

**MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MART)
MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 17, 2022
REMOTELY**

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: (constituting a quorum)

Mayor Dean Mazzearella	Leominster
Mayor Stephen DiNatale	Fitchburg
Mayor Michael Nicholson	Gardner
Dick Maki (representing Selectmen)	Sterling
Kenneth F. Troup (representing Selectmen)	Bolton
Lisa Lavargna (representing Selectman)	Ashby
Jan Robbins (representing Selectman)	Ashburnham
Alexandra Turner (representing Selectmen)	Lancaster

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Robert Pontbriand (representing Selectman)	Ayer
Selectperson Heather Billings	Westminster
Joe Layden (representing Selectmen)	Littleton
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
Keith Hickey	Winchendon
Jessica Sizer (representing Selectman)	Barre
Michael-Ray Jeffreys	Lunenburg
Joe Layden (representing Selectmen)	Littleton
Adam Lamontagne (representing Selectman)	Templeton
Mitchell Grosky (representing Selectmen)	Athol
No Representative	Shirley
No Representative	Hardwick

STAFF PRESENT:

Bruno Fisher, Scott Rich, James Sluss, Bonnie Mahoney, Jessica Lashua, George Kahale, and Keary Connors.

GUESTS PRESENT:

Justice Graves Town of Templeton

II. General / Public Comments (5 minutes)

Bonnie Mahoney informed the Board that MART needs to update 2 Federal documents, the Transit Asset Management Plan and Public Transit Agency Safety Plan both are due in December 2022. The Transit Asset Management Plan does not have to be approved by the Board, but the Public Transit Agency Safety Plan does have to be approved by the Board and will be presented by December 2022.

III. Approval of March 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes

RESOLUTION- Mayor Dean Mazzarella of Leominster moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves the March 22, 2022, minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

IV. Financial Updates (15 minutes)

A. Finance Committee

1. SFY22 Q3 Financial Update

James Sluss informed the Board that the Finance Committee met yesterday. Year to date MART has no surplus and no deficit. MART has been using ARPA and CARES fund to cover any deficit. On the transit side fuel prices have increase over a \$1 a gallon and MART goes through about 30,000 a month.

2. SFY22 Full Year Financial Projection

3. SFY23 Proposed Budget

RESOLUTION- Ken Troup of Bolton moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approve the FY2023 budget as presented by the Chief Financial Officer. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll call was done.

Mayor Mike Nicholson	Aye
Mayor Stephen DiNatale	Aye
Mayor Dean Mazzarella	Aye
Richard Maki (representing Selectmen)	Aye
Kenneth F. Troup (representing Selectmen)	Aye
Jan Robbins (representing Selectman)	Aye

B. State Funding – Updates

1. SFY23 State Budget Status (RTA State Contract Assistance)

Bruno Fisher stated the House has sent in a budget of \$94 million, which is level funding with last year. The Senate budget was \$101 million, of which \$94 million was base funding and \$3.5 million for inflation and increase costs, and \$3.5 million for work force development. Worse case scenario is level funding.

C. Federal Funding – Updates

1. FFY22 FTA Funding Released

a. MART UZA Increased \$1,177,917

b. Boston /Worcester UZA's Increased \$45,305

Bruno stated MART's FY2022 5307 funding is \$4.9 million of that \$4.7 million is directly to MART, \$170,000 from Boston UZA and \$60,000 from Worcester UZA. That is \$1.3 million increase over FY2021.

V. Administrative Matters (20 Minutes)

A. Election of Officers

Chairman – Mayor Michael Nicholson

Vice Chairman – Mayor Stephen DiNatale

i. Floor Nominations

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

ii. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman

RESOLUTION-Richard Maki of Serling moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves to elect Mayor Michael Nicholson as Chairperson and Mayor Stephen DiNatale as Vice Chairperson. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll call was done.

Mayor Mike Nicholson	Aye
Mayor Stephen DiNatale	Aye
Mayor Dean Mazzarella	Aye
Richard Maki (representing Selectmen)	Aye
Kenneth F. Troup (representing Selectmen)	Aye

Jan Robbins (representing Selectman)

Aye

B. Phillipston Request to Become Member Municipality

Bruno informed the Board that Phillipston is a member for Franklin Regional Transit Authority but requested to join MART. As of now they have not asked for any service. MART believes they are looking to have Council of Aging services in their town in the future.

RESOLUTION- Mayor Stephen DiNatale of Fitchburg moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority approves to accept the membership of the community of Phillipston to the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority under Chapter 161B Section 30F of the MGL. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll call was done.

Mayor Mike Nicholson	Aye
Mayor Stephen DiNatale	Aye
Mayor Dean Mazzaella	Aye
Richard Maki (representing Selectmen)	Aye
Kenneth F. Troup (representing Selectmen)	Aye
Jan Robbins (representing Selectman)	Aye

C. Add Scott Rich – Ass’t Administrator as MART Signatory

MART needs 3 people to be able to sign checks and contracts

RESOLUTION – Mayor Stephen DiNatale of Fitchburg moved that the Advisory Board of the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority allows Scott Rich, Assistant Administrator to be an authorize signatory on behalf of MART. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll call was done.

Mayor Mike Nicholson	Aye
Mayor Stephen DiNatale	Aye
Mayor Dean Mazzaella	Aye
Richard Maki (representing Selectmen)	Aye
Kenneth F. Troup (representing Selectmen)	Aye
Jan Robbins (representing Selectman)	Aye

D. Transfer of MART Property to City of Fitchburg – Board approval required

Bruno informed the Board that MART wants to transfer property near Wachusett Station to the city of Fitchburg. The property is about 13,000 square feet and it is on Fifth Massachusetts Turnpike.

Mayor DiNatale asked that we hold off on this transfer until MART can meet with the City Officials.

Richard Maki asked why MART is returning the property to Fitchburg?

Bruno stated Fitchburg is already maintaining the parcel of property and there is no benefit to MART owning this property.

VI. Operational Updates (10 Minutes)

A. Operational Updates:

1. Transit FY21/22 Ten Month Ride/Rev Data Comparison

Ridership is on the increase across all services.

2. Brokerage FY21/22 Ten Month Ride/Rev Data Comparison

MassHealth ridership is up 50% from last year, all services are increasing.

VII. Other Business (5 Minutes)

A. Items Not Reasonably Anticipated to be Discussed

James asked for additional Advisory Board members to join the Finance Committee.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.