



**MASS TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 25, 2024 BOARD MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Luke Zelle, Scott Grossmeyer, Scott Bennett, Ellen Ellenberg, Tommie Johnson

**ABSENT:** Charles Winfrey, Glenn Wilson, Sharon Reeves, Candice Mushatt

**STAFF:** Ed Benning, Jacqueline Saxton, Ken Vavra, Rod Evans, Corwin Mathews, Karl Petrich, Colette Champine, Ed Burger, Traci Davis, Patrick Tesler, Melinda Johnson, Shawnice Dorsey, Michael Foerster

**GUESTS:** Pamela Hill and Christopher Gilbert, Plante Moran

Chair Luke Zelle called the board meeting to order at 8:03 A.M.

**Comments of the Public**

Ella Nikiti from Hartland, MI thanked the board for being a board that listens to people and asked the board if there is any update to putting a bus stop in Hartland.

Ed Benning responded that with recent changes within the planning department this request continues to be reviewed.

Luke Zelle stated that there is a change to the agenda, adding resolution #24-36. Scott Grossmeyer made a motion, seconded by Scott Bennett, to approve the agenda with the addition. Motion approved unanimously.

**Approval of the March 28, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes**

Ellen Ellenberg made a motion, supported by Scott Bennett, to approve the March 28, 2024 board meeting minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

**Approval of the March 26, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

Scott Grossmeyer made a motion, supported by Scott Bennett, to approve the March 26, 2024 finance committee meeting minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

Scott Grossmeyer made a motion to move resolutions 24-30 through 24-34, along with resolution 24-36 as all resolutions were discussed in the finance committee meeting, Scott Bennett supported the motion.

Chairperson Zelle asked Ed Benning to discuss resolution 24-34.

**Resolution #24-30 authorizing the General Manager to enter into a one-year product supply agreement with Roush Industries for the sale of hydrogen to Roush Industries.**

**Resolution #24-31 authorizing the General Manager to modify the purchasing agreement with New Flyer of America to include the purchase of additional diagnostic equipment, tooling, and safety devices along with the two 40' New Flyer Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Transit Buses, for a total amount not to exceed \$2,755,271.34.**

**Resolution #24-32 authorizing the General Manager to enter into a subscription agreement with Moovit to renew 118 TimePro licenses for MTA's Regional, Primary and Peak services at a not to exceed amount of \$141,600.00.**

**Resolution #24-33 authorizing the General Manager to enter into a five-year agreement with Hanba & Lazar PC to provide legal services on worker's compensation claims in an estimated annual cost of \$50,000.00 based on an hourly rate of \$140.00, for a total amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 for the five-year period.**

**Resolution #24-34 authorizing the General Manager to enter into a one-year agreement with two contractors for Security Guard Services at MTA facility locations for a total one-year contract amount of \$731,971.92 based on 571 weekly hours.**

Ed Benning stated that through discussions with Karl Petrich, Director of the Downtown Transportation Center, and head of MTA security, it was determined that the company hired in 2023 for security at the downtown center was not capable of doing the work and has been nonresponsive. As a result the recommendation is that the work be split between two agencies, Lagarda Security and Teachout Security.

**Resolution #24-35 to accept the updated Mass Transportation Authority Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan for Bus Transit as presented.**

Scott Grossmeyer moved, supported by Ellen Ellenberg, to approve the MTA Safety Plan for Bus Transit.

Ed Benning stated that we are required through the FTA to have a very extensive safety plan which is assessed at our triennial review to make sure that we are following all of the changes at the federal and state levels.

Motion approved unanimously.

**Resolution #24-36 authorizing the General Manager to invest Mass Transportation Authority Operating Funds in U.S. Treasury Bonds through Huntington Bank, in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000.**

Ed Benning stated that through both the investment and finance committees a recommendation was made to research whether it made sense to invest a small portion of MTA fund equity. The recommendation from Huntington Bank is to invest in treasury bonds which would be beneficial to the MTA, and we are asking for board approval to move forward. Ed Benning stated that he will come back before the board to discuss possible uses for the income derived for this type of investment; possibly using it to assist local agencies that need help

Motion approved unanimously for resolutions 24-30 through 24-34, and 24-36.

## ***Part II:***

### ***Audit Presentation – Pamela Hill, Partner, Plante & Moran***

Pamela Hill stated that they are here to present the results of the audit for FY 2023, and she introduced Chris Gilbert, Senior Manager for Plante Moran. Ms. Hill reviewed the audit report and its results with the board, focusing on the basic financial statement audit and the single audit. Chris Gilbert covered best practice recommendations for the items listed in the end of the audit letter sent to board members.

Luke Zelley thanked Plante Moran, board members, committee members, and staff for their work on the FY 2023 audit.

***Specialized Services Presentation – Melinda Johnson, MTA Grants Administrator***

Melinda Johnson, MTA Grants Administrator gave a presentation on the MTA’s specialized services partnerships, reviewing the various agencies involved, their needs and funding requirements. Melinda spoke about the history of the specialized services program and the benefit of the Local Advisory Council (LAC).

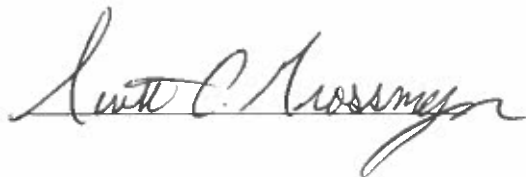
***General Manager’s Report – Ed Benning, CEO***

Ed Benning stated that the two hydrogen buses have been received and we are currently working on the bus wraps; there will be an event scheduled to announce the new buses. Mr. Benning stated that the staff is currently working on a large grant to expand the hydrogen station. Mr. Benning updated the board on state funding, the drive to eliminate property tax in Michigan and the potential effect that would have on public transit.

***Comments of the Board***

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 A.M.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luke Zelley", is written over a horizontal line.