



**MASS TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 15, 2026  
BOARD MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Luke Zelle, Scott Bennett, Nate Henry, James Avery, Candace Mushatt, Glenn Wilson, Sharon Reeves, Charles Winfrey (8:12am)

**ABSENT:** Tommie Johnson

**GUESTS:** Barry Wolf, Attorney

**STAFF:** Ed Benning, Jacqueline Saxton, Tim Ashley, Corwin Mathews, Ed Burger, Dennis McDonagh, Shawnice Dorsey, Elizabeth Davis, Patrick Tesler, Melinda Johnson, Rod Evans, Kevin Galloway, Michele Loper, Michael Foerster

Chairperson Zelle called the meeting to order at 8:07 A.M.

**Comments of the Public**

None

Scott Bennett moved acceptance of the agenda, seconded by Nate Henry; motion approved unanimously.

**Approval of the November 20, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

Scott Bennett made a motion, supported by Sharon Reeves, to approve the November 20, 2025 meeting minutes; motion approved unanimously.

**Executive Session – 1) Attorney Barry Wolf – 2) General Manager/CEO Evaluation**

Attorney Wolf requested that the board meet in closed session to discuss case #24-120743-NI. Attorney Wolf stated that this case is pending litigation and to discuss it publicly may affect MTA's ability to successfully settle the case.

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

Luke Zelle, Glenn Wilson, Scott Bennett, Nate Henry, Candace Mushatt, James Avery, and Sharon Reeves voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Regular session suspended: 8:10 A.M.

Glenn Wilson made a motion, supported by James Avery, to go out of Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously. (Regular session reconvened at 8:44 A.M.) Glenn Wilson made a motion to approve the recommendation of Attorney Wolf as discussed in closed session, supported by Charles Winfrey; motion passed unanimously.

**Resolution #26-14 authorizing the Employment Agreement between the Mass Transportation Authority (MTA) and Edgar H. Benning for a period of three (3) years with year one (1) beginning October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026, year two (2) beginning October 1, 2026 through September 30, 2027 and year three (3) beginning October 1, 2027 through September 30, 2028.**

*(Note: The performance evaluation of Ed Benning, CEO/GM was reviewed and discussed at 8:35AM in the second half of the closed session.)*

James Avery made a motion, supported by Sharon Reeves, to approve Resolution #26-14.

Ed Benning stated that he appreciates working with the board, that he enjoys his position at the MTA, and that he is willing to stay on for the current year, plus two additional years. Mr. Benning added that we have an excellent staff here at the MTA.

Motion approved unanimously.

Charles Winfrey moved agenda items 3 through 6 for discussion and approval, supported by James Avery.

Luke Zelle stated that item 4, Resolution #26-16, involves The Disability Network and he will abstain from voting on that item.

**Resolution #26-15 authorizing the General Manager to amend the current contract with Sability Human Capital Consulting to provide consultation services for the UKG Pro web-based payroll and benefit system for the Finance and Human Resources (HR) Departments, at a total cost not to exceed \$111,800.00.**

Patrick Tesler stated that this resolution is an addendum to a contract approved in September 2025 for consultation services with Sability. This amendment will include other necessary services used within the Human Resources department, such as employee benefits and insurances.

**Resolution #26-16 Resolution authorizing the General Manager to exercise an option and enter into an agreement with The Disability Network for ADA Paratransit Eligibility Assessment Services to assist with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) eligibility process for a period of one year at a price amount of \$31,700.00 based on an estimate of forty applications per month.**

Ed Benning stated that historically the MTA would do eligibility certifications, and in 2022 it was determined that we would benefit from working with an outside firm on this process. The Disability Network was selected to assist us with this process and this is the option to renew the agreement for a one-year period.

**Resolution #26-17 authorizing the General Manager to enter into a one-year Product Supply Agreement with Diversified Creations (Arrington Performance), of Brighton, MI for the sale of hydrogen to Diversified Creations.**

Ed Benning stated that staff has requested approval of this request to purchase a small amount of hydrogen from us.

**Resolution #26-18 authorizing the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Mesmerize Media, LLC, (New York, NY) to provide vehicle advertising for a period of five years with a 60% split of revenues and a guaranteed revenue amount payable to the Mass Transportation Authority of \$650,000.00 over the five-year agreement.**

Corwin Matthews stated that responses to this request for proposal (RFP) for bus advertising have typically been low; Mesmerize was the only firm that submitted a proposal. After a thorough review and an interview with the proposer, MTA staff recommends awarding the contract to Mesmerize as the best value, responsive and responsible proposer.

Motions for #26-15, 26-17, 26-18 approved unanimously. Motion for #26-16 received seven (7) votes in the affirmative; one abstain; motion passed.

**General Manager Report**

Ed Benning stated that staff has reached out to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to ask for clarity on a recent grant application and to determine where the administration is headed with the various types of bus purchases. Mr. Benning updated board members on future bus purchases, working with the State on funding, the possibility of acquiring in-house legal counsel, and the current status of union contract negotiations.

**Comments of the Board**

None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 A.M.

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