

## **BATA Regular Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Location:** Hall St. Transfer Station, 115 Hall St. Traverse City, MI

**Date/Time:** Thursday, February 26, 2026

### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wayne Schmidt at 1:01 PM.

### **2. Roll Call**

- John Sommavilla - PRESENT
- Lance Boehmer – PRESENT
- Gwenne Allgaier – PRESENT
- Fern Spence – PRESENT
- Sarah Bye - ABSENT
- Wayne Schmidt - PRESENT

### **3. First Public Comment\***

Debra Laney introduced herself to the Board. Debra did tell the Board that she applied for the executive director position and was still waiting to hear back.

### **4. Approval of Agenda/Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

Moved by Lance Boehmer and supported by Fern Spence to approve the Agenda/Declaration of Conflict of Interest as presented.

- **Ayes: 5**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 5-0**

### **5. Consent Calendar**

The purpose of the consent calendar is to expedite business by grouping non-controversial items together to be dealt with in one Board motion without discussion. Any member of the Board, staff, or the public may ask that any item on the consent calendar be removed and placed elsewhere on the agenda for full discussion. Such requests will be automatically respected. If an item is not removed from the consent calendar, the action noted in parentheses on the agenda is approved by a single Board action adopting the consent calendar.

### **Consideration of Approving the Following**

- a. Organizational Board Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2026
- b. Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2026

## Consideration of Accepting the Following Reports

- c. Governance Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2026
- d. Monthly Income Statement
- e. Correspondence – Staff Compliments
- f. BATA Board Tracker

Moved by Gwenne Allgaier and supported by Fern Spence to approve the February 26, 2026, Regular Board Meeting, Consent Calendar as presented.

- **Ayes:5**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 5-0**

## 6. Any items removed from the consent calendar.

No items were removed from the Consent Calendar.

## 7. Executive Director's Report – Chris Davis

Chris informed the Board that the Governor's budget has been released. With additional funds being added to the Local Bus Operation Fund, that could result in a 2% increased reimbursement rate, which would be approximately \$270,000 for BATA next year. BATA is piloting a cloud-based camera system on one of the buses. This will be able to provide cloud-based storage and help improve accident avoidance and reporting. Chris reported the design phase of the new fare system has started. Some of the items that BATA is working through are elements like, fare pass type, transfers and fare capping. A formal update will be provided at the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. BATA has been working with Saginaw Transit and has set up an informational session at BATA headquarters on March 6<sup>th</sup>, to assist Saginaw Transit with obtaining a new facility. Chris informed the Board that she was to meet with Nate Alger and the Commission on Aging on collaboration of services, but unfortunately that meeting will need to be rescheduled. Chris received notification from BATA's insurance carrier that BATA's 2024/2025 auto audit from Travelers resulted in an \$8,307 return premium. Chris met with Catholic Human Services for expanded and improved employee assistance program for staff. Chris reported that Eric Lingaur and Bill Clark have been super busy out in the community, attending the TC West Mental Health Summit, sharing information with students on why transportation is an essential service for good mental health and well-being. Eric and Bill also attended NMC winter/spring semester new student orientations. They shared BATA information and worked with NMC's web team to update BATA info on their website.

## 8. Chairperson's Report

No report given at this time.

## 9. Governance Committee Update

- a. HR Partners Executive Director Search Proposal

Key Points Include:

- John Somnavilla reported that the Governance Committee met with Kate Greene of HR Partners, and the committee was able to ask questions in regard to her process and the proposal that was submitted.

- The Governance Committee made a recommendation to the full Board to hire Kate Greene's firm, HR Partners.

Moved by Lance Boehmer and supported by Gwenne Allgaier to approve the hiring of HR Partners to perform the duties of the Executive Director, search as outlined in their proposal and for their work to begin immediately.

Roll Call Vote

- **Ayes: John Somnavilla, Lance Boehmer, Fern Spence, Gwenne Allgaier**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Abstain: Wayne Schmidt**
- **Motion Carries: 4-0**

#### b. Executive Director Qualities Discussion

The Board expressed interest in entering into closed session to discuss the qualities each member is seeking in the next Executive Director. However, it was noted that the Michigan Open Meetings Act does not permit closed sessions for this purpose. The Board agreed that members would instead submit their completed qualities worksheets to Tracy Melville, who will forward them to HR Partners.

### 10. Old Business

No old business at this time.

### 11. New Business

#### a. Cyber Security Training Update

Key Points Include:

- BATA implemented security awareness training in May 2025
- At the end of 2025 BATA educated and reduced our compromised rate from 9% to 1%
- Different types of cyber-attacks were discussed, such as phishing and smishing.

### 12. Second Public Comment

No public comment was made at this time.

### 13. Director's Comments and Announcements/ Open Floor

Fern Spence mentioned to the Board that county road commission is planning to opt out of the TIF at the Grand Traverse County Road Commission meeting this evening. TIF was scheduled to present to the road commission on May 19th. Fern asked if you are able to attend tonight's meeting and show your support for the TIF. Chris Davis mentioned that Bill Clark from BATA would be in attendance to show support.

Lance Boehmer mentioned that at the city commission meeting a discussion was held about State Street and whether to keep it as a two-way street or revert it back to a one-way street. At this time, there is not enough data to determine which would be more beneficial. More updates to follow.

#### 14. Adjournment

Moved by Lance Boehmer to adjourn the February 26, 2026, Regular Meeting of the BATA Board of Directors at 2:15 PM. The next BATA Board meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2026 at 1:00 at Hall St.

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: 

Meeting Minutes Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_

Gwenne Allgaier, Secretary: 