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

August 20th, 2026, at 3:00 PM
BART Office Conference Room

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

A General Meeting of the Bay Area Rural Transit Board was held on Thursday, Aug. 20th, 2026, by Remote/Zoom and in person at the Bay Area Rural Transit office. Vice Chair Sue Rosa called the meeting to order at **3:05 p.m**.

Attendance:

Roll Call: Present: Pufall, Rosa (In Person)
Benson, Lawyer, Bland (Online)

Absent: Trimmer, Blanchard, Doersch

**B. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve the meeting's agenda was made by Pufall, seconded by Benson. Approval was unanimous and the motion carried.

**C. Approval of July Meeting Minutes**

Lawyer motions to approve July meeting minutes, Pufall seconds, the motion carries by unanimous vote.

**D. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**E. Projects Needing Attention**

Daoust informed the board of the proposed wage increases for the 2027 budget. He informed the board that drivers and dispatchers were on regular scales that already have built in year over year increases but other positions such as Transit Manager, Operations Manager, Manager Assistant, Mechanic, and two other casual positions require board authorization for increases. A board discussion followed on wages/total compensation mostly revolving around ways to keep BART competitive with other employers. The budgeted proposal increase was a flat 4% increase across the aforementioned positions. Rosa asked for a motion to be made to accept the proposed increase, Pufall made the motion and Benson seconded it. No further questions/discussion were had, and the motion was voted on and subsequently approved by unanimous vote.

F. **Manager's Report**

1. Staffing

Daoust informed the board that one of the Bayco service drivers was departing BART and that BART would look to hire a new Bayco driver along with another dispatcher. Current dispatching constraints mean only a single dispatcher is allowed to take a vacation day at a time. Daoust informed the board he is very pleased with the work of the mechanic in the first couple of months in his employment. Daoust told the board the mechanic has caught up on much of the outstanding backlog along with making progress on preventative projects within the fleet.

2. EV

Daoust informed the board that the granting agencies BART works with is allowing BART to rework some of its grants for new electric buses and he was looking to order said buses in the coming weeks. Daoust presented the board other low emission options for fleet vehicles and their respective associated facility changeover costs. This presentation centered around alternative fuels (propane and CNG) and what those costs would look like across 5 of the heaviest use vehicles/routes. A discussion followed regarding costs of said buses, facility upgrades, and pros/cons of each type of alternative fuels. Discussion was preliminary as any such changes would occur at the time of fleet turnover several years in the future.

A discussion followed on EV use centering on the fast charge port in Washburn and EV bus use in the rural area BART operates in with its harsh climate. Daoust informed the board it is the plan of BART to move the City bus, Blue Goose, and Phillips bus all over to EV in the near future. The long range buses (Rt1, Rt2, and Rt16) all would remain gasoline as the ranges they need to go exceed current EV battery charge capacity. A discussion followed amongst the board on average life span of BART buses and the age of its current fleet.

3. Price County Facility

Daoust informed the board the board he is still looking to finalize repairs of the Price Co HVAC system.

4. Solar Panels

Daoust presented to the board a chart of the savings the solar panels at the Ashland facility were able to make in terms of offsetting their initial investment cost.

5. MPR (Management Performance Review)

Daoust stated that the MPR is complete with all necessary materials turned in. He is only awaiting the return of the report from the third party conducting it and he will present it to the board.

6. 2027 Budget Preliminary Look

Daoust presented to the board a very preliminary look at the anticipated budget for 2027 stating that a more complete picture would be more forthcoming before any formal presentation and/or vote. Daoust did inform the board that Bayfield County was looking to expand the Bayco service in 2027 and that he would update the board on any proposed changes for their approval.

**G. Finances**

Daoust informed the board that ridership is running slightly behind what 2025 was and that BART was undertaking opportunities to expand some services to increase ridership numbers. Pass and fare sales were still up year over year from 2025.

Daoust then walked the board through the 2026 budget and how it compared to 2026. Daoust noted that the parts budget line item was over dude to many necessary and large repairs that have been undertaken to get the fleet back on track in 2026. Daoust also explained to the board he moved fuel purchases in Price County over the BP from Kwik Trip in effort to save money on fuel which it has. A discussion on the cost of fuel followed.

Rosa asked for a motion to accept the Manager's financial report, Bland made the motion and Pufall seconded it. The motion carried with a unanimous vote.

Vice Chair Rosa informed the board that the next board meeting will be on September 17th at 3:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 pm.