

BATA Regular Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Date/Time: 1:00PM, Thursday, February 27, 2025

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Wayne Schmidt at 1:00 PM.

2. Roll Call

- John Sommavilla - PRESENT
- Lance Boehmer – PRESENT
- Gwenne Allgaier – PRESENT
- Joe Underwood – PRESENT
- Scott Sieffert - ABSENT
- Brad Jewett - PRESENT
- Wayne Schmidt - PRESENT

3. First Public Comment*

No public comment was made at this time.

4. Approval of Agenda/Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

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

5. Jerry Tomczak, Program Manager, Cummingham Limp

Jerry Tomczak gave an update to the Board regarding the solar panel project.

Key Points Include:

- Received 4 bids
- Keen was awarded the bid for the project. Keen is a local company and will be able to work in the time frame to get the project completed.
- The contract has been signed.
- The supplies have been ordered.
- Mid-March start date.
- Completion will be towards the end of May.
- The process for permits to Garfield Township has already begun.

6. Closed Session

a. Closed Session to consult with attorney regarding strategy in connection with pending litigation, BATA v Grand Traverse County et. al. under MCL 15.268 (e)

Moved by Joe Underwood and supported by Lance Boehmer to go into closed session for BATA to consult with its attorney regarding strategy in connection with pending litigation, BATA v Grand Traverse County et. al. MCL 15.268 (e) at 1:09 PM.

Roll Call Vote:

- **Ayes:** John Somnavilla, Lance Boehmer, Gwenne Allgaier, Joe Underwood, Brad Jewett, and Wayne Schmidt.
- **Nays:** 0
- **Motion Carries:** 6-0

Moved by Brad Jewett and supported by Gwenne Allgaier to adjourn closed session and reopen the Regular Meeting at 1:47 PM

Roll Call Vote:

- **Ayes:** John Somnavilla, Gwenne Allgaier, Joe Underwood, Brad Jewett, Lance Boehmer, and Wayne Schmidt
- **Nays:** 0
- **Motion Carries:** 6-0

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 January 30, 2025
- b. Organizational Board Meeting Minutes of January 30, 2025

Consideration of Accepting the Following Reports

- c. Monthly Income Statement
- d. Q1 – Work Plan Update
- e. Correspondence - Staff Compliments
- f. BATA Board Tracker

Moved by Joe Underwood and supported by Lance Boehmer to approve the February 27, 2025, Consent Calendar as amended.

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

8. Any items removed from the consent calendar.

Moved by Brad Jewett and supported by John Somnavilla to approve the February 27, 2025 consent Calendar as amended with the correction to the minutes line item a.

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

9. Executive Director's Report – Chris Davis

Chris informed the Board that one of our drivers recently passed away following knee replacement surgery. Counseling was brought in to support the staff. The airport shuttle began services and has already seen riders utilizing the new service. With the harsh winter weather, BATA drivers and staff have done a wonderful job navigating the weather and road conditions. ESTA (Earned Sick Time Act) was just passed. Information will be going out to employees. RFP for electric vehicles has just gone out and proposals are due March 9th. The Executive Director search team from Trans Pro consulting met with Chris again on February 26, 2025. A total of 48 applications have been received. 9 met the requirements and 2 have been moved to screening.

10. Chairperson's Report

No report was given at this time.

11. Old Business

a. Update on Strategic Communications Plan – Eric Lingaur

Key Points Include:

- Great media coverage for the airport shuttle program.
- Met with TAHRA in December.
- Will be meeting with companies for the seasonal workers that are coming into town for the summer months.
- Created a BATA 101 video to answer commonly asked questions.
- Year over year ridership increase.

12. New Business

No new business at this time.

13. Second Public Comment

Bruce Moore from Garfield Township addressed the Board regarding the strategic campaign that bringing the use of Google Maps to the beginning of how to plan your trip might be helpful for people for first time

users. A suggestion for a flyer designed for individuals with vision impairments, which could be placed in locations such as the Jubilee House to help first-time users understand BATA services.

14. Director's Comments and Announcements/ Open Floor

Brad Jewett thanked Chris Davis for keeping everyone well informed about current events. Gwenne Allgaier wanted to confirm that our intention is to continue the litigation while we work on the Interlocal Agreement, to ensure there will be one commissioner from each county.

15. Adjournment

Moved by Brad Jewett to adjourn the February 27, 2025, Regular Meeting of the BATA Board of Directors at 2.29 PM.

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: Tracy Mink

Meeting Minutes Approved on: 2/27/25

Lance Boehmer, Secretary: [Signature]