



**November 15th, 2023
Open Session Minutes**

**Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA)
Advisory Board Meeting
Taunton City Hall
Silver City Conference Room, 2nd Floor
15 Summer Street, Taunton, MA 02780
and
Zoom**

1. Open Session Convenes

Mayor O'Connell called the meeting to order at 1:04PM. A roll call attendance was taken.

The following board members were present:

Attleboro (5.40), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone (remote)- arrived at 1:05PM

Bellingham (2.59), Josie Dutil (remote)

Carver (1.61), Connie Kelly (remote)

Duxbury (2.25), Joanne Moore (remote)

Franklin (2.35), Cobi Frongillo (remote)

Hanover (3.57), Tammy Murray (remote)

Kingston (1.96), Patti Waitkevich (remote)

Lakeville (1.59), Lori Fahey (remote)

Mansfield (2.80), Kevin Dumas (remote)

Medway (1.96), Courtney Riley (remote)

Middleboro (2.79), Mark Germain (remote)

Norfolk (2.24), Karen Edwards (remote)

North Attleboro (3.26), Tony Morabito (remote)

Pembroke (2.53), Gretchen Emmetts (remote)

Plainville (1.29), Brenda

Watkinson (remote)- arrived at 1:15PM

Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson (remote)- arrived at 1:08PM

Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky (remote)

Scituate (2.32), Linda Hayes (remote)- arrived at 1:05PM

Seekonk (2.11), Brittany Faria (remote)

Taunton (5.49), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell

Wareham (3.20), Alan Slavin

ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond (remote)

The following board members were absent:

Berkley (1.38), Dean Larabee

Dighton (1.15), Anabela Powell

Foxborough (1.98), Marc Craig

Marshfield (3.04), Greg Guimond

Norton (2.11), Michael Toole

Plymouth (5.33), Derek Brindisi

Raynham (2.06), Erin Medeiros

Wrentham (1.92), Janet Angelico

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Also present:

Mary Ellen DeFrias, Dan Burgess (remote), Kylie Araujo

2. September 20th, 2023 Open Session Minutes

Mayor O'Connell, Taunton reviewed Robert's Rules before a vote took place, reminding board members that even if they were not present at a meeting, they can still vote on the minutes from that meeting.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve September 20th, 2023 Open Session minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Attleboro (5.40), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone- aye
Bellingham (2.59), Josie Dutil- aye
Carver (1.61), Connie Kelly- aye
Duxbury (2.25), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (2.35), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Hanover (3.57), Tammy Murray- aye
Kingston (1.96), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Lakeville (1.59), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.80), Kevin Dumas- aye
Medway (1.96), Courtney Riley- aye
Middleboro (2.79), Mark Germain- aye

Norfolk (2.24), Karen Edwards- aye
North Attleboro (3.26), Tony Morabito- aye
Pembroke (2.53), Gretchen Emmetts- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky- aye
Scituate (2.32), Linda Hayes- aye
Seekonk (2.11), Brittany Faria- aye
Taunton (5.49), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell- aye
Wareham (3.20), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond- aye

Motion to approve September 20th, 2023 Minutes passed.

3. Administrator Report, Civil Rights Report, & Financial Reports

Mary Ellen DeFrias reviewed the Administrator Report and Civil Rights Report. She covered that GATRA is close to closing out its last Triennial Review finding. A plan for long term financial plan funds is due at the end of the November. Sunday Service started with a soft roll out on several routes. Mary Ellen shared that ridership has mirrored Saturday Service. She shared as long as hiring continues, GATRA will have all routes running 7 days a week beginning in January, mirroring Saturday Service. GATRA is also participating in the Massachusetts grant Try Transit, which allows GATRA to operate fixed route services fare-free from Black Friday through New Year's Eve. Mary Ellen also shared recent networking and educational trips she has completed, including Princeton electrification, Barr Foundation fact-finding mission, and MAP Inc Innovation Awards panelist on electrification.

The DBE report due December 1st was submitted recently and GATRA is up to date on all DBE reporting. There are no other major changes to the Civil Rights Report.

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Dan Burgess covered the Financial Report. The report shows budgeted numbers versus actual numbers through September 2023. Dan addressed the few areas of the budget that are different compared to the budgeted numbers. Overall, there are no major areas of concern at this time.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve the November 2023 Administrator Report, Civil Rights Report, and Financial Report. A roll call vote was taken.

