



**MASS TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 28, 2021 BOARD MEETING**

- PRESENT:** Bryant Nolden, Chair, Luke Zelle, Scott Grossmeyer, Joseph King, Charles Winfrey, Quincy Murphy, Lisa Anderson, Tommie Johnson, Glenn Wilson
- ABSENT:** Herbert Winfrey
- STAFF:** Ed Benning, Jacqueline Saxton, Corwin Matthews, Rod Evans, Ed Burger, Harmony Lloyd, Traci Davis, Patrick Tesler, Michael Foerster
- GUESTS:** Mrs. Boots Abrams and Michael Joliat, MTA Attorney

Chairman Nolden called the meeting to order at 8:00 A.M.

**Comments of the Public**

Boots Abrams thanked Ed Benning and the MTA board for dedicating the downtown transportation center (Northrup-Abrams Transportation Center) in honor of her late husband, former longtime board member Richard Abrams. Mrs. Abrams said it was a wonderful event and her husband would have been very proud.

**Approval of the September 23, 2021 Annual & Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

Glenn Wilson moved, supported by Tommie Johnson, to approve the September 23, 2021 annual and regular board meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

**Approval of the September 21, 2021 Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

Glenn Wilson moved, supported by Scott Grossmeyer, to approve the September 21, 2021 finance committee meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Charles Winfrey moved approval of Resolutions #22-01, #22-02, #22-03, and #22-04, Scott Grossmeyer supported the motion.

**Resolution #22-01 authorizing the General Manager to sign Master Agreement No. 2022-0098 with the Michigan Department of Transportation for the period of October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2025 and Edgar H. Benning, General Manager and/or Kenneth Vavra, Chief Financial Officer are authorized to enter into and execute all such Project Authorizations with MDOT for passenger transportation related services for the Agreement Period.**

Ed Benning stated the Michigan Department of Transportation Master Agreement is a requirement every five years, that authorizes the MTA to conduct business and to expedite the project authorizations with the state.

**Resolution #22-02 authorizing the General Manager to utilize the MiDEAL State of Michigan Extended Purchasing Program to purchase one Ford Transit Van with Optional Equipment from Hoekstra Transportation, for an amount not to exceed \$76,088.00, to be utilized by the Vocational Independence Program.**

Ed Benning stated this is a funding passthrough program that allows for the purchase of a Ford Transit Van for the Vocational Independence Program (VIP). This vehicle will not be powered by propane because VIP is not currently operating that type of vehicle.

**Resolution #22-03 authorizing the General Manager to utilize the MiDEAL State of Michigan Extended Purchasing Program to purchase four LPG Powered Ford Transit Lift Equipped Vans and selected options from Hoekstra Transportation Inc, of Grand Rapids, MI, for an amount not to exceed \$340,756.00.**

Ed Benning stated that this purchase is for propane vehicles to be utilized in Your Ride and Rides to Wellness; both federal and state grants support this purchase.

**Resolution #22-04 authorizing the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Moovit to purchase ninety TimePro licenses for MTA Primary and Peak Routes Services, at a not to exceed amount of \$108,000.00.**

Ed Benning stated that the MTA has been working with Moovit and a CAD/AVL system that tracks our regional routes. Based on the positive experience with regional service, we want to move forward with the system on our fixed routes and this agreement is for the additional licensing fees.

Motion passed unanimously for #22-01, #22-02, #22-03 and #22-04.

**General Managers Report – Ed Benning, CEO**

Ed Benning reported on infrastructure funding for vehicle and facility purchases, moving forward with hydrogen fueled buses, grant funding and the MTA Rides to Work program.

Ed Benning mentioned that on November 18, 2021 the MTA will hold a Customer Appreciation Day at the downtown transfer center in honor of the MTA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and asked the board for approval to have "free fare day" that day as another way to honor our passengers.

Quincy Murphy moved, supported by Charles Winfrey, to approve **Free Fare Day** in honor of the MTA's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on Thursday November 18, 2021. Motion carried.

Ed Benning reviewed the ridership three-year analysis report with board members and stated that service recommendations will be forthcoming.

Ed Benning asked the board for approval to return fixed routes fares on Sunday back to regular fares beginning January 1, 2022.

Quincy Murphy moved, supported by Charles Winfrey, to approve the collection of full fares on Sunday's starting January 1, 2022. Motion carried.

**Executive Session**

Attorney Michael Joliat requested that the board meet in closed session to discuss four cases, #19-113748-NI, #20-114085-NI, FTO 20-000003-02, and #20-114564-NI. Attorney Joliat stated that each case is pending litigation and to discuss these cases publicly may jeopardize the ability of the MTA to settle these cases.

Glenn Wilson moved, supported by Charles Winfrey to move into Executive Session for the purpose as stated by Attorney Joliat.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Bryant Nolden, Luke Zelle, Scott Grossmeyer, Joseph King, Charles Winfrey, Quincy Murphy, Lisa Anderson, Tommie Johnson, Glenn Wilson voted in the affirmative. Motion carried. Regular session of the MTA Board was suspended at 8:32 A.M. Charles Winfrey moved, supported by Quincy Murphy to go out of Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously. Regular session of the MTA Board reconvened at 8:53 A.M.

Attorney Joliat asked that the board approve the recommendations made on the case as presented in closed session. Charles Winfrey moved, supported by Lisa Anderson, to approve the recommendations as made by Attorney Joliat. Motion approved unanimously.

**Comments of Board Members**

None

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 A.M.

