

BAY AREA RURAL TRANSIT
OFFICIAL BART COMMISSION MINUTES

August 18, 2022, at 4:00 PM
BART Office Center

A. CALL TO ORDER

A General Meeting of the Bay Area Rural Transit Board was held on Thursday, August 18th, 2022, by Remote/Zoom and in person at the Bay Area Rural Transit office. Vice Chairperson Jeremy Oswald called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Roll Call: Present: Beagan, Lawyer, Niemis, Oswald, Pufall 5

Absent: Benton, Berlin 2

Excused: Doersch 1

B. Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Richard Pufall to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

C. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Richard Pufall to approve the July 21, 2022, Minutes. Motion Carried

D. Public Comments

Patty Stevens, a Price County Supervisor introduces herself to the board. No other public comments.

E. Managers' Report

1. Electric Buses

Pat Daoust updated the board that the Electric buses are through about forty percent of the Altoona testing. Once testing is complete it will be another two to three months before the buses arrive. Price County has reached out to BART on adding a private/public charger similar to the one in Washburn. A discussion followed.

2. Staffing

Pat Daoust informed the board that BART is aggressively looking for applicants with advertisements on Job Service and Indeed. More applications are coming in and interviews are being set up. A new employee will be starting tomorrow. Staff shortage has caused increased overtime. Bad River Transit requested a driver and BART was unable to accommodate due to scheduling constraints. A discussion followed.

3. Price County Facility

Pat Daoust informed the board the Price County facility will be discussed in detail under projects needing attention.

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4. Enbridge Donation

Pat Daoust presented to the board a donation opportunity with Enbridge. Pat Daoust is looking into applying for a \$40,000 donation from Enbridge to help offset increased fuel costs. At this point Enbridge has not been contacted and Pat Daoust is looking to the board for guidance, this will be added to the next agenda for further discussion. A discussion followed.

5. Wages

Pat Daoust thanked the board for approving the wage increase at the last meeting. Pat Daoust referenced and went through the wage study comparing other transits in Wisconsin. Looking at a possible wage scale and budgeting to meet comparable wages. A discussion followed.

6. Partner Contributions

Pat Daoust informed the board that he has asked all the partners in person for additional funds to bring wages up. The request was well received by all the partners. A discussion followed.

F. Projects Needing Attention

1. By-Laws

Pat Daoust informed the board that the draft for adding Price County to the BART board is not necessary as the charter allows for this addition through a vote. Price County needs to provide a resolution and then the BART board can vote on the addition, followed by each partner approving the addition. No motion was made on this action item, a discussion followed.

2. Price County Facility Bids

Pat Daoust presented to the board the lowest responsible and responsive bid came in at \$1.96 million, instead of \$960,000. A discussion followed. Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Nathan Lawyer to approve the additional 20% local share funding for the increase in price. Motion carried.

F. Finances

Pat Daoust went over the EV charger and 2022 financial reports. A patron on Madeline Island wrote a thank you letter to BART for the great service. Ridership overall has increased 12% in July. BART is under budget overall but increases in fuel, wages, and vehicle parts are shown. Motion was made by Richard Pufall and seconded by Colleen Beagan to accept and place on file the 2022 financial reports. Motion Carried

G. Reports, Comments, Questions

Pat Daoust informed the board of an update on the two buses that were built and refused due to not meeting specs. The company wants to raise the price of these buses from \$75,000 to \$139,000;

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WisDOT will allow the company to do this and has agreed to pay 80% of the increase and the manufacturer will pay 20% of the increase in the form of a donation. A discussion followed

H. Adjourn

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Richard Pufall. Motion carried. BART Board Adjourned at 5:05 p.m.