

**Minutes GATRA Advisory Board –Virtual Meeting
November 18, 2021 - 2:30**

Mayor Heroux called the meeting to order. Attendance was taken by roll call vote. Christine Deveau, Kevin Dumas, Josie Dutil, Brittany Faria, Greg Guimond, Linda Hayes, Paul Heroux, Kelly Howley, Connie Kelly, Erin Medeiros, Joanne Moore, Antonio Morabito, Tammy Murray, Stacy Powell, Paula Rossi Clapp, Joseph Ryan, Colleen Thompson and Alan Slavin were all present.

Staff present: Amanda Barlow, Angie Constantino, Dan Burgess, Nancy Foley and Mark Sousa
Also present: Paul Mission, SRPEDD and Jen Chaves, SRPEDD

1. Review/approve the minutes from the June 24, 2021 meeting.

Gil Enos called for a motion to approve the minutes, Mayor Heroux seconded, A roll call vote was taken. Kevin Dumas, Josie Dutil, Greg Guimond, Linda Hayes, Paul Heroux, Kelly Howley, Connie Kelly, Joanne Moore, Tammy Murray, Stacy Powell, Paula Rossi Clapp, Joseph Ryan and Alan Slavin all voted to approve. Colleen Thompson, Christine Deveau, Erin Medeiros and Antonio Morabito abstained. The motion to approve the minutes passed.

2. Weighted Vote

Mark reported because Plympton has now joined GATRA the weighted vote must be re-distributed.

Gil Enos called for a motion to approve the weighted vote as distributed, Mayor Heroux seconded, a roll call vote was taken: Christine Deveau, Kevin Dumas, Josie Dutil, Brittany Faria, Greg Guimond, Linda Hayes, Paul Heroux, Kelly Howley, Connie Kelly, Erin Medeiros, Joanne Moore, Antonio Morabito, Tammy Murray, Stacy Powell, Paula Rossi Clapp, Joseph Ryan, Colleen Thompson and Alan Slavin all voted yes. The motion to approve the Weighted Vote as distributed passed.

3. Audit

The GATRA Audit & Finance committee Meeting met earlier and voted to recommend that the Advisory Board approve the Independent Audit.

Dan Burgess, Chief Financial Officer presented GATRA's Audited Annual Financial Statements. The independent Auditors report is considered the General Audit. As in past years the single audit which is a report on the Federal expenditures will be completed and presented to the Board at the Spring meeting. Dan pointed out some highlights of the audit:

- The most important part of the Audit is on the first page under Opinions. The independent auditors had no findings. This was considered a clean audit.
- Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) and is an analysis of the overall financial position of the Authority. This takes the data from the financial statements and puts it into a more digestible format.

- The Condensed and Comparative Statement of net position shows that GATRA's net position is pretty much the same as in the prior year
- The most important piece would be Condensed Comparative Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Net Changes in Net Position. This shows a full year of the effects of COVID . This year Operating Revenue is down significantly from last year, as were the expenses. This puts GATRA in very similar position to last year with lower revenue and lower expenses. This is what we anticipated and budgeted for last year and it has come to fruition.
- Dan anticipates GATRA will see a significant increase in revenue and related expenses in FY2022 as we are seeing an uptick in services and are close to fully operational.
- Of note is the final assessment for each community for FY2021. These numbers will go to the state and will be on each communities Cherry Sheet in a year and half.
- The Attleboro Commuter Rail Station and Parking Lot Statement of Income and Calculation of the MBTA Share of Income is a report that we are required to submit to the MBTA each year. This report shows that for the first time in many years GATRA is showing a loss on Commuter Rail Parking. This is due to the lack of use of the Commuter Rail for a good portion of the year. These numbers have come up significantly in the last 5-6 months. We are not at pre-COVID numbers, but we do anticipate a very different outcome for FY 2022.

