

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

**Location:** Hall Street Transfer Station, 115 Hall Street, Traverse City, MI 49684

**Date:** Thursday, May 28, 2026

**Time:** 1:00 PM

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wayne Schmidt at 1:05 PM.

### **2. Pledge of Allegiance**

### **3. Roll Call**

- John Sommovilla – PRESENT
- Lance Boehmer – PRESENT (arrived at 1:33 PM)
- Gwenne Allgaier – ABSENT
- Janice Wyant – PRESENT
- Fern Spence – PRESENT
- Sarah Bye – ABSENT
- Wayne Schmidt – PRESENT

### **4. Oath of Office**

Janice Wyant took her official oath of office, as a new BATA Board member.

### **5. First Public Comment\***

No public comment was offered.

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

Motion by Fern Spence, supported by John Sommovilla, to approve the May 28, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Agenda/Declaration of Conflict of Interest as presented.

- **Ayes: 4**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 4-0**

### **7. 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. Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2026
- b. Governance Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2026
- c. Governance Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2026

## Consideration of Accepting the Following Reports

- d. Monthly Income Statement
- e. Correspondence – Staff Compliments
- f. BATA Board Tracker

Motion by Fern Spence, supported by John Somavilla, to approve the May 28, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Consent Calendar as presented.

- **Ayes: 4**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 4-0**

## 8. Any Items Removed from the Consent Calendar.

No items were removed from the Consent Calendar.

## 9. Executive Director's Report

Chris Davis presented the May report and highlighted BATA's successful support of the Bayshore Marathon on May 23, 2026, during which staff provided more than 1,000 rides on the Bayshore line and approximately 400 shuttle rides between Central High School and the end of Old Mission Peninsula. She reported extensive community outreach efforts by staff, including presentations at Rotary, MI Career Quest, NMC Campus Day, the TC Senior Expo, and meetings with MDOT, local executive leaders, and the Statewide Urban Operators meeting. Staff also attended a Traverse Area Human Resources Association benefits broker panel discussion. Chris added that Operations is preparing for National Cherry Festival service enhancements and recognized BATA drivers for their positive attitude in navigating numerous regional construction projects.

## 10. Chairman's Report

No report given at this time.

***Note:** By consensus of the Board, consideration of the Resolution Calling for Public Transportation Millage (Old Business) and the 2026 Tax Rate Request Resolution, L4029 for Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties (New Business) were moved in the order of the agenda to accommodate Board attendance for roll call votes.*

## 11. Old Business

### Fare System Project Update

Eric Linguar provided an update on the EZ Fare system. Key points include:

- Planned installation of ticket vending machines at Hall Street and LaFranier park-and-ride area.
- Staff training is currently underway.
- Equipment installation is expected to begin following the National Cherry Festival.
- Public education and outreach efforts scheduled throughout the summer
- Soft launch anticipated during the week of August 17.
- Full transition to the new system planned following Labor Day.
- Existing fare media will be accepted through the end of the year to allow riders time to transition.
- Board discussion included customer education, public outreach opportunities, and rider assistance during implementation.

### **Resolution Calling for Public Transportation Millage**

Chris Davis presented a resolution calling for a seven-year public transportation millage renewal to appear on the November election ballot. The proposed millage rate is 0.4589 mills, reflecting Headlee rollback adjustments. Legal counsel has approved the resolution.

Motion by Fern Spence, supported by Janice Wyant, to approve the resolution and ballot language as presented.

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

- **Ayes: John Somnavilla, Lance Boehmer, Janice Wyant, Fern Spence, and Wayne Schmidt**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 5-0**

## **12. New Business**

### **Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)**

Erik Falcon presented the PTASP update and reported:

- This is a renewal of last year; there are no changes to any of the policies, just updates to the safety metrics.
- No major safety events within demand-response operations during 2025.
- Four reportable fixed-route events, with three being non-preventable collisions.
- Two passenger injuries resulting from one non-preventable collision.
- One transit worker assault incident (pushed by a passenger, suspended from riding for one-year).
- Continued strong staff safety performance and proactive safety committee efforts.
- No major events have occurred in 2026 to date.

Motion by Fern Spence, supported by Janice Wyant, to approve the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan.

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

- **Ayes: John Somnavilla, Janice Wyant, Fern Spence, and Wayne Schmidt**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 4-0**

## **VIA Renewal Agreement**

Eric Linguar presented the proposed renewal of the VIA demand-response software agreement. He reported cost savings through participation in the Neoride consortium and recommended a three-year agreement.

Motion by John Somavilla, supported by Fern Spence, to approve the renewal of the VIA agreement as presented.

- **Ayes: 4**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 4-0**

## **2026 Tax Rate Request Resolution, L4029 for Grand Traverse and Leelanau Counties**

Chris Davis presented the annual Tax Rate Request Resolution establishing the adjusted tax rate of 0.4589 mills.

Motion by Lance Boehmer, supported by Fern Spence, to approve the tax rate request resolution.

### **Roll Call Vote:**

- **Ayes: John Somavilla, Lance Boehmer, Janice Wyant, Fern Spence, and Wayne Schmidt**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 5-0**

## **15. Second Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

## **16. Director's Comments and Announcements/ Open Floor**

- Lance Boehmer reported on the City's Street Advisory Committee activities.
- Chris Davis invited Board members to attend the breakfast event on June 3 from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. at Hall Street in conjunction with Smart Commute Week activities.
- Fern Spence asked about transit access to Pit Spitters games. There is not a dedicated route to those events, but customers can schedule a ride.
- Board members welcomed new Board member Janice Wyant who shared her professional background, community engagement efforts, and why she wanted to serve on BATA's Board.
- Board members requested that staff send Board meeting calendar invitations for the remainder of the meetings this year.

## **17. Adjournment**

Motion by Lance Boehmer, supported by Fern Spence, to adjourn the May 28, 2026, Regular Meeting of the BATA Board of Directors at 1:46 PM. The next BATA Board meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2026 at 1:00 PM at the Hall Street Transfer Station, 115 Hall Street, Traverse City, MI 49684.

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: Chad Davis

Meeting Minutes Approved on: June 25, 2026

Gwenne Allgaier, Secretary: Gwenne Allgaier