

BATA Special Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Location: BATA Headquarters, 1340 Hammond Road West, Traverse City, MI 49686

Date: Friday, May 29, 2026

Time: 1:30 PM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wayne Schmidt at 1:30 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

3. Roll Call

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

4. Public Comment

No public comment was made at this time.

5. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Fern Spence and supported by Lance Boehmer to amend the May 29, 2026, Special Board Meeting agenda and add line 7a. with the topic of deliberation to the agenda.

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

6. New Business

a. Executive Director Candidate A – Patrick Preusser

Kate Green introduced Mr. Preusser to the full board and gave an introduction on the assignment that each candidate was given. The assignment that was given was to look at BATA in the future, 2036 and that he has been the executive director for the past 10 years,

what milestones have been achieved during that time and what the future possibilities are for BATA.

Mr. Preusser presented his presentation to the board.

Key Points Include:

- The transition from rural to small urban transit.
- Leading by listening first, building together, thoughtful modernization, and leading with stewardship.
- Building a reliable, sustainable, and aligned organization.
- Technology upgrades, data informed operations, preventive and predictive maintenance.
- Accessibility became how BATA defines services and success overall.
- Strengthened relationships with TTCI, tourism partners, and community organizations.
- Financial strength improved.
- Investing in our people and community.

After the presentation, Fern Spence and Lance Boehmer commented on the Park n Ride and how that is very beneficial for riders. The knowledge that Mr. Preusser has of how that system works is very useful. John Somnavilla commented that the presentation reflected BATA's current strengths and recognized the contributions that have helped shape the organization.

The Board moved into the question-and-answer segment of the interview. Mr. Preusser was asked a series of questions that focused on leadership style, finance and funding, board relations, and strategies for strengthening the organization.

Key Points Include:

- Designing high quality service for the riders.
- Listening and learning from the management team.
- Working collaboratively and closely with the board, staff, and community.
- Alignment in the service, capital and financial planning.
- Delivering on 2026 Strategic Plan that is already in place.
- Experience in overseeing grant work, both state and federal.

Mr. Preusser presented his closing statement and thanked the board, the leadership team, and employees that he has had the opportunity to interact with during his time here. Mr. Preusser said that he is thankful for the time he had to learn about the organization, the

community, and the region. There is a great foundation at BATA with community support and dedicated employees. BATA goes beyond just transit; it helps people remain connected to essential services and everyday life. Mr. Preusser again thanked the board and the opportunity to be part of this process.

b. Executive Director Candidate B – Matt McCauley

Kate Green introduced Mr. McCauley to the full board. Mr. McCauley was also given the assignment of a presentation of what BATA looks like 10 years in the future and what milestones have been achieved during that time and what the future possibilities are for BATA.

Mr. McCauley made his presentation to the board.

Key Points Include:

- Culture and team empowerment
- Technology – route optimization, safety, maintenance, and dynamic forecasting.
- Community partnerships – riders and municipalities, transit collaboration, connecting people to human services and commerce.
- Sustainable funding.
- Goals for the future include- zero emissions, microtransit, and mobility as a system.

After the presentation Lance Boehmer and Fern Spence commented on the TOD and how important that is to develop residential units along a planned transit corridor.

The Board moved into the question-and-answer segment of the interview. Mr. McCauley was asked a series of questions that focused on leadership style, finance and funding, and board relations, and strategies for strengthening the organization.

Key Points Include:

- Creating connections between roles and responsibilities in departments towards even more efficiency.
- Making BATA a transportation of choice.
- Listening and learning from the management team and staff.
- Knowledge of funding at state and federal levels.
- Working collaboratively and closely with the board.

Mr. McCauley presented his closing statement to the board. Mr. McCauley highlighted the importance of strategic planning and collaboration among the Board, staff, community stakeholders, and leadership. Mr. McCauley emphasized prior experience in the transportation sector, established regional and state relationships, and a demonstrated

record of securing resources and advancing organizational goals. Mr. McCauley also expressed a strong commitment to the region and a desire to leverage their experience and professional network to support BATA's continued growth and success.

7. Second Public Comment

No public comment was made at this time.

a. Deliberation

The Board reviewed and discussed the qualifications of the two Executive Director candidates. Discussion included each candidate's education, professional experience, leadership qualities, overall knowledge of the position and organization, interview performance, and presentation materials provided during the selection process. The Board also considered information obtained through reference checks and discussed strengths and areas where additional development or experience may be beneficial for each candidate. Board members shared their observations and impressions regarding the candidates' ability to fulfill the responsibilities of the Executive Director position and meet the current and future needs of the organization.

Moved by Lance Boehmer and supported by Sarah Bye to authorize Chairperson Wayne Schmidt, in conjunction with legal counsel, to negotiate an employment agreement with Patrick Preusser for the position of Executive Director.

Roll Call Vote

- **Ayes: John Somnavilla, Lance Boehmer, Fern Spence, Sarah Bye, and Wayne Schmidt.**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 5-0**

Wayne Schmidt commented that another meeting will take place within the next two weeks to discuss contract negotiations. Date to be determined.

Lance Boehmer and John Somnavilla commented that the current contract between BATA and Human Resource Partners needs to be reevaluated, and a possible addendum be made due to the costs and dynamics of the process.

Moved by John Somnavilla and supported by Lance Boehmer to review the current contract with HR Partners and consider a possible addendum.

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

8. Directors Comments/Open Floor

No comments made at this time.

9. Adjournment

Moved by Lance Boehmer to adjourn the Special Board Meeting of May 29, 2026, of the BATA Board of Directors at 6:00 PM.

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: _____

Meeting Minutes Approved on: June 25, 2026

Gwenne Allgaier, Secretary: 