



**MASS TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2024
ANNUAL MEETING & BOARD MEETING**

PRESENT: Luke Zelle, Glenn Wilson, Tommie Johnson, Nate Henry, Candice Mushatt, Scott Bennett

ABSENT: Charles Winfrey, Sharon Reeves, Ellen Ellenberg

STAFF: Ed Benning, Jacqueline Saxton, Ken Vavra, Lauren Pavlowski, Tim Ashley, Corwin Mathews, Karl Petrich, Melinda Johnson, Ed Burger, Traci Davis, Patrick Tesler, Michele Loper, Rod Evans, Micheal Foerster

Chairperson Zelle called the Annual Meeting to order at 8:05 A.M.

Calendar of Meetings

Ed Benning stated that the calendar of meetings for the new fiscal year has been distributed; meeting dates for October 2024, November 2024 and December 2024 are needed.

Suggestions were made for October 17, 2024 and November 21, 2024, with no meeting scheduled for December 2024.

Scott Bennett made a motion, supported by Tommie Johnson, to accept the FY 2025 meeting calendar as reviewed. Motion passed unanimously.

Affirmation of Legal Counsel

Ed Benning stated that Attorney Barry Wolf works as general counsel litigating accidents and injuries, and Hanba & Lazar for workers compensation cases; both are in their first year of 5-year contract agreements with the MTA; both offices have worked for the MTA for many years and have done a phenomenal job.

Scott Bennett made a motion, supported by Glenn Wilson, to affirm current legal counsel for the Mass Transportation Authority. Motion passed unanimously.

Affirmation of Banking Services

Ed Benning stated that affirmation of Huntington Bank for the Authority's current banking services is required. Mr. Benning stated that Huntington does good work, and they are a great community partner.

Scott Bennett made a motion, supported by Nate Henry, to affirm the services of Huntington Bank for the Mass Transportation Authority banking requirements. Motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers - This portion of the annual meeting was postponed until the October 17, 2024 meeting to allow more members to vote.

General Manager/CEO – Work Plan FY 2025 / Strategic Planning Items FY 2025 – FY 2030

Board member were supplied with copies of both the plan and the strategic planning items. Ed Benning stated that updates and changes have been made to both.

Annual meeting adjourned 8:13 AM

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Chairperson Zelley called the regular board meeting to order at 8:22 A.M.

Comments of the Public

David Dunville addressed the board to provide information on issues that he is having with MTA Your Ride services.

Luke Zelley thanked Mr. Dunville for bringing these issues to the attention of the board.

Ed Benning stated that Mr. Dunville's issues would be investigated.

Luke Zelley welcomed new board member Swartz Creek Councilperson Nate Henry, representing Genesee County Small Cities and Villages.

Approval of the July 25, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Scott Bennett made a motion, supported by Tommie Johnson, to approve the July 25, 2024 regular board meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the July 23, 2024 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

Glenn Wilson made a motion, supported by Tommie Johnson, to approve the July 23, 2024 finance committee meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Glenn Wilson made a motion to move agenda items 3 through 14 (resolutions #24-61 through 24-72), as they were reviewed and discussed in the finance committee meeting, Scott Bennett supported the motion.

Luke Zelley asked Ed Benning to comment on a few of the agenda items.

Resolution #24-61 authorizing the General Manager to donate 100 "one punch" bus passes to the Genesys Hurley Cancer Institute for patient transportation and to continue reduced fare pricing for their patients for six months until March 31, 2025, with a dollar value of \$18,595.00.

Ed Benning stated that Genesys Hurley Cancer Institute continues to struggle to keep up with the cost of patient transportation. Donating these passes will help provide the rides needed, while Hurley continues to look for partners to provide other funding solutions.

Resolution #24-62 authorizing the filing of applications with the Federal Transit Administration, an operating administration of the United States Department of Transportation, for Federal transportation assistance authorized by 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53, Title 23 United States Code and other Federal statutes administered by the Federal Transit Administration for Fiscal Year 2025.

Resolution #24-63 certifying that FY 2025 Section 5307 capital funds are not needed for the Mass Transportation Authority to achieve full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Resolution #24-64 authorizing the General Manager to enter into four one-year maintenance agreements with Trapeze Software Group, Inc. for software programs utilized by the Maintenance, Fixed Route, and Your Ride Departments of the Mass Transportation Authority, for a total not to exceed cost of \$392,449.00.

Resolution #24-65 authorizing the General Manager to utilize the State of Michigan MiDEAL Extended Purchasing Program to purchase one Ford Transit Lift Equipped Van and Optional Equipment from Hoekstra Transportation, Inc., of Grand Rapids, MI, for an amount not to exceed \$93,330.59.

Resolution #24-66 approving the Mass Transportation Authority's Revenue and Expense Budget for FY 2025.

Lauren Pavlowski reviewed the FY 2025 with board members, citing Michigan's Earned Sick Time Act as part of the increase in expenses.

Resolution #24-67 approving the Mass Transportation Authority's projected FY 2026 to FY 2030 Revenue and Expense Budgets.

Resolution #24-68 authorizing the General Manager to enter into a one-year firm fixed price agreement with Rowley's Wholesale (Bay City, MI) for the purchase of Bulk Automotive Fluids in accordance with MTA IFB #2024-15, in an amount of \$616,011.83 based on estimated annual usage.

Resolution #24-69 authorizing the General Manager to enter into agreement with Superior Lawn and Landscape, Inc. (Flint, MI) for Snow and Ice Removal Services at eleven MTA facility locations for the 2024-2025 winter season at a total contract cost not to exceed \$192,750.00.

Resolution #24-70 authorizing the General Manager to enter into three-year product license agreement with Darktrace, PLC for cyber security services of the Mass Transportation Authority's computer, networking, and electronic systems, for a total not to exceed cost of \$ 283,028.00.

Resolution #24-71 authorizing the General Manager to enter into a Subrecipient Agreement with the Midwest Alliance for Clean Hydrogen, LLC (MachH2) to receive federal funding from the Department of Energy Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations for hydrogen technology expansion projects at the Grand Blanc Alternative Fuels Facilities located at 5051 and 5091 South Dort Highway in Grand Blanc Township.

Ed Benning stated that in order for the MTA to receive funding for the hydrogen expansion program, in partnership with the Mach H2 group, it is necessary to have a subrecipient agreement in place.

Resolution #24-72 authorizing the General Manager to enter into an agreement with A.J. Gallagher & Company (Grand Rapids, MI) for the purchase of a complete line of Comprehensive Insurance Coverages and Risk Management Services for a 12-month period at a cost of \$2,037,860.03 (using current MTA assets and employee payrolls).

Motion approved unanimously.

General Managers Report

Ed Benning reported on three awards that the MTA recently received; one in recognition of MTA employees participation with Wreaths Across America at the Great Lakes Cemetery; an award from COMTO (Conference of Minority Transportation Officials) for our Rides to Wellness and micro-transit services, and lastly we will participate in a celebratory video for the work that we do to provide a high level of mobility services within the visually impaired community. Mr. Benning mentioned that there is interest at the state regarding the MTA training center, which will be centered on mobility. When the facility is complete, we will have a ceremony to dedicate the building to long time board member Mike Zellely who was an advocate for mobility. The facility will be named the Micheal Zellely Mobility Training Center on July 26, 2025, which is National ADA Day. Glenn Wilson moved, supported by Scott Bennett, to name the training center after Micheal Zellely. Motion approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 A.M.

