

**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MART)
MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2020
REMOTELY**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:31 a.m.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: (constituting a quorum)

Patrick Hare (representing Mayor DiNatale)	Leominster
Mayor Stephen DiNatale	Fitchburg
Mayor Mike Nicholson	Gardner
Dick Maki (representing Selectmen)	Sterling
Robert Pontbriand (representing Selectman)	Ayer
Keith Hickey	Winchendon
Shaun Suhoski (representing Selectmen)	Athol
Kenneth F. Troup (representing Selectmen)	Bolton
Alexandra Turner (representing Selectmen)	Lancaster

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Selectperson Heather Billings	Westminster
Jan Robbins (representing Selectman)	Ashburnham
Joe Layden (representing Selectmen)	Littleton
Corey Harju (representing Selectman)	Ashby
Ryan Ferrara (representing Selectmen)	Boxborough
Tim Bragan (representing Selectman)	Harvard
Ryan McLane (representing Selectmen)	Hubbardston
Roland Hamel (representing Selectmen)	Royalston
Alyson Toole (representing Selectmen)	Stow
Carter Terenzini (representing Selectman)	Templeton
No Representative	Shirley
No Representative	Hardwick
No Representative	Lunenburg

STAFF PRESENT:

Mohammed Khan, Bruno Fisher, James Sluss, Bonnie Mahoney, Jessica Lashua, Sherry Corcoran, Ryan Josti, Adam Gromelski and Keary Connors.

GUESTS PRESENT:

George Kahale	MRPC
Phil Rocca	Management of Transportation Service

II. General Comments

III. Approval of Minutes from August 18, 2020

RESOLUTION- Mayor Mazzarella of Leominster moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves the August 18, 2020 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. (Keith Hickey of Winchendon abstained since he was not at the August 18, 2020 meeting)

IV. Financial Matters

A. Status of State Funding

Bruno informed the Board that as of now the State has no budget. The RTA's will received level funding for this year. The Senate proposed \$90.5 million for RTA's funding, that would be an additional \$150,000 for MART.

B. Status of Federal Funding

Bruno informed the Board that MART will receive a small increase for last year's funding.

C. Finance Committee Update-Approval of the FY2020 Audit as presented

Finance Committee reported finalized audit didn't change and the audit had no findings.

RESOLUTION – Mayor Mike Nicholson of Gardner moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority accepts the finalized audit. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

D. Executive Compensation Committee Update

RESOLUTION- Mayor DiNatale of Fitchburg moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approve a cost of living increase of 2% for all MART staff effective January 1, 2021 as recommended by the Administrator. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

V. Administrative Matters

A. Election of Officers (Nominations)

Nominated: Mayor Stephen DiNatale, Chairman
Mayor Dean Mazzarella, Vice-Chairman

Floor nominations were solicited by the Chairperson and closed. There were none.

B. Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) award of HST Brokerage Service for Regions 1 & 2. Initial Estimated Value – \$200MM Annually w/ potential for three – 5 year contracts. Bruno informed the Board that MART received notification from the State that MART was awarded Region 1 & 2 for the state contract, which is 87% of the state, GATRA was awarded Region 3. MART has begun negotiations with the State, we have had our attorneys look at it, and are in the process of having certain items in the contract changed.

RESOLUTION - Robert Pontbriand of Ayer moved that Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority accepts the award of the EOHHS contract, subject to successful negotiation of contract details by MART Administrator. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

C. MART’s Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Approval (attached)

RESOLUTION - Robert Pontbriand of Ayer moved that Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority has reviewed and accepts MART’s Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

D. Adoption of Fare Policy by Advisory Board by December 2020

Bonnie Mahoney informed the Board that MART is required to adopt a fare policy. Every 3 to 5 years MART will do a study of the impact of changing fares.

RESOLUTION - Robert Pontbriand of Ayer moved that Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority accepts MART’s Fare Policy as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

VI. Operational Services

A. Transit Operation Update:

1. Revenue and Ridership Statistics
2. Commuter Rail Operation and Parking Garage Occupancy

Mohammed let the Board know ridership has declined by about 50%. As of September 8, 2020 MART started charging fare again and ridership has remained about the same. The MBTA will be reducing the Commuter Rail service weekdays and will be stopping weekend service in the coming months.

B. HST Brokerage Operation/ Current Operation and COVID Impact

Bruno informed the Board the Brokerage Service is at about 50%-60% pre COVID.

VII. Other Business

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.