

**BAY AREA RURAL TRANSIT**  
**OFFICIAL BART COMMISSION MINUTES**

July 21, 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, July 21st, 2022, by Remote/Zoom and in person at the Bay Area Rural Transit office. Chairperson Carl Doersch called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

Attendance:

Roll Call: Present: Beagan, Doersch, Lawyer, Niemis, Oswald, Pufall. 6

Absent: Benton, Berlin, Oswald. 3

Excused: 0

**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 Richard Pufall and seconded by Tom Niemis to approve the May 19, 2022, Minutes. Motion Carried

**D. Public Comments**

No public comments.

**E. Managers' Report**

1. Electric Buses

Pat Daoust updated the board that the Electric buses are still undergoing Altoona testing. A discussion followed.

2. Staffing

Pat Daoust informed the board that BART has just hired a BayCo Door2Door operator and is currently training them. BART has been advertising for months to fill a CDL operator and a dispatcher position with four applicants set to interview next week. A discussion followed.

3. Price County Facility

Pat Daoust informed the board that the deed for the land where the Price County facility will be built has been transferred back to the city of Park Falls per FTA guidelines. Bids for the building were due on July 14<sup>th</sup>, no bids were submitted. An extension has been added with a new due date of August 4<sup>th</sup>. Two electricians showed up for the bid pre-meeting and several other contractors have been asking questions regarding the facility. A discussion followed.

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### 4. BayCo Door2Door

Pat Daoust informed the board that BayCo had a large increase in ridership last week and dropped down again this week. A discussion followed.

### 5. Audit

Pat Daoust informed the board that the 2021 audit has been sent to CLA for review. The FTA is auditing WisDOT and BART was picked to be audited in correlation. A discussion followed.

## **F. Projects Needing Attention**

By-Laws: At the next board meeting the lawyer will have updates for adding a Price County board member.

### 1. Budget Increase

Pat Daoust presented to the board a budget increase for the 2022 budget, which includes an increase of \$44,000.00 for fuel and \$8,000.00 moved from insurance to vehicle parts. Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Richard Pufall to approve the budget increase. Motion carried.

### 2. Pay Rate Increase

Pat Daoust presented to the board a pay rate increase totaling \$24,000.00, the increase is an effort to keep wages relevant and retain current employees. Pat Daoust is reaching out to other entities for more local share. A discussion followed. Motion was made by Richard Pufall and seconded by Tom Niemis to approve the pay rate increase. Motion carried.

## **F. Finances**

Pat Daoust went over the EV charger and 2022 financial reports. Ridership has a slight increase along with more phone calls coming in. BART is staying within budget except for fuel. Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Richard Pufall to accept and place on file the 2022 financial reports. Motion Carried

## **G. Reports, Comments, Questions**

Nick Trimner expressed there would be additional funding from Price County. Richard Pufall asked if the A/C in the large buses used for Big Top can keep up with 95-degree weather. Pat Daoust recommended a closed session to go over Red Cliff Transit scam. 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 4:55 p.m.