



**MASS TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2024  
BOARD MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Luke Zellej, Ellen Ellenburg, Tommie Johnson, Nate Henry, Scott Bennett, Nate Henry, Charles Winfrey, Glenn Wilson (8:06), Sharon Reeves (8:13)

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF:** Ed Benning, Jacqueline Saxton, Ken Vavra, Tim Ashley, Michael Foerster, Corwin Mathews, Karl Petrich, Melinda Johnson, Ed Burger, Traci Davis, Patrick Tesler, Rod Evans, Micheal Foerster, Dennis McDonagh, Shawnice Dorsey, Marie Stewart

**GUESTS:** Michael Joliat, Attorney

Chairperson Zellej called the meeting to order at 8:02 A.M.

**Comments of the Public - None**

**Election of Officers**

Chairperson Zellej stated that the election of officers was postponed at the annual meeting and brought forward to this meeting to allow more board members to be present for voting.

Luke Zellej asked if there were any nominations from the floor for secretary/treasurer; Scott Bennett was nominated. Ellen Ellenburg nominated Scott Bennett for vice chair, and Luke Zellej for board chairperson. Scott Bennett nominated Ellen Ellenburg for secretary/treasurer. The slate was officially entered as: Luke Zellej, board chair; Scott Bennett, vice-chair, and Ellen Ellenburg as secretary/treasurer. Charles Winfrey made a motion of accept the slate of officers as nominated, Scott Bennett seconded the motion; the slate of officers for FY 2025 was approved unanimously.

**Executive Session - Attorney Michael Joliat**

Attorney Joliat requested that the board meet in closed session to discuss case two cases, #23-119381-NI, and #23-118733-NI. Attorney Joliat stated that these cases are pending litigation and to discuss them publicly may affect MTA's ability to settle the cases.

Charles Winfrey made a motion, supported by Ellen Ellenburg to move into Executive Session for the purpose stated by Attorney Joliat.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Luke Zellej, Charles Winfrey, Glenn Wilson, Nate Henry, Tommie Johnson, Ellen Ellenburg, and Scott Bennett voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Regular session suspended: 8:08 A.M.

Charles Winfrey made a motion, supported by Scott Bennett, to go out of Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously. Regular session reconvened at 8:30 A.M. Attorney Joliat asked the board to approve the recommendation for cases, #23-119381-NI and #23-118733-NI as presented and discussed in closed session. Charles Winfrey made a motion, supported by Scott Bennett, to approve the recommendations made by Attorney Joliat; motion approved unanimously.

**Approval of the September 26, 2024 Annual & Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

Ellen Ellenburg made a motion to approve the September 26, 2024 meeting minutes, Scott Bennett seconded the motion; motion approved unanimously.

**Approval of the September 24, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

Charles Winfrey made a motion to approve the September 24, 2024 minutes, Scott Bennett seconded the motion; motion approved unanimously.

Glenn Wilson made a motion to move resolutions 25-01 through 25-04, Charles Winfrey supported the motion.

**Resolution #25-01 authorizing the General Manager to implement new fare structure changes effective January 6, 2025.**

Ken Vavra stated that the new fare structure changes, as recommended by consultants after holding public open houses, pop-ups, and gathering information from the riding public, will give passengers an additional way to pay fares. This change does not affect Your Ride, Rides to Wellness, or peak services.

**Resolution #25-02 supporting the MTA FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program project application for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality and Carbon Reduction Program funds, totaling \$2,618,868 as described below and subject to change based on final allocations over the four-year period.**

Ed Benning stated that this is a requirement for the MTA to qualify for CMAQ funds. Mr. Benning said these funds can be utilized to purchase vehicles and other items and that program requirements are changing somewhat based on the air quality in our community.

**Resolution #25-03 Resolution authorizing the General Manager to enter into a 3-year software subscription agreement with UKG, Inc. Lowell, MA, for software programs utilized by the Human Resources and Finance Departments of the Mass Transportation Authority, for a total not to exceed cost of \$339,571.44.**

Rod Evans stated that this subscription is a renewal for software programs that we have been using for a number of years in the human resources and finance departments.

**Resolution #25-04 Resolution authorizing the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Midwest Bus Corporation, Owosso, MI, for the accident repair of 2019 Gillig Transit Bus #1259 at a firm fixed cost of \$160,296.00.**

Ed Benning stated that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires that when a vehicle has extensive damage we can either repair the vehicle or pay the FTA back for the entire cost of the vehicle. We are working with our insurance company to determine how much of this cost they will absorb. The decision was made to repair this vehicle to get it back on the road.

Motion on items 3 through 6, approved unanimously.

**General Managers Report**

Ed Benning mentioned to the board that he was contacted by various state and federal agencies to step in to assist with Saginaw transit (STARS) as they transition through some issues that are experiencing.

Mr. Benning stated that the MTA received a very prestigious award. The 2024 Business Partner Excellence Award from the Bureau of Services for Blind Persons, presented in recognition of our exemplary leadership, teamwork, and outstanding business services to persons that are blind. Mr. Benning stated that he is very proud of the employees that made receipt of this award possible.

Mr. Benning mentioned that the MTA Health and Wellness Fair was being held today and invited board members to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 A.M.