Attleboro (5.40), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone- aye
Bellingham (2.59), Josie Dutil- aye
Carver (1.61), Connie Kelly- aye
Duxbury (2.25), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (2.35), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Hanover (3.57), Tammy Murray- aye
Kingston (1.96), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Lakeville (1.59), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.80), Kevin Dumas- aye
Medway (1.96), Courtney Riley- aye
Middleboro (2.79), Mark Germain- aye
Norfolk (2.24), Karen Edwards- aye

North Attleboro (3.26), Tony Morabito- aye
Pembroke (2.53), Gretchen Emmetts- aye
Plainville (1.29), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson-aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky- aye
Scituate (2.32), Linda Hayes- aye
Seekonk (2.11), Brittany Faria- aye
Taunton (5.49), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell- aye
Wareham (3.20), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond- aye

Motion to approve the Administrator Report, Civil Rights Report, and Financial Report passed.

4. FY24 Budget Amendment

Mary Ellen outlined that the state provided additional funding to Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) this year. At the time the original budget was created/approved, there was not a confirmed amount that GATRA would be receiving, so it was not included at all in the initial budget. Since that time, GATRA has gotten the additional funding confirmed as well as the Try Transit funding, which need to be reflected in the budget. The budget amendment proposed includes both of these additional funding sources.

Dan noted that a portion of the additional funding was going to offset the cost of Sunday Service. Another portion of the funding is going to offset the federal funding and alleviate the burden on federal funding with state funding. The Try Transit funding and adjusted farebox revenue is also outlined in the amended budget.

Mayor O'Connell asked about the sustainability of this extra funding and what it could look like in future years if GATRA does not receive this additional state funding in the future. Mary Ellen explained that about half of the increase went to Sunday Service. She is confident that next year, there will be at least this much of an increase. The rest of the increase is being used to offset the federal funding with state funding, which allows GATRA to save federal funds for long term projects or capital projects. If the state is not able to provide this large of an increase next year,

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GATRA can revert back to how it was splitting federal and state funding previously and avoid pulling service.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve the FY24 budget amendment. A roll call vote was taken.

Attleboro (5.40), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone- aye
Bellingham (2.59), Josie Dutil- aye
Carver (1.61), Connie Kelly- aye
Duxbury (2.25), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (2.35), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Hanover (3.57), Tammy Murray- aye
Kingston (1.96), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Lakeville (1.59), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.80), Kevin Dumas- aye
Medway (1.96), Courtney Riley- aye
Middleboro (2.79), Mark Germain- aye
Norfolk (2.24), Karen Edwards- aye

North Attleboro (3.26), Tony Morabito- aye
Pembroke (2.53), Gretchen Emmetts- aye
Plainville (1.29), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson-aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky- aye
Scituate (2.32), Linda Hayes- aye
Seekonk (2.11), Brittany Faria- aye
Taunton (5.49), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell- aye
Wareham (3.20), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond- aye

Motion to approve FY24 Budget Amendment passed.

5. June 2024 Meeting Update

Mary Ellen shared that the June 2024 meeting, originally scheduled for June 19th, 2024 will now be on June 26th, 2024 in order to observe Juneteenth.

6. Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest Certificates

Mary Ellen reminded the Board that GATRA needs copies of the Open Meeting Law Certificate and Conflict of Interest Certificate on file.

7. Executive Session

Kevin Dumas, Mansfield moved to go into Executive Session,

Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(7), to comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special laws or federal grant-in-aid requirements (G.L. c. 30A, §22): approving minutes of May 17th, 2023 Executive Session

And invite Mary Ellen DeFrias, Dan Burgess, and Kylie Araujo

And not to reconvene in Open Session.

Motion 2nd. A roll call vote was taken.

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Taunton (5.49), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell- aye
Wareham (3.20), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond- aye

Open Session adjourned at 1:24PM time and moved to Executive Session.

Documents & Exhibits Discussed in this Meeting:

- November 15th, 2023 Meeting Agenda
- September 20th, 2023 Open Session Minutes
- November 2023 Administrator Report
- November 2023 Civil Rights Report
- November 2023 Financial Report
- FY24 Budget Amendment #1

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