

BAY AREA RURAL TRANSIT

OFFICIAL BART COMMISSION MINUTES

March 17, 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, March 17th, 2022, by Remote/Zoom and in person at the Bay Area Rural Transit office. Chairperson Carl Doersch called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Roll Call: Present: Benton, Doersch, Lawyer, Niemis, Oswald, Pufall. 7

Absent: Beagan, Berlin. 2

Excused: 0

B. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Richard Pufall to approve the agenda. Motion Carried. Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Richard Pufall to approve the February 9, 2022, Minutes. Motion Carried

C. Public Comments

No public comments.

D. Audit Presentation

CLA Representative, April, presented the 2020 Single Audit Report to the BART Board. In summary, the results of the audit were a qualified opinion with three material weaknesses that are commonly found in organizations that are similar in size to BART. Overall, the audit yielded positive results and are following normal trends. Please see Pat Daoust for questions regarding the 2020 Single Audit presentation. Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Nate Lawyer to accept the 2020 single audit report. Motion Carried

E. Managers' Report

1. ACAU

Pat Daoust informed the board the Ashland County Aging Unit has hired a new director and will be operating on their own at this time. A discussion followed.

2. Electric Buses

Pat Daoust informed the board that the Altoona testing for the electric buses has been postponed again, which results in pushing back delivery of the electric buses for 4 months. A discussion followed.

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3. Staffing

Pat Daoust stated three part-time van operators have been hired for the BayCo Door2Door service. A part-time dispatcher has been hired and is currently being trained. BART is actively looking to fill a part-time bus operator position. A discussion followed.

4. Price County Facility

Pat Daoust informed the board that the DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) goal has yet to be set. WisDOT is in the final stages of approving the architect plans. A discussion followed.

5. BayCo Door2Door

Pat Daoust informed the board that the BayCo Door2Door service has started, and several rides have been placed and completed by the service. Nick Esberner interjected that of the rides that were completed, the riders were happy with the new service and look forward to using it when needed. Advertising and community outreach is in full swing to get the word out about the new service. Pat Daoust also mentioned that BART will be participating in the Heartland Communications Spring Home and Sport Show to try a different tactic in getting people to ride. A discussion followed.

F. Projects Needing Attention

None

F. Finances

Pat Daoust went over the EV charger and 2022 financial reports. The Washburn EV charger made \$30.04 in February. Ridership for 2022 is down. Pat Daoust has been trying different advertising to increase ridership, including a new Ad in the Evergreen Shopper attacking high gas prices as well as an article with Wisconsin Public Radio talking about what BART has to offer. Overall, the budget is looking good for 2022. Crime insurance was added at the recommendation from the Management Performance Review that took place in 2021. Motion was made by Richard Pufall and seconded by Tom Niemis to accept and place on file the 2022 financial reports. Motion Carried

G. Reports, Comments, Questions

Pat Daoust explained that current procurements are being delayed due to a staffing change at WisDOT. Currently, a procurement for new security cameras has been approved and is currently out for bid. Richard Pufall questioned what the delay is for the EV charger that will be at the BART garage in Ashland. Pat Daoust replied with the company is currently citing that a shortage in parts and burden from COVID-19 is why there has been such a delay. A discussion followed.

H. Adjourn

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made by Richard Pufall and seconded by Tom Niemis. Motion carried. BART Board Adjourned at 4:44 p.m.