



**MASS TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF THE MAY 23, 2024 BOARD MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Luke Zelley, Scott Grossmeyer, Scott Bennett, Charles Winfrey, Tommie Johnson, Sharon Reeves, Candice Mushatt

**ABSENT:** Glenn Wilson, Ellen Ellenberg

**STAFF:** Ed Benning, Jacqueline Saxton, Corwin Mathews, Colette Champine, Ed Burger, Traci Davis, Patrick Tesler, Marie Stewart, Melinda Johnson, Shawnice Dorsey, Michael Foerster

**GUESTS:** Michael Joliat, MTA Attorney

Chair Luke Zelley called the board meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

**Comments of the Public**

Mona Ballge, Burton resident, stated that she assists community members on how to use the bus system to get around. Ms. Ballge stated that the people she helps have doctors' appointments out in the Saginaw and Baldwin road area and MTA buses do not go out that way, although the buses do go to the hospital. If someone goes to the hospital they cannot reach their follow-up appointments out in that area. Ms. Ballge asked if there was a way the MTA could provide more for the older people who cannot drive.

Ed Benning stated that someone in the MTA marketing department can work with Ms. Ballge. Mr. Benning stated that currently we have a study taking place with our 14 fixed routes which will provide for some changes. Mr. Benning stated that we wanted to take the buses down Hill Road, and this may come out of the study because of the need. Mr. Benning stated that we do have some services that will help with the group that Ms. Ballge is working with on some of their transportation needs. Mr. Benning asked for contact information so that someone in marketing could reach out.

John Dunlap, community resident, stated that he rides the bus all the time and he would like to see a bus route over on Hill Road. Mr. Dunlap stated when the bus goes down S. Saginaw it does not go far enough to reach the businesses farther down like his doctor. Mr. Dunlap stated that he would like to see a bus that goes to the Burton township hall.

Luke Zelley thanked the speakers, stating that it is important to hear feedback and that we will look forward to the planning sessions on potential routes.

**Executive Session - Attorney Michael Joliat**

Attorney Joliat requested that the board meet in closed session to discuss case #21-115965-NF. Attorney Joliat stated that this case is pending litigation and discussing the case publicly may affect MTA's ability to settle the case.

Scott Bennett made a motion, supported by Sharon Reeves, to move into Executive Session for the purpose stated by Attorney Joliat.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Luke Zelley, Scott Grossmeyer, Charles Winfrey, Sharon Reeves, Candice Mushatt, Tommie Johnson, and Scott Bennett voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Regular session suspended: 8:09 A.M.

Sharon Reeves made a motion, supported by Charles Winfrey, to exit Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously. Regular session reconvened at 8:21 A.M.

Attorney Joliat asked the board to approve the recommendation for case #21-115965-NF as presented and discussed in closed session. Charles Winfrey made a motion, supported by Scott Grossmeyer, to approve the recommendations made by Attorney Joliat; Motion approved unanimously.

**Approval of the April 25, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes**

Scott Grossmeyer made a motion, supported by Scott Bennett, to approve the April 25, 2024 board meeting minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

**Approval of the April 23, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

Scott Grossmeyer made a motion, supported by Charles Winfrey, to approve the April 23, 2024 finance committee meeting minutes. Motion approved unanimously.

Scott Grossmeyer made a motion to move items 3 through 11 (resolutions #24-37 through 24-45), as they were reviewed and discussed in the finance committee meeting, Charles Winfrey supported the motion.

Chairperson Zelle asked Ed Benning to discuss resolution #24-38.

**Resolution #24-37 authorizing the General Manager to enter into a five-year agreement with Indian Trails, Inc., Owosso, MI for the lease of the carrier space located at 1407 S. Dort Highway, Flint, MI (MTA Intermodal Center) for a monthly payment of \$1,100.00 plus 1% of ticket sales and one half of the utilities.**

**Resolution #24-38 approving budget changes to the Mass Transportation Authority adopted Revenue and Expense Budget for FY2024.**

Ed Benning stated that we are asking the board to approve a budget change; the change is one that comes as a result of preparing the budget while we were finalizing negotiations with one of our bargaining groups, the amount of the any increase and what we would incur in the budget was not known at that time. Mr. Benning stated that there were also additional costs that were incurred during the year, one that was mentioned in executive session today. We are asking the board today to authorize an adjustment of \$1.5 million to make sure we balance our budget for the remainder of the year.

