



**MASS TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE MAY 22, 2025
BOARD MEETING**

PRESENT: Luke Zelle, Scott Bennett, Nate Henry, James Avery, Candace Mushatt, Sharon Reeves, Glenn Wilson

ABSENT: Tommie Johnson, Charles Winfrey

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

Chairperson Zelle called the meeting to order at 8:04 A.M. adding Resolution #25-31 to the agenda. James Avery moved the revised agenda, supported by Scott Bennett; motion approved unanimously.

Comments of the Public

Mr. Andrew Watchorn, Flint, MI addressed the board regarding his use of MTA services and the importance of the bus system to the community. Mr. Watchorn spoke about the recent fixed route study, and the public input and asked board members to put out a statement on how the information gathered in the study would be used.

Ed Benning responded that the result of the MTA fixed route study has given the MTA three different options. One where there will be no additional cost, with some slight changes and adjustments. Two being a moderate increase in cost and the third option would be the premium selection. Mr. Benning stated we are currently working our way through the study to determine what can be done given current budget issues. Mr. Benning stated that the MTA intends to make changes but wants to make changes that are sustainable as we work through the process.

Approval of the April 30, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Scott Bennett made a motion, supported by Sharon Reeves, to approve the April 30, 2025 meeting minutes; motion approved unanimously.

Scott Bennett moved resolutions 25-27, 25-28, 25-29, 25-30, and 25-31, supported by Nate Henry.

Resolution #25-27 authorizing the General Manager to renew the current Interlocal Agreement to Cross Jurisdictional Boundaries with Saginaw Transit Authority and Regional Services (STARS) for the purpose of providing connecting Regional Transportation Services.

Ed Benning stated that this is a renewal of the current interlocal agreement that the MTA has with Saginaw and future plans may also include joint procurement and training programs.

Resolution #25-28 authorizing the General Manager to enter into a one-year renewal agreement with two (2) contractors for Security Guard Services at MTA facility locations, for a total one-year contract amount of \$740,038.52 based on 571 weekly hours.

Ed Benning stated that this is a renewal of the current agreement using the services of two different security contractors for the downtown transportation center, the operations and administration properties, and the MTA Transportation Technology Center.

Resolution #25-29 authorizing the General Manager to enter into an agreement with HDR Michigan, Inc. (Ann Arbor, MI) to provide a Regional Partnership Study between the Mass Transportation Authority (MTA) and the Saginaw Transit Authority and Regional Services (STARS) at a not to exceed cost of \$233,400.00.

Ed Benning stated that the MTA had grant funds left over from the Regional Partnership Study with Lapeer and Shiawassee Counties and the Michigan Department of Transportation asked that the funds be used to prepare a regional study between the MTA and Saginaw STARS.

Resolution #25-30 authorizing the General Manager to amend the three-year agreement with Windstream Communications, Inc., to provide phone and internet communication systems for all Mass Transportation Authority (MTA) locations, at an estimated total contract cost of \$688,841.04.

Rod Evans stated that this is an amendment to the current agreement for additional license fees to allow us to upgrade MTA communications circuits to increase the bandwidth capacity which has increased due to growth.

Resolution #25-31 authorizing the General Manager to increase the cost of the first-year agreement with Rehmann Robson, LLC to provide financial and compliance services at a total cost not to exceed \$57,900.00.

Ed Benning stated that this increase is due to the need for an additional single audit on a major program in accordance with uniform guidance, and as recommended by Rehmann Robson.

Motions approved unanimously.

General Managers Report

Ed Benning reported on current funding at both the federal and state levels, the potential purchase of 30' compressed natural gas buses, and how staff is reviewing the fixed routes study to look at what can be done depending on current budget issues. Mr. Benning reported on the possibility of future service reductions on regional routes, and shared information on a letter received from Transportation Secretary Duffy regarding Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 A.M.

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