

BAY AREA RURAL TRANSIT
OFFICIAL BART COMMISSION MINUTES

May 16, 2024, 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, May 16th, 2024, 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, Berlin, Bland, Doersch, Lawyer, Niemis, Pufall, Rosa, Trimner. 9

Absent: 0

Excused: 0

B. Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Bill Bland to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

C. Election Of Chairperson

Nomination was made by Tom Niemis for Carl Doersch as Chairperson and seconded by Richard Pufall. Motion Carried.

D. Election Of Vice Chair

Nomination was made by Mike Berlin for Richard Pufall as Vice Chair and seconded by Tom Niemis. Motion Carried.

E. Election Of Secretary/Treasurer

Nomination was made by Mike Berlin for Sue Rosa as Secretary/Treasurer and seconded by Tom Niemis. Motion Carried.

F. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mike Berlin and seconded by Tom Niemis to approve the March 24, 2024, Minutes. Motion Carried

G. Public Comments

No public comments.

H. Managers' Report

1. ACT 121

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Pat Daoust informed the board of ACT 121 affecting the EV charger that BART owns and operates in Washburn. Pat Daoust is working with legal to figure out where the EV charger stands and looking for a solution to keep the EV charger in operation. A discussion followed.

2. Price County Accident

Pat Daoust informed the board that an accident occurred on highway 70 where the Minocqua route bus went off the road. No passengers were on board and no injuries were sustained by the driver during the incident. It will be covered by insurance and BART has hired two more drivers for Price County routes. Also, a grant will be used to rebuild the bus. A discussion followed.

3. Insurance Awards

Pat Daoust stated BART won the division 2 insurance award for having the least amount of accidents per mile, zero recordable accidents in 2023. Training has been set for later this month with TMI. A discussion followed.

4. EV Chargers

Pat Daoust informed the board the EV Charger in Washburn remains operational and gave an update for total usage to date. A discussion followed.

5. Electric Buses

Pat Daoust informed the board of the lack of communication from the electric bus vendor and another delay that will push seeing these buses into 2025. The electric bus vendor changed battery vendors and is awaiting completion of the Altoona testing. A discussion followed.

6. Staffing

Pat Daoust informed the board that BART is sitting alright with staffing and the addition of two price county drivers. A discussion followed.

7. Price County Facility

Pat Daoust informed the board that the first layer of black top has been added to the parking lot at the Price County facility. The air handling unit has been delivered and hope to have it installed by June 1st. A discussion followed.

8. Fares

Pat Daoust informed the board the rate increases are showing up on financials. Vet fares have been nonexistent in Ashland and only a few in Price County so far. A discussion followed.

9. Solar

Pat Daoust informed the board the electricity cost comparison from last year to now is showing a decrease. A discussion followed.

I. Projects Needing Attention

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Meeting Dates and Times Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Sue Rosa to set meetings for the 3rd Thursday of each month starting at 3:00PM. Motion Carried

F. Finances

Pat Daoust went over the 2024 financial reports. Ridership is increasing along with more phone calls coming in. Rider numbers are up 8% overall and revenue is up 14% in the 1st quarter. Motion was made by Mike Berlin and seconded by Tom Niemis to accept and place on file the 2024 financial reports. Motion Carried

G. Reports, Comments, Questions

Introductions were made by all board members, Jeff Benton informed the board the Red Cliff Transit building is set for completion in June 2025. Pat Daoust informed the board he is looking into scheduling an open house at the Price County facility upon completion. A discussion followed.

H. Adjourn

Carl Doersch welcomed Sue Rosa as the Bayfield County and Bill Bland as the City of Bayfield board representatives. There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Sue Rosa. Motion carried. BART Board Adjourned at 4:55 p.m.