**Resolution #24-39 authorizing the General Manager to enter into a one-year Product Supply Agreement with PHINIA, Inc. of Auburn Hills, MI for the sale of hydrogen to PHINIA, Inc.**

**Resolution #24-40 authorizing the General Manager to amend the current agreement with Hatch for professional fare collection consulting services to assist the MTA in implementing an automatic fare collection system, in an amount not to exceed \$692,763.00.**

**Resolution #24-41 authorizing the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Diekevers Roofing, Inc. (Grand Rapids, MI) to install a new roof on Building #3 at the MTA Center for Transportation Technology for a total not to exceed price of \$257,536 and a 10% contingency allowance not to exceed an amount of \$25,753.60.**

**Resolution #24-42 authorizing the General Manager to enter into a five-year agreement with Rehmann Robson, LLC to provide financial and compliance services at a total cost not to exceed \$275,800.00.**

**Resolution #24-43 authorizing the General Manager to enter into a five-year agreement with Barry A. Wolf, Attorney at Law, PLLC to provide general legal services at an estimated annual cost for services of \$100,000.00 based on an hourly rate of \$190.00 for a total not to exceed \$500,000 for the five-year period.**

**Resolution #24-44 authorizing the General Manager to enter into a five-year lease agreement with Amtrak for occupancy in the Mass Transportation Authority Intermodal Center located at 1407 S. Dort Highway, Flint, MI for an annual payment cap of \$29,184.00.**

**Resolution #24-45 authorizing the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Continental Linen Service (Kalamazoo, MI) for the second one-year optional renewal of the existing Driver Uniform Program contract for a total contract amount of \$240,251.00 (based on the current number of MTA drivers).**

Motion approved unanimously for resolutions #24-37 through #24-45.

**Resolution #24-46 authorizing the Flint Mass Transportation Authority's application and implementation of the Michigan Shared Streets and Spaces Grant.**

Scott Grossmeyer moved, supported by Scott Bennett, to approve Resolution #24-46.

Ed Benning stated that we have applied for the Michigan Shared Streets and Spaces Grant opportunity in cooperation with Genesee County Board of Commissioners and local townships. This grant was brought to us through the Genesee County Metro Planning Commission.

Motion approved unanimously.

**Resolution #24-47 by the Mass Transportation Authority Board of Directors to adopt the Mass Transportation Authority Title VI Program Plan as presented.**

Scott Grossmeyer moved, supported by Charles Winfrey, to approve Resolution # 24-47.

Ed Benning stated that we are required to update our Title VI program; this will be part of our federal triennial review next year. Mr. Benning stated that staff reviewed the plan and made updates to the program.

Motion approved unanimously.

### ***FY 2024 2nd Quarter Reports***

Reports were reviewed by board members.

Ed Benning stated that we watch the trends with regard to passenger complaints, staff is always working to reduce the number of complaints which is shown in the provided spreadsheet; we are headed in the right direction. Mr. Benning stated that we investigate each complaint, looking at video and/or going out to follow up; we take each complaint seriously.

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

Ed Benning stated that he met with legislators at the recent legislative breakfast in Lansing, discussing the state budget. Mr. Benning updated the board on state funding, the Mega site in Mundy Township and how the MTA will be involved, an electric charging station and the potential purchase of electric cars at the transportation technology center, the upcoming press conference related to the hydrogen buses and the kickoff date in August for the Go Pass. Mr. Benning gave his thanks to all employees who participated in Senior Power Day and the soccer event. Mr. Benning also updated the board on the status of partnering with St. Luke New Life Center and how we are excited to work with the center.

Ed Benning mentioned that we are waiting for an update on the arrangements for employee JaQuaya Buford; Mr. Benning stated that we are all deeply saddened by JaQuaya's death. Mr. Benning stated that there was an event held this past weekend that we were not made aware of; we hope at some point there will be something that the MTA can do. Mr. Benning stated that JaQuaya was a great person to work with, very actively involved over the years in MTA events and we worked closely with her in her capacity as a union representative, this was very unfortunate. We will let the board know when we hear of any updates.

**Comments of the Board**

Scott Bennett thanked Ed Benning and the organization, stating that Grand Blanc Township had a cleanup day, and the MTA drivers were phenomenal. Mr. Bennett stated that they would not do the event again without MTA buses. Mr. Bennett stated that last year there were only about 25 people who participated in the clean up day, this year we had about 140 people involved, and we cleaned up close to two tons of litter and trash in a two-hour period.

Scott Grossmeyer introduced Nate Henry, who is the current chair for the Genesee County Small Cities & Villages Association. Mr. Grossmeyer stated that Mr. Henry is on the Swartz Creek City Council and has expressed an interest in becoming a member of the MTA board.

Luke Zelle introduced and welcomed new board member Candice Mushatt.

Candice Mushatt stated she is excited to be here and extremely excited to hear about the autonomous vehicles and the direction that the MTA is moving; she is happy to be a part of it.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 A.M.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Benning", written in a cursive style.