

BATA Regular Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Date/Time: Thursday, April 23, 2026 / 1:00 PM

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wayne Schmidt at 1:07 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

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

4. First Public Comment*

Fred Bimber of 1223 Randolph St, addressed the Board in regard to the East Bay Beach District proposal, TIF plan. Mr. Bimber commented that BATA needs to make a decision regarding the TIF prior to May 8. Mr. Bimber stated his opinion would be in BATA's best interest to opt out, noting concerns regarding loss of tax revenue and the impact of incremental funding being directed to the TIF. Mr. Bimber also referenced potential future opportunities for revenue sharing if BATA opts out. Additional concerns were raised regarding tax impacts, including capping, inflation, and property tax considerations. Mr. Bimber further compared the size of the East Bay district to the TIF 97 district and recommended that BATA opt out to avoid other entities capturing tax revenues.

Beth Friend, East Bay Township Manager, expressed appreciation for BATA's involvement as a partner since the beginning of the project and in helping develop shared goals. She stated that the Beach District goals align with BATA's mobility goals and noted that the Bayline is a positive addition to the area, improving safety and accessibility. She also referenced political and emotional considerations related to the City's TIF district and noted that the TIF is planned as a 20-year district, with BATA's capture included in the plan. She indicated openness to negotiating with BATA to develop a mutually beneficial agreement.

5. Approval of Agenda/Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

- **Ayes: 6**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 6-0**

6. 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 February 26, 2026
- b. Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2026

Consideration of Accepting the Following Reports

- c. Monthly Income Statement
- d. FY26 Q2 Ridership Report
- e. FY26 Q2 Turnover Report
- f. MDOT Form 5572
- g. Correspondence – Staff Compliments
- h. BATA Board Tracker

Moved by John Somnavilla and supported by Lance Boehmer to approve the April 23, 2026, Regular Board Meeting, Consent Calendar as presented.

- **Ayes:6**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 6-0**

7. Any Items Removed from the Consent Calendar.

No items were removed from the Consent Calendar.

8. Fiscal Year 25 Audit – Josh Sullivan

Key Points Include:

- Rehman conducted the audit and went through with a clean and unmodified opinion.
- Strong balance sheet with positive net position.
- Capital asset with larger purchases being vehicles, liability is down since the construction projects are wrapping up.
- BATA's pension liability funding level is strong, almost at 100%
- Slight decrease in cash flow compared to year over year.
- Compensated absences and how they are tracked is a new item this year to track under GASB.
- Clean audit, everything was in compliance.
- Suggestion for improvement, for instance, IT software that is a subscription vs. what is owned. (cloud-based example)

- Board Director, John Sommovilla suggested that a policy be created to address outstanding invoices on an annual basis, to do a write-off for aging accounts receivable

9. Executive Director's Report

Chris informed the Board that BATA qualified for additional Small Transit Intensive Cities funding from the FTA. New buses have been ordered, the timeline for arrival is approximately six months. Chris, Eric Lingaur and Bill Clark presented at Rotary this month. Chris attended a webinar regarding employee benefits. BATA attended two job fairs, NMC and Career Tech. Eric Lingaur and Wayne Stevens presented at MPTA in Mt. Pleasant. Eric Lingaur and Bill Clark met with local business in Northport to discuss options for seasonal workforce transportation support.

10. Chairman's Report

No report given at this time.

11. Finance Report

Key Points Include:

- The sales ads for this year have already surpassed the amount that was budgeted. Great job to Wayne Stevens.
- State Formula reimbursement rate of 34.8467% for FY26
- Federal operating based on current year expenses, requesting from FTA quarterly. Reimbursement of 18%
- Interest rates from investments 3.7443%

Moved by Fern Spence and supported by Sarah Bye to approve the FY26 Q2 Finance Report as presented.

- **Ayes: 6**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 6-0**

12. Old Business

GMV Renewal

Key Points Include:

- Automatic announcements, passenger counters, fixed routes are some of the items that are used in the GMV system.
- Eric spoke with Operations and they confirmed that BATA can utilize this software for 2 years.
- Lance Boehmer asked if the agreement includes an SLA. Eric Lingaur stated that he will follow up.

Moved by Fern Spence and supported by Gwenne Allgaier to approve the renewal of the GMV contract for 2 years not to exceed the total amount of \$137,000 as presented.

