

BAY AREA RURAL TRANSIT

OFFICIAL BART COMMISSION MINUTES

August 15, 2024, at 3:00 PM
BART Office Center

A. CALL TO ORDER

A General Meeting of the Bay Area Rural Transit Board was held on Thursday, August 15th, 2024, by Remote/Zoom and in person at the Bay Area Rural Transit office. Chairperson Carl Doersch called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Roll Call: Present: Bland, Doersch, Lawyer, Niemis, Rosa. 5

Absent: Benton, Berlin, Pufall, Trimner. 4

Excused: 0

B. Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Sue Rosa to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

C. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Nathan Lawyer to approve the July 17th, 2024, Minutes. Motion Carried

D. Public Comments

No public comments.

E. Managers' Report

1. Electric Buses

Pat Daoust informed the board the electric buses are expected to be delivered in 2026. A discussion followed.

2. Transit Van Orders

Pat Daoust informed the board the gas engine van is due on 8/21/24 and the EV van is due in the next two months. A discussion followed.

3. Fares

Pat Daoust stated BART's increase in fares has not generated any complaints or issues thus far. A discussion followed.

4. EV Chargers

Pat Daoust informed the board that the EV Charger in Washburn had an increase in charging activity in June. Sue Rosa questions the report and Pat Daoust explains that the charger ran at a loss in June according to the reports, but the timing of payments received versus the covering costs do not line

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up exactly, which causes confusion for what the EV charger actual revenue is per month. A discussion followed.

5. Solar

Pat Daoust went over the Solar comparison data with the board, Currently BART is at an excess of on and off-peak power generation. A discussion followed.

6. Price County Facility

Pat Daoust informed the board that the final layer of blacktop is set to be laid in the beginning of September. Pat Daoust also informed the board that the contractor's lawyer sent a letter to A to Z Plumbing requiring a response within seven days. A discussion followed.

7. Veteran Rides

Pat Daoust presented to the board the Veteran rider data collected and explained that the loss in fares is minor compared to the addition of new veteran riders and positive feedback in the community. A discussion followed.

8. Budget

Pat Daoust informed the board that health insurance costs are increasing \$10,000.00 next year and other fringe benefits are up 9%. Building insurance will rise 13% as well but also includes the new building in Park Falls. Pat Daoust explained that he will be looking to make cuts to benefits such as Aflac/Globe Life. Pat Daoust informed the board that the Northland College Student Association has yet to renew their local match agreement, which would be a \$10,000.00 loss in local share. Carl Doersch asked all board members to be active in gaining local share. Sue Rosa advocates for board members to ask the represented partners for more funds. Pat Daoust also suggests cutting board member insurance, a \$3,000.00 savings for next year. A discussion followed.

F. Projects Needing Attention

None

F. Finances

Pat Daoust went over the 2024 financial reports. Ridership is up overall. Insurance is over budget currently, but all other line items are on track. Red Cliff Transit has outstanding invoices that Pat Daoust is working with Jeff Benton to get paid. Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Sue Rosa to accept and place on file the 2024 financial reports. Motion Carried

G. Reports, Comments, Questions

Pat Daoust informed the board that Namekagon Transit will not be renewing their mobility manager grant and BART will now be reapplying for this grant. Pat Daoust explained that with BART taking over the grant application, BART will be requesting more funds based on in-kind match numbers to enable bringing back the program to two fulltime positions, one at Namekagon Transit and the other at BART. A discussion followed.

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H. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Sue Rosa. Motion carried. BART Board Adjourned at 4:05 p.m.