

BATA Regular Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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

Date/Time: 1:00PM, Thursday, August 14, 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 – PRESENT
- Gwenne Allgaier – ABSENT
- Joe Underwood – TARDY ARRIVED @ 1:35
- Fern Spence - ABSENT
- Wayne Schmidt - PRESENT

4. First Public Comment*

Justin Reed commented on how much he likes the new BATA shelters that have been installed. The shelters are coming in handy for people who do not own a vehicle. Justin wanted to meet the new Executive Director, Jeff Meilbeck. Jeff Meilbeck was in attendance for the meeting but will not be starting officially until October 1, 2025.

5. Approval of Agenda/Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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

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

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 June 16, 2025
- b. Special Meeting Minutes of July 10, 2025
- c. Special Meeting Minutes of July 21, 2025

Consideration of Accepting the Following Reports

- d. FY25 Q3 Ridership Report
- e. FY25 Q3 Turnover Report
- f. FY25 Q3 Strategic Plan Update
- g. Correspondence – Staff Compliments
- h. BATA Board Tracker

Moved by Lance Boehmer and supported by John Somnavilla to approve the August 14, 2025, Consent Calendar as presented.

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

7. Any items removed from the consent calendar.

No items were removed from the Consent Calendar.

8. Executive Director's Report – Chris Davis

Chris informed the Board that Justin Weston, Adam BeVier, Brittany Burley and herself met with Teamsters for contract negotiations. Chris told the Board that Wayne Stevens has advertising on almost every single BATA bus! New benches and shelters have been installed. Chris presented to the Garfield Township Board, to get the speed limit on LaFranier Rd reduced. They were unanimously supportive to start the process. BATA participated in two Friday night live events. BATA participated in the Leelanau County Senior Expo and spoke with more than 100 seniors. Promotion for the airport shuttle service has been ramped up.

9. Chairperson's Report

No report given at this time.

10. Finance Reports

- a. Net Position

Key Points Include:

- Interest earned averaging 4.3706%

- State reimburses based on revised budget. Adjusted to state share of eligible operating expenses. Positive represents amount due from MDOT.

b. Income Statement

Key Points Include:

- Increased Revenue due to additional GTI Contract, contract rates increased for FY25.
- Advertising is higher than expected.
- Interest revenue from investments, still averaging 4.3706%

11. Old Business

No old business at this time.

12. New Business

a. FY2026 Budget Revision

Moved by Joe Underwood and supported by Lance Boehmer to approve the FY2026 revised budget as presented.

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

b. MERS Contribution

BATA is requesting approval for a one-time contribution to bring funding to 100%.

Moved by Lance Boehmer and supported by Joe Underwood to approve the lump sum payment of \$27,525.00 to the MERS admin defined benefit plan division as presented.

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

c. Fare Box System Presentation

Key Points include:

- Original budgeted amount for new fare system was \$1.35 million. With the combination of grants and capital improvement funding, the current estimates are around \$500k-\$600k.
- EZ Fare (Masabi – contracted vendor) is who BATA would like to join. BATA would need to join Neo Ride.
- No RFP needed. Neo Ride already conducted the work needed.
- Annual cost to join \$4,000 and BATA would be a member of the CoOp/membership
- A new fare structure will need to be discussed.

- Cash vs cashless. Will need to determine if the new system will go cashless. The cashless option is less costly. Riders can still buy tickets at Hall St Transfer using cash. Vending machine type machines are also an option and an additional cost.

13. Closed Session

a. Collective Bargaining Negotiation

Moved by Lance Boehmer and supported by John Sommovilla for the BATA Board of Directors to go into closed session at **1:52pm** for the purpose allowable under Section 8 (c) of the Open Meetings Act, for strategy and negotiation of collective bargaining agreements.

Roll Call Vote:

- **Ayes:** John Sommovilla, Lance Boehmer, Joe Underwood, and Wayne Schmidt
- **Nays:** 0
- **Motion Carries:** 4-0

Moved by Lance Boehmer and supported by Joe Underwood to adjourn Closed Session and reopen the Regular Board Meeting at **2:10pm**.

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

14. Second Public Comment

No public comment was made.

15. Director's Comments and Announcements/ Open Floor

No comments were made at this time.

16. Adjournment

Moved by John Sommovilla to adjourn the August 14, 2025, Regular Meeting of the BATA Board of Directors at 2:12 PM.

Meeting Minutes Submitted by: _____

Meeting Minutes Approved on: _____

Lance Boehmer, Secretary:  _____