Cochrun**

**No: Brad Jewett, Joe Underwood**

**Absent: Scott Sieffert**

**Carried 4-2-0 on a recorded vote.**

Jamie Kramer nominated John Somnavilla for vice-chairperson, supported by Richard Cochrun. No other nominations were offered.

Moved by Richard Cochrun, supported by Jamie Kramer that the BATA Board of Directors elects John Somnavilla as the 2024 vice-chairperson.

**Yes: John Somnavilla, Jamie Kramer, Wayne Schmidt, Richard Cochrun,**

**No: Joe Underwood**

**Absent: Scott Sieffert**

**Carried 5-1-0 on a recorded vote.**

John Somnavilla nominated Wayne Schmidt for the office of secretary, supported by Richard Cochrun. No other nominations were offered.

**Yes: John Somnavilla, Brad Jewett, Joe Underwood, Jamie Kramer, Wayne Schmidt, Richard Cochrun**

**Absent: Scott Sieffert**

**Motion Carried 6-0-0 on a recorded vote.**

7. First Public Comment

Bruce Moore spoke to the Board regarding Grand Traverse County Commission violating its appointment policy by not conducting nor having a waiver for a background check, which is required per its policy. Believes that policy has not been followed regarding this matter. Additionally, Bruce shared concerns with one of the commissioners on the ad hoc committee having only been present at one out of the six interviews which was Brad Jewett's.

Fern Spence spoke to the Board regarding Grand Traverse County Commission regarding her application for citizen position expressing that she felt she was not fairly considered for the appointment and that she was treated disrespectfully by the ad hoc committee.

Justin Reed spoke to the Board regarding the Grand Traverse County Commission appointments to the BATA Board. He feels BATA is doing a great job and wants to see BATA grow for the community.

Ryan Volz spoke to the Board regarding the placement of the Crossing Circle stop creating a safety concern with riders having to cross the road. He would like to see Rt 4 brought back. Passenger bag limit was addressed.

Matt Webb from TransPro Consulting spoke to the Board regarding an update with working with BATA staff on the strategic planning effort. He spoke about meeting with employees at BATA and their genuine care for the community they serve. BATA is a strong transit system.

8. Leelanau County Appointment of John Somnavilla

Moved by Brad Jewett, supported by Jamie Kramer, that the BATA Board of Directors receives the Leelanau County appointment of John Somnavilla for a term of 3 years commencing January 1, 2024.

**Carried 6-0**

9. Regular Board Meeting Calendar for February 2024 – January 2025

Moved by Brad Jewett, supported by Joe Underwood, the BATA Board approves the regular board meeting calendar for 2024 as presented.

**Carried 6-0**

10. Collection of Annually Signed Documents – Board Member Roles & Responsibilities and Conflict of Interest Statements.

Policies were signed and returned by Richard Cochrun, Wayne Schmidt and Jamie Kramer.

11. Second Public Comment

Justin Reed addressed the Board regarding calling into schedule rides and the use of the VIA app regarding the clients of CMH.

Ryan Volz addressed the Board about how Link scheduling works. He would like to be able to schedule rides further out rather than the 1 day ahead practice.

12. Directors Comments/Open Floor

Joe Underwood asked if we have any plans for improving pull offs and stop amenities. Kelly responded that BATA has a stop amenity improvement plan that is funded through the capital plan. A bus pull off plan doesn't currently exist but she has had conversations with the new road commission management and will continue to work with them to create one.

Jamie Kramer thanked the public for coming to the meeting and all the feedback they provided.

13. Adjournment

Moved by John Somnavilla, the BATA Board of Directors adjourned the February 15, 2024, Organizational Meeting at 2:34pm.