- **Ayes: 6**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 6-0**

b. East Bay Beach District TIF Update

Key Points Include:

- At the time the presentation was made to the Board in January, the tax values in the quarter that were given were \$138,807,135. which presented as a 2.5% increase from the previous year. The consultant projected a 2% increase for the next 20 years; the total came to \$309,193 for the next 20 years. The Board supported the TIF and supported East Bay Township at the time of the presentation in January.
- Updated information has been received, and the taxable values are \$150,698,313, which is about a 9% increase. A projection for the next 20 years at 4 % would be \$769,490.
- BATA improvements are 11 shelters and amenities which total around \$935,000

Discussion that was had:

Fern Spence suggested a revenue sharing agreement be pursued for a better focus over the next 20 years. Lance Boehmer asked if the county opted out of the TIF. Fern Spence supports the East Bay Township plan but feels like the funding approach needs to be different. Make sure that it is a limited 20-year TIF and have it aligned with the tax sharing policy. Lance Boehmer is supportive of the TIF but also understands financial growth and constraints. Wayne Schmidt wants to make sure that we support East Bay and enter into an agreement with the purpose to enter into a revenue sharing plan. It was determined that more information is needed at this time.

Moved by Fern Spence and supported by Lance B that the BATA Board of Directors move to opt out of the East Bay TIF until Grand Traverse County has updated their 2012 tax sharing policy, which includes the TIF policy and explore entering into a revenue sharing agreement with East Bay Township.

Roll Call Vote:

- **Ayes: John Somnavilla, Lance Boehmer, Fern Spence, Sarah Bye, Gwenne Allgaier and Wayne Schmidt**
- **Nays:0**
- **Motion Carries: 6-0**

c. 2026 Millage Discussion

Key Points Include:

- Information was provided to the Board regarding what the Mills might look like in preparation for the May Meeting. A resolution was drafted for the Board to go over and that would be voted on at the May meeting.
- Will be placed on the November ballot and recommending 7 years, 2028-2034
- Gwenne Allgaier asked what the service delivers in Leelanau County costs vs millage funds collected. BATA will bring the millage numbers and funding numbers to the May meeting.

13. New Business

a. Discussion on moving the location of the May Board of Directors Meeting.

Moved by Lance Boehmer and supported by Fern Spence to change the location of the May Board Meeting to Hall St and have the September Board Meeting moved to Leelanau County.

- **Ayes: 6**
- **Nays: 0**
- **Motion Carries: 6-0**

14. Second Public Comment

Fred Bimber thanked the BATA Board for opting out and exploring what the county model looks like. Fred also wanted to give kudos to the advertising revenue.

Claire Carner from the East Bay Beach District – Working with BATA on tax sharing agreements. Claire gave some highlights of some of the positive improvements which include 11 different locations, shelters and benches and making mobility improvements. Year-round maintenance and snow removal along the sidewalks and access to the bus shelters. There will also be safe crossings from one side to the other and will really help with pedestrian traffic. Make sure that 20 years is built into the draft and revisit the plan in the future.

Beth Friend from East Bay Beach District thanked the Board and the value they have in TIF and East Bay Township. Beth stated that they are currently negotiating an agreement with their administrative staff and the county. There was no re-draft of the plan and reordered for the better understanding of the TIF. Did make calculations on the 4% increase vs the 2%. Looking forward to working with staff.

15. Director's Comments and Announcements/ Open Floor

Sarah Bye asked where the link buses are located, dwell time and where they are going. Eric Lingaur responded that yes, BATA can track that information and can be provided.

Lance Boehmer stated that the Complete Streets Advisory will have some upcoming recommendations. Fuel – diesel costs and the price point. The city is paying more for fuel than BATA and Lance asked how we monitor that. Eric Lingaur responded that Operations monitors that daily and communicates with the drivers where they will need to fuel that day for either gas or diesel.

Chris Davis thanked Justin Weston for his service as the Finance Director at BATA. Justin has agreed to work some evenings until the next Finance Director is appointed.

John Somnavilla asked about the recruitment of the next finance director and stated that the new executive director should have some input into who the new finance director should be.

John Somnavilla asked if there was any update to the legal situation. Chris Davis said that she can provide that at the next meeting.

Fern Spence provided an update on the BATA Board's next director. Interviews are scheduled to take place between May 5-12th.

16. Adjournment

Moved by Lance Boehmer to adjourn the April 23, 2026, Regular Meeting of the BATA Board of Directors at 2:55 PM. The next BATA Board meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2026, at 1:00 at Hall St.

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: Chris Devo

Meeting Minutes Approved on: May 28, 2026

Gwenne Allgaier, Secretary: Gwenne Allgaier