



**April 17, 2024
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 1:03PM. The following Board members were present:

Attleboro (5.55), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone (remote)
Bellingham (2.65), Josie Dutil (remote)
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly (remote)- arrived at 1:08PM
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell (remote)
Duxbury (2.30), Joanne Moore (remote)
Franklin (2.39), Cobi Frongillo (remote)
Hanover (3.66), Tammy Murray (remote)
Kingston (1.99), Patti Waitkevich (remote)
Lakeville (1.61), Lori Fahey (remote)
Mansfield (2.87), Kevin Dumas (remote)

Marshfield (3.11), Greg Guimond (remote)
Norfolk (2.28), Karen Edwards (remote)
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- arrived at 1:10PM
Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson (remote)
Raynham (2.09), Erin Medeiros (remote)
Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky (remote)
Taunton (5.64), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell
Wareham (3.28), Alan Slavin (remote)
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond (remote)

The following board members were absent:

Berkley (1.40), Tabitha McCrohan
Foxborough (2.01), Marc Craig
Halifax (1.00), Cody Haddad
Medway (1.99), Courtney Riley
Middleboro (2.85), Mark Germain
North Attleboro (3.33), Tony Morabito

Norton (2.15), Alec Rich
Pembroke (2.59), Gretchen Emmetts
Plymouth (5.48), Derek Brindisi
Scituate (2.37), Linda Hayes
Seekonk (2.15), Brittney Faria
Wrentham (1.95), Janet Angelico

Also present:

Mary Ellen DeFrias, Dan Burgess, Kylie Araujo

2. March 20, 2024 Open Session Minutes

A motion was made and 2nd to approve March 20, 2024 Open Session. A roll call vote was taken.

10 Oak Street, 2nd Floor, Taunton, MA 02780-3950
Phone (508) 823-8828 • Fax (508) 824-3474 • TDD (508) 824-7439



Attleboro (5.55), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone- aye
Bellingham (2.65), Josie Dutil- aye
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell- aye
Duxbury (2.30), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (2.39), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Hanover (3.66), Tammy Murray- aye
Kingston (1.99), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Lakeville (1.61), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.87), Kevin Dumas- aye

Marshfield (3.11), Greg Guimond- aye
Norfolk (2.28), Karen Edwards- aye
Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson- aye
Raynham (2.09), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky- aye
Taunton (5.64), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell- aye
Wareham (3.28), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond- aye

Motion to approve March 20, 2024 Open Session Minutes passed.

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

Mary Ellen DeFrias reviewed the Administrator Report. Sunday Service is running, with a few bumps along the way. Mary Ellen included a recent article from the Sun Chronicle that covered these issues. GATRA's management company is in union negotiations and details cannot be shared, but Mary Ellen is hoping to have an update at the next meeting. So far, rider and driver feedback about the Spare platform has been positive and is increasing efficiency as well. The Ride Match website, which was started by GATRA, is now overseen by MassDOT. GATRA is working with MassDOT and AECOM to revamp the website. GATRA is also now live in Google Transit and Google search results and riders can see where buses are in real time. The next public meeting is on April 25th and will cover changes that go into effect June 1st. There are no changes to the Civil Rights Report to discuss.

Dan Burgess covered the Financial Report, which outlines financials from July 2023- February 2024. He noted that the biggest areas of discrepancy will be covered in the budget amendment later in the meeting and, otherwise, all areas are within expectation.

Alan Slavin, Wareham asked a question about ridership and how it has recovered post-COVID. Mary Ellen said that they are back to about 70% of where ridership was pre-COVID.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve the April 2024 Administrator Report, Civil Rights Report, and Financial Report. A roll call vote was taken.

Attleboro (5.55), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone- aye
Bellingham (2.65), Josie Dutil- aye
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell- aye
Duxbury (2.30), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (2.39), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Hanover (3.66), Tammy Murray- aye

Kingston (1.99), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Lakeville (1.61), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.87), Kevin Dumas- aye
Marshfield (3.11), Greg Guimond- aye
Norfolk (2.28), Karen Edwards- aye
Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson- aye
Raynham (2.09), Erin Medeiros- aye

10 Oak Street, 2nd Floor, Taunton, MA 02780-3950
Phone (508) 823-8828 • Fax (508) 824-3474 • TDD (508) 824-7439



Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky- aye
Taunton (5.64), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell-
aye

Wareham (3.28), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond-
aye

Motion to approve the April 2024 Administrator Report, Civil Rights Report, and Financial Report passed.

4. FY23 Audited Financials

Mary Ellen DeFrias reviewed that the Audit & Finance Committee met on April 5, 2024 to review the audited financials and made a vote to move them forward to the Board for approval.

Dan Burgess noted that all opinions on the reports were clean and there were no findings of any kind. He offered to answer any questions. There were no further questions from the Board.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve the FY23 Audited Financials. A roll call vote was taken.