Dan wanted all board members to know that he is always available for questions regarding GATRA's Financial picture. Gil Enos called for a motion to approve the Independent Audit. Mayor Heroux seconded, a roll call vote was taken: Christine Deveau, Kevin Dumas, Josie Dutil, Brittany Faria, Greg Guimond, Linda Hayes, Paul Heroux, Kelly Howley, Connie Kelly, Erin Medeiros, Joanne Moore, Antonio Morabito, Tammy Murray, Stacy Powell, Paula Rossi Clapp, Joseph Ryan, Colleen Thompson and Alan Slavin all voted yes. The motion to approve the Audit was passed.

4. GATRA Personnel

Mark reported that there have been some changes in personnel. He has appointed a Deputy Administrator, Amanda Barlow. Amanda will be second in charge and is currently attending the Leadership Conference at CTAA. Mark feels like this is setting GATRA up for the future.

Mark reported that has also hired Cari Whittemore as GATRA's Employee Relations Specialist/Wellness Coordinator. Cari is doing a lot of moral/team building. Mark would like to see GATRA give back to the communities with food drives and toy drives throughout the GATRA communities.

5. Electric Buses

Mark reported that GATRA currently has 6 electric buses on site. The electric busses were funded through the VW Grant at no cost to GATRA. Angie Constantino designed the graphics on the busses and did an amazing design. Angie and Joanne Laferrara partnered with TMLP to advertise on each bus. The charging infrastructure construction is now complete and fully operational. Mark announced the Electric Bus Unveiling, November 20th at 1:00 p.m. at

GATRA. Many have been invited from the Governor down to staff and families. There will be several speakers, food and rides on the electric busses. The Advisory Board is invited to this event

6. Updates

Mark reported that has made two successful trips to Washington DC in an effort to secure funding for a maintenance facility, possibly in Kingston to the delegation staff. The project made it into the Bill and was later pulled. Mark will continue to push to get the funding for the twelve million dollar facility and is optimistic it will go in our favor. To date GATRA has not had a great presence on the Hill. Mark reported that he worked with a lobbyist that works with one of our operators, Transdev. They were able to get him to the people you need to know to further a project like this.

Mark reported that he recently attended the APTA Conference in Orlando and was able to meet with several vendors. He ended up with five new pilot programs, everything from security cameras to driver seats. All at no cost to GATRA

Regarding the HST Contract Mark reported that there have been a few glitches, but we are working through them.

Mayor Heroux asked if anyone had anything else. Kevin Dumas reported that there has been a lot of staff changes, and it has been a very long time since the board has met in person. Kevin feels that the board needs to get together to have some discussions in Executive Session preferably the week of November 29th. Kevin stated any HR related issues are best discussed in Executive Session. Joanne Moore asked for motion to schedule an Advisory Board Meeting to go into Executive Session the week of November 29th. Mayor Heroux seconded. A roll call vote was taken: Janet Angelico, Christine Deveau, Kevin Dumas, Josie Dutil, Brittany Faria, Greg Guimond, Linda Hayes, Paul Heroux, Kelly Howley, Connie Kelly, Erin Medeiros, Joanne Moore, Antonio Morabito, Tammy Murray, Stacy Powell, Paula Rossi Clapp, Joseph Ryan, Colleen Thompson and Alan Slavin all voted yes. The motion to schedule another Advisory Board Meeting passed.

Paula Rossi Clapp would like an update on re-instating the Boston Hospital Bus Mark reported that Joanne Laferrara was recently looking into that possibility. Joanne will be asked to reach out to discuss.

Mayor Heroux asked for a motion to adjourn, Gil moved to adjourn, Alan Slavin, seconded, a roll call vote was taken: Janet Angelico, Christine Deveau, Kevin Dumas, Josie Dutil, Brittany Faria, Greg Guimond, Linda Hayes, Paul Heroux, Kelly Howley, Connie Kelly, Erin Medeiros, Joanne Moore, Antonio Morabito, Tammy Murray, Stacy Powell, Paula Rossi Clapp, Joseph Ryan, Colleen Thompson and Alan Slavin all voted yes. The motion to adjourn passed.