



**MASS TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 27, 2025
BOARD MEETING**

PRESENT: Scott Bennett, Nate Henry, Charles Winfrey, James Avery, Candace Mushatt, Sharon Reeves, Tommie Johnson

ABSENT: Luke Zelle, Glenn Wilson

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

Vice-Chairperson Bennett called the meeting to order at 8:02 A.M.

Comments of the Public

None

Approval of the February 27, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Charles Winfrey made a motion to approve the February 27, 2025 meeting minutes, James Avery supported the motion; motion approved unanimously.

Charles Winfrey made a motion to move items two through four, excluding item five which was withdrawn from the agenda; James Avery supported the motion.

Resolution #25-20 authorizing the General Manager to make an amendment to the current Mass Transportation Authority Master Agreement No. 2022-0098 with the Michigan Department of Transportation to add Elizabeth Davis, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to the list of authorized signers and to delete Kenneth Vavra, Chief of Staff and Lauren Pavlowski, former CFO, from the list.

Ed Benning stated that changes to the signatories on the Master Agreement with MDOT are necessary due to the retirement of Ken Vavra, with Lauren Pavlowski no longer being here, and the addition of Elizabeth Davis as the new Chief Financial Officer.

Resolution #25-21 authorizing the General Manager to enter into a two-year agreement with George's Towing (Flint, MI) to provide Heavy Vehicle Towing and Roadside Services at a two-year not to exceed cost of \$233,000.00.

Ed Benning stated that George's Towing has been doing this work for the MTA for quite some time and they have the necessary equipment required to meet our needs.

Corwin Matthews stated that we only had one proposer for this RFP, and historically we have only had two proposers, the second chose not to bid this time. One of the problems that we have is that not a lot of companies can haul big buses, especially those on the regional routes that go to the Auburn Hills or Brighton areas; they do not have the equipment to provide the service.

Resolution #25-22 authorizing the General Manager to enter into a five-year software subscription agreement with Optibus Inc. (New York, NY) for scheduling software for the Mass Transportation Authority's Fixed Route Services in an amount not to exceed \$846,926.00.

Dennis McDonagh, Director of Planning & Scheduling stated that Optibus is a software program that the planning department uses to do scheduling, route planning, and route drawing. There will soon be an operations side added to the program which will include dispatcher access allowing all rostering of drivers to go through Optibus.

Corwin Matthews stated that just a few years ago planning was completing this work by hand, manually. With this next evolution of software, driver run picks will be done within an app.

Motion to accept resolutions as moved and supported, approved unanimously.

Budget Variance Report – Elizabeth Davis, CFO

Elizabeth Davis reported on the first quarter finances of fiscal year 2025, period ending December 31, 2024, pointing out revenue and expense performance, while highlighting key variances and their impact on the MTA's overall financial position. Ms. Davis stated that while we saw some fluctuations in the revenue and expenses the first quarter, our fiscal strategy remains strong and we will continue to monitor and adjust accordingly to maintain financial stability.

General Managers Report

Ed Benning stated that the fixed routes study is not ready to be presented to the board, more work with staff is needed. Mr. Benning reported on the pause placed on federal funding and the effects this has on projects at the MTA. Mr. Benning also reported on including autonomous vehicles in our fleet, the financial audit coming to the board in April, and gave an update on the county building to board members. Future meetings with the finance and service committees will be scheduled to discuss the fixed route study and the financial future of the MTA.

Michele Loper and Michael Foerster reported on their successful trip to Lansing for the MPTA Legislative Day, taking along one of the MTA's hydrogen buses.

Nate Henry reported that Stephanie Confer gave a presentation at the Swartz Creek Chamber meeting, and he wanted to thank her for being there.

Scott Bennett stated he spoke with a local businessperson regarding staffing and about the possibility of MTA providing service in their area. Mr. Bennett also reported on the excitement of the trolley service and local transportation in various areas in the community.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 A.M.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MH', is written over a horizontal line.