Attleboro (5.55), Mayor Cathleen
DeSimone- aye
Bellingham (2.65), Josie Dutil- aye
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly- aye
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell- aye
Duxbury (2.30), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (2.39), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Hanover (3.66), Tammy Murray- aye
Kingston (1.99), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Lakeville (1.61), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.87), Kevin Dumas- aye

Marshfield (3.11), Greg Guimond- aye
Norfolk (2.28), Karen Edwards- aye
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson- aye
Raynham (2.09), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky- aye
Taunton (5.64), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell-
aye
Wareham (3.28), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond-
aye

Motion to approve the FY23 Audited Financials passed.

5. FY24 Budget Amendment #2

Dan Burgess reviewed the main two components of the proposed budget amendment- Brokerage Services and Special Services.

Brokerage Services has had a significant increase in expenses and revenues than originally projected. These lines offset each other. Brokerage Services has rapidly grown since COVID, and the amendment brings the revised budget expenses and revenues closet to actuals.

The Special Services line pertains to the grant-funded program GATRA has with Blue Apple Bus. This program is moving at a faster rate than initially expected, so offsetting revenues and expenses are outlined in the amendment.

Overall, the budget amendment is balanced between revenue and expenses.

10 Oak Street, 2nd Floor, Taunton, MA 02780-3950
Phone (508) 823-8828 • Fax (508) 824-3474 • TDD (508) 824-7439



Josie Dutil, Bellingham asked about the “Purchased Transportation” line of the budget. Mary Ellen DeFrias reviewed that this line is for contracted transportation for Brokerage Services. This line is not related to purchasing GATRA vehicles.

A motion was made and 2nd to approve the FY24 Budget Amendment #2. A roll call vote was taken.

Attleboro (5.55), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone- aye
Bellingham (2.65), Josie Dutil- aye
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly- aye
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell- aye
Duxbury (2.30), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (2.39), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Hanover (3.66), Tammy Murray- aye
Kingston (1.99), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Lakeville (1.61), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.87), Kevin Dumas- aye

Marshfield (3.11), Greg Guimond- aye
Norfolk (2.28), Karen Edwards- aye
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson- aye
Raynham (2.09), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky- aye
Taunton (5.64), Mayor Shaunna O’Connell- aye
Wareham (3.28), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond- aye

Motion to approve the FY24 Budget Amendment #2 passed.

6. Confirm Executive Compensation Committee

Mayor O’Connell reviewed that the members of the Executive Compensation Committee have been contacted and will continue to serve as a committee this year. The Executive Compensation Committee reviews Mary Ellen DeFrias’s salary and performance each year to then make a recommendation to the full Board with any salary changes.

The Committee is as follows: Mayor O’Connell, Taunton, Alan Slavin, Wareham, Kevin Dumas, Mansfield, Joanne Moore, Duxbury, and Tammy Murray, Hanover.

Joanne Moore, Duxbury asked a question regarding the Brokerage budget being intentionally separated out from the Transit Authority budget. She asked what the chances were that GATRA would not receive the contract for the Brokerage in the future. Mary Ellen reviewed that she feels there is a 75% chance that GATRA would be re-contracted. Last contract-renewal cycle, the state went from five Transit Authority sites with Brokerage contracts to two. She does not foresee the state going down to a single Brokerage transit authority. At this time, GATRA has two more years in the current contract and would know more about where the state is headed as the end of the contract is approached. Mary Ellen reviewed that because of this, and because of how the Transit Authority operations are funded, it is critical to her that each area is clearly defined.

7. Adjourn

A motion was made and 2nd to adjourn the meeting. A roll call vote was taken.

10 Oak Street, 2nd Floor, Taunton, MA 02780-3950
Phone (508) 823-8828 • Fax (508) 824-3474 • TDD (508) 824-7439



Attleboro (5.55), Mayor Cathleen DeSimone- aye
Bellingham (2.65), Josie Dutil- aye
Carver (1.63), Connie Kelly- aye
Dighton (1.16), Anabela Powell- aye
Duxbury (2.30), Joanne Moore- aye
Franklin (2.39), Cobi Frongillo- aye
Hanover (3.66), Tammy Murray- aye
Kingston (1.99), Patti Waitkevich- aye
Lakeville (1.61), Lori Fahey- aye
Mansfield (2.87), Kevin Dumas- aye

Marshfield (3.11), Greg Guimond- aye
Norfolk (2.28), Karen Edwards- aye
Plainville (1.30), Brenda Watkinson- aye
Plympton (1.00), Colleen Thompson- aye
Raynham (2.09), Erin Medeiros- aye
Rehoboth (1.21), Richard Panofsky- aye
Taunton (5.64), Mayor Shaunna O'Connell- aye
Wareham (3.28), Alan Slavin- aye
ADA Advocate (1.00), Michael Raymond- aye

Motion to adjourn the meeting passed. Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:23 PM.

Documents & Exhibits Discussed in this Meeting:

- 4.17.2024 GATRA Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
- 3.20.24 GATRA Advisory Board Open Session Minutes
- April 2024 Administrator's Report and accompanying article
- April 2024 Civil Rights Report
- April 2024 Financial Report
- FY23 Audited Financials
- FY24 Budget Amendment #2