

BAY AREA RURAL TRANSIT
OFFICIAL BART COMMISSION MINUTES

August 17, 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, August 17th, 2023, by Remote/Zoom and in person at the Bay Area Rural Transit office. Board member Jeff Benton called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Roll Call: Present: Beagan, Benton, Lawyer, Niemis, Trimner. 5

Absent: Berlin, Doersch, Oswald, Pufall. 4

Excused: 0

B. Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Nate Lawyer to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

C. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Nate Lawyer to approve the June 15, 2023, Minutes. Motion Carried

D. Public Comments

No public comments.

E. Managers' Report

1. Vans

Pat Daoust informed the board that BART is procuring two vans to replace the current BayCo van and add a van for expansion. The vans are 10 passenger with one being an EV and one with a gas engine. The vans were procured using State of Michigan procurement and no timeline has been set for delivery. A discussion followed.

2. Electric Vehicles

Pat Daoust updated the board on the timeline for the EV buses with potential delivery in first quarter of 2024. WisDOT has extended the Lo/No Bus grant deadline and is set to approve a third EV bus procurement that will be placed in Price County.

3. EV Charger

Pat Daoust informed the board the EV charger in Washburn has had several problems causing service interruptions. The issues were tied to a SIM card for the charger itself and through hours of troubleshooting the problem has been resolved. A new SIM card has been installed but is in the

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process of switching to BART's name from Pat Daoust's personal account due to a billing error with the company. The EV charger has a net profit of \$381.46 since it became operational. The traffic seen by the charger has increased as summer continues. A discussion followed.

4. Staffing

Pat Daoust stated BART has moved two part-time employees into vacant full-time roles and other part-time employees have taken on more hours. BART had filled a part-time dispatcher role but the employee has taken a different job. A former full-time employee has returned to fill the part-time dispatcher position. A discussion followed.

5. Price County Facility

Pat Daoust informed the board that the frost walls and footings have been poured. The rest of the concrete has been set to be poured next week along with framers to start work. A discussion followed.

6. Solar Panels

Pat Daoust informed the board the first electric bill has been received since the solar panels have been operational. The total bill has been lowered to \$216 for two months opposed to average \$600 per month prior to the solar panels being installed. A discussion followed.

F. Projects Needing Attention

None

F. Finances

Pat Daoust went over the 2023 financial reports. Ridership is steadily increasing. BART is underbudget overall but over budget on the workman comp line item due to a numerical error. Motion was made by Tom Niemis seconded by Nate Lawyer to accept and place on file the 2023 financial reports. Motion Carried

G. Reports, Comments, Questions

Pat Daoust informed the board that Karen the Transit Manager for Namekagon Transit has resigned due to health reasons and he has been asked to help in the transition to a new manager. Additional bus stops in Washburn and Park Falls are planned to be set up in the future. A discussion followed.

H. Adjourn

There being no further business, the motion to adjourn was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Colleen Beagan. Motion carried. BART Board Adjourned at 4:37 p.m.