

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BAT ADVISORY BOARD

October 5, 2023

In Attendance:

Mayor Robert F. Sullivan, Chair
Dottie Fulginiti, Town of Easton
Michael Dutton, Town of Bridgewater
Stanley Zoll, Town of Stoughton
Mary Waldron, OCPC
Charlie Kilmer, OCPC

Michael Lambert, Administrator
Linda Sacchetti, CFO
Glenn Geiler, Grants Manager
Charles C. Stevenson, General Counsel
Kathy Riddell, BAT

Mayor Sullivan called the meeting to order and welcomed the group. Mr. Lambert performed a roll call and a quorum was declared. Mayor Sullivan stated that based on Governor Healey's extension of temporary provisions allowing public bodies to continue to hold meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body physically present at a meeting location, on March 29th, 2023. Enhanced open meeting regulations were utilized for the meeting. The meeting was recorded and live streamed on BAT's YouTube video platform to provide a public forum/access. All legal requirements were met.

Mayor Sullivan asked if there were any public comments. Mr. Lambert said we have not received any public comments.

Next on the agenda was a review of the minutes of the 5/25/23 meeting. Ms. Fulginiti made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Mr. Zoll. A roll was called and all were in favor.

Number 4 on the agenda was a report by the Audit and Finance Committee. Mr. Dutton reported on the exceptional audit review conducted by CliftonLarson. He turned the meeting over to Jennifer Cook, Signing Director for CliftonLarson, to go over the highlights of the Audit. Ms. Cook provided the group with a presentation. She touched upon the terms of engagement, financial highlights, required communications and Single Audit results. She stated that they found no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and no noncompliance reported. She thanked Mr. Lambert and his team for being a pleasure to work with and she appreciated their collaborative effort and obvious care about the organization's operations. She asked if there were any questions. Mr. Dutton restated that the clean audit represented a lot work and thank the BAT team and Ms. Cook for providing a clear and understandable presentation. Mr. Dutton made a motion to accept the audit and motion was seconded by Ms. Fulginiti. A roll was called and all were in favor.

Number 5 on the agenda was a service update. Mr. Lambert informed the group that the fixed route ridership was coming back at a slow but steady pace. In fact, ridership yesterday hit a all time high since the beginning of the pandemic. Paratransit progress has been a little slower but holding steady. He provided the Board with an update to the Transit Asset Management Plan (TAM) in accordance with the Federal Transit Administration's regulations. The document provides transparency and capital asset improvements based on specific targets. BAT has five (5) electric buses coming in the spring and they operate differently than diesels. Some diesel buses will be retained for recharging strategy. Mr. Dutton had some questions regarding staff training on electric buses which Mr. Lambert addressed. Mr. Dutton made a motion to accept the TAM plan targets. Ms. Fulginiti seconded the motion. Roll was called and all were in favor.

A Financial Update was then provided by Ms. Sacchetti. She presented the Board with the FY23 Local Assessments and stated that they hadn't changed from the estimates provided at the May meeting. The Town of Rockland has a slight increase over FY22 due to the implementation of the flex-ride service in Rockland. Mr. Dutton stated that the Audit and Finance Committee recommends accepting the FY24 Local Assessments as presented. Next, Ms. Sacchetti presented the FY24 Budget with two months of actual data. She pointed out the small variances in budget to actual. She stated that BAT expects to balance the budget at the end of the fiscal year and has sufficient federal operating funds to do so. Mr. Dutton made a motion to accept the financial update and motion was seconded by Ms. Fulginiti. A roll was called and all were in favor.

The Administrator's Report was next on the agenda. Mr. Lambert stated that a lot of changes had taken place since the last meeting. The state budget has been passed. The RTAs were level funded but additional discretionary funds have been made available. Fifty-six million dollars (\$56,000,000) is being provided state wide to support night and weekend service. BAT already has night and weekend service in place but will plan to implement half hour pulses on Saturday instead of hourly pulses, thus doubling Saturday service. BAT would also like to provide the community with Sunday morning service. This is something BAT has never provided. The service will begin as a pilot for a year and will be evaluated. Details have not yet been made available but BAT hopes the state will provide the funding for a three-year period giving ridership an opportunity to grow. A press release will be issued shortly thanking the legislature and the governor. A motion was made by Mr. Dutton and seconded by Ms. Fulginiti to implement the expanded Saturday and Sunday pilot service. All were in favor.

Another piece of discretionary funding that passed will provide the RTAs with funding to provide riders with "free fares" at the RTAs discretion. This program is framed as the one provided last Nov/Dec, to bring in new riders and support local businesses. BAT's workforce is being hired up to support the new service and increased security will be provided to support the program. This will also be considered a pilot program for a six-month period. BAT is waiting for the money to be released from the state. Mr. Lambert asked if there were any questions. Mr. Dutton made a motion to approve the fare free pilot and Ms. Fulginiti seconded the motion. A roll was called and all were in favor.

The state audit is still on-going. All the RTAs are being audited for paratransit cybersecurity, on-time performance and training. About one half of the audits are complete.

The Board was informed of the MBTA's Red Line mitigation taking place at JFK station. The work is critical to Ashmont riders and an alternative plan is being developed with the MBTA. Mayor Sullivan informed the Board of meeting held last Monday with three state representatives. Next week another meeting will take place inviting Randolph to work with us. He commented that Mr. Lambert is at the forefront for the benefit of Brockton and area communities.

Mr. Lambert notified the Board that we will be disposing of vehicles, as we do from time to time, and if they know of a community that has a need to please get in touch.

There was no old or new business to discuss. Mayor Sullivan thanked everyone for attending. Mr. Dutton made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Ms. Fulginiti. A roll was called and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Riddell, BAT

Documents Included in October 5, 2023 Advisory Board Package:

1. Meeting agenda
2. Advisory Board Meeting Minutes – May 25, 2023
3. Fixed Route Ridership
4. DIAL-A-BAT Ridership
5. Performance Dashboard FY24
6. Transit Asset Management FY24 Performance Targets
7. FY23 Local Assessments
8. FY24 Budget
9. FY24 Budget Summary