

# **BAY AREA RURAL TRANSIT**

## **OFFICIAL BART COMMISSION MINUTES**

February 9, 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 Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 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: Beagan, Berlin, Doersch, Lawyer, Niemis, Oswald, Pufall. 7

Absent: Benton. 1

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 Richard Pufall and seconded by Tom Niemis to approve the December 16, 2021, Minutes. Motion Carried

### **C. Public Comments**

No public comments.

### **D. Managers' Report**

#### 1. ACAU

Pat Daoust was approached by the Ashland County Aging Unit (ACAU) to take over the transit side of their operation. The ACAU runs on 85.21 grant funding which is different than the 5311 and 85.20 grant funding BART already receives. Pat Daoust spoke with WisDOT and an auditor who works with WisDOT about a potential transition and no initial issues were found. The ACAU is under a contract with Ashland County to provide this bus service, if BART were to take it over it would need to be remade to state BART as the provider. Carl Doersch asked how much of a budget the ACAU has, Pat Daoust explained the ACAU has a yearly budget of \$100,000 which is funded through grants and the county. The ACAU is looking to finalize this transition by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Carl Doersch asks if a special meeting will need to be called to decide on taking over the ACAU Bus Transit. Pat Daoust will request a special meeting once more information has been gathered. A discussion followed.

#### 2. Staffing

Pat Daoust informed the board that three drivers have been hired for the new BayCo Door2Door service. One new dispatcher has been hired to fill a vacancy from an employee leaving in December. Ads are out yet for an open bus operator position. A discussion followed.

#### 3. Buses

Pat Daoust stated the bus manufacturer who is providing two buses on a 2020 contract stated that the price of each bus will need to go from \$75,000 to \$118,000 due to rising costs from COVID. Pat

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Daoust immediately spoke with WisDOT about the price increase on this contract. Pat Daoust expressed to the bus manufacturer that he will seek State and Federal disbarment for the manufacturer if they do not honor the original contract price. The bus manufacturer has agreed to proceed with the original contract price. Large bus will need to be re-bid due to the manufacturer closing. EV Buses are still waiting for Altoona Testing. A discussion followed.

#### 4. Price County Facility

Pat Daoust updated the board that it BART is really close to putting it out for bid. The architects are requesting more money, Pat Daoust is working with WisDOT to see what can be done, if anything, to pay the architects more. A discussion followed.

#### 5. BayCo Door2Door

Pat Daoust informed the board the three drivers have been hired and are currently being trained. All that is left to do is set the fares. Pat Daoust is looking to official start this service on Monday February 21<sup>st</sup> 2022. A discussion followed.

#### 6. Single Audit

Pat Daoust included a draft of the 2020 single audit. CLA will present the final in the future. Pat Daoust will be going in for a heart procedure on February 16<sup>th</sup>. A discussion followed.

### **E. Projects Needing Attention**

#### 1. Fares for BayCo Door2Door

Pat Daoust presented three fare structures to the board. Discussion of each model proceeded. Motion was made by Jeremy Oswald and seconded by Tom Niemis to approve the BayCo Door2Door fares based on structure 3. Motion carried.

### **F. Finances**

Pat Daoust went over financial reports for the EV Charger, 2021, & 2022. Ridership as a whole was up in 2021. As a whole BART is under budget by \$6,000 for 2021. Motion was made by Mike Berlin and seconded by Nathan Lawyer to accept and place on file the 2021 financial reports. Motion carried. Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Richard Pufall to accept and place on file the 2022 financial reports. Motion Carried

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

Pat Daoust explained that he plans to be back at work on Monday February 21<sup>st</sup> but will be working from home following his heart procedure. Mike Berlin asked about the Iron County service and Gogebic County Transit. A discussion followed.

### **H. Adjourn**

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made by Mike Berlin and seconded by Richard Pufall. Motion carried. BART Board Adjourned at 4:57 p.m.