

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

April 20, 2023, 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, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 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: Beagan, Benton, Doersch, Lawyer, Niemis, Oswald, Pufall. 7

Absent: Berlin. 1

Excused: 0

**B. Adoption of Agenda**

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

**C. Amendment of Charter**

Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Richard Pufall to approve the amendment to the charter to add Price County to the BART Board of Directors. Motion Carried.

**D. Election Of Chairperson**

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

**E. Election Of Vice Chair**

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

**F. Election Of Secretary/Treasurer**

Nomination was made by Jeremy Oswald for Richard Pufall as Secretary/Treasurer and seconded by Tom Niemis. Motion Carried.

**G. Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Colleen Beagan to approve the March 16, 2023, Minutes. Motion Carried

**H. Public Comments**

No public comments.

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## ***OFFICIAL BART COMMISSION MINUTES***

### **I. Managers' Report**

#### 1. Electric Buses

Pat Daoust met with WisDOT to discuss the Electric Bus procurement and current status of the buses that have been in testing. The current battery supply issue is being resolved and testing is set to conclude by the end of 2023 with possibly seeing electric buses at BART in the first quarter of 2024. A discussion followed.

#### 2. EV Charger

Pat Daoust informed the board that a charging station has been approved for Price County and will operate like the one in Washburn. BART will be adding an electric transit van to its BayCo service, BART will be piggybacking on a procurement that was done by Michigan DOT. The purchase will include one gas powered transit van and one EV transit van. A discussion followed.

#### 3. Staffing

Pat Daoust stated BART is sitting good with drivers but looking to add another part-time driver for the summer. A discussion followed.

#### 4. Price County Facility

Pat Daoust informed the board that the noise assessment and MEPA study is currently in review. Once this is completed BART will be looking to transfer the deed for the property back into BART's name. A discussion followed.

#### 5. BayCo Door2Door

Pat Daoust informed the board that BART is increasing but still lower than expected and another direct mailer will be sent out to help increase awareness. A discussion followed.

#### 6. Solar Panels

Pat Daoust informed the board that solar panels were set to be commissioned but had to reschedule with Xcel due to each phase of the solar panels needing to be tested individually. A new commission date of May 1<sup>st</sup> has been set. A discussion followed.

### **J. Projects Needing Attention**

None

### **F. Finances**

Pat Daoust went over the 2023 financial reports. Ridership is increasing along with more phone calls coming in. Rider numbers are coming in above pre-Covid numbers but also include several new routes (BayCo, Phillips to Minocqua). Motion was made by Jeremy Oswald and seconded by Nate Lawyer to accept and place on file the 2023 financial reports. Motion Carried

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

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Pat Daoust informed the board that he will be attending the State Budget meeting on 4/26/23 in Minocqua to speak on behalf of transit. Richard Pufall asked what happened to cancelling the EV buses and getting a new supplier? Pat Daoust explained the option was removed as the Michigan procurement is having the same issue with battery suppliers which means no advantage to cancelling the current order. A discussion followed.

**H. Adjourn**

Carl Doersch welcomed Nick Trimner as the Price County board representative. There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Nate Lawyer. Motion carried. BART Board Adjourned at 4:40 p.m.