BATA Regular Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Date/Time: 1:00PM, Monday, June 16, 2025

1. Call to Order

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

3. Roll Call

- John Sommavilla - PRESENT
- Lance Boehmer – TARDY ARRIVED @ 1:19PM
- Gwenne Allgaier – PRESENT
- Joe Underwood – PRESENT
- Fern Spence - PRESENT
- Brad Jewett - ABSENT
- Wayne Schmidt - PRESENT

4. Oath of Office for New Members

Fern Spence took her official oath of office, as a new BATA Board member.

5. First Public Comment*

No public comment was made at this time.

6. Approval of Agenda/Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Moved by Joe Underwood and supported by Gwenne Allgaier to approve the 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 May 22, 2025

Consideration of Accepting the Following Reports

b. LAC Meeting Minutes May 20, 2025
c. Monthly Income Statement
d. FY24 Surplus Recommendation
e. Correspondence - Staff Compliments
f. BATA Board Tracker

Moved by Joe Underwood and supported by John Sommavilla to approve the June 16, 2025, 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. Jerry Tomczak, Program Manager, Cummingham Limp

Jerry Tomczak gave an update regarding the solar panel project and Hall St. construction.

Key Points Include:

- The solar panel project is completed.
- Construction on the inside of Hall St began on June 16, 2025.
- Bathroom update for the staff.
- Breakroom/kitchen construction
- Painting will be done in the conference room.
- Later projects will include the visitor restrooms, floors in the lobby and painting.

10. Executive Director's Report – Chris Davis

Chris informed the Board of the Smart Commute turnout, that despite the rain, BATA served breakfast to more thank a 120 people and gave 1,238 free rides as part of Try Transit Day. The airport shuttle service is still averaging 1 ride, with the hopes of that number increasing now that summer is here. Cherry Fest preparations are underway. Contract negotiations for union employees will be brought to the Board in August. The EV infrastructure at Hammond is progressing and is estimated to be finished by June 30, 2025. BATA has 4 new drivers that started training on June 16, 2025.

11. Chairperson's Report

No report given at this time.

12. Old Business

No old business at this time.

13. New Business

The Board conducted a public interview with candidate Jeff Meilbeck for the position of Executive Director. Mr. Meilbeck was asked a series of predetermined questions focused on leadership style, financial oversight, community engagement, team development, and organizational strategy. Mr. Meilbeck shared his extensive background in public transit and described his approach to strategic planning and financial planning.

Key Points Include:

- Completed a 25-year transportation plan
- Built three regional transit centers and BRT route.
- Increased grant funding from new funding sources.
- Reinvented the identity and brand of MetroPlan and brought it to legal and financial independence.

After the interview concluded and the candidate exited the meeting, the Board discussed the interview in open session. Board members expressed positive feedback about the candidate's qualifications and leadership style.

By consensus, the Board directed the Interim Executive Director to begin drafting a preliminary offer of employment for review.

It was noted that specific terms of the offer, including compensation, will be discussed in a closed session on Thursday, July 10· 2025 at 9:30am at Hall St. Transfer pursuant to MCL 15.268 (a)

14. Second Public Comment

No public comment was made at this time.

16. Director's Comments and Announcements/ Open Floor

Chris Davis thanked the AD HOC Committee for their work in helping with interviewing the candidates. Wayne Schmidt thanked the Board for accommodating the meeting schedule change and for the flexibility in scheduling the closed meeting.

17. Adjournment

Moved by Lance Boehmer to adjourn the June 16, 2025, Regular Meeting of the BATA Board of Directors at 2:48 PM.

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: ______________________________

Meeting Minutes Approved on: ______________________________

Lance Boehmer, Secretary: ______________________________