

Cape Ann Transportation Authority  
Board Meeting  
January 26, 2021 Remote Meeting  
9:30am

Attendance: Jim Destino, CAO to the Mayor, Laurel Eisenhauer, Joe Domelowicz,, Liz O'Connor, Bob Ryan, Felicia Webb, Jackie LaFlam

Called to order by James Destino at 9:37am

Roll Call Representatives from Gloucester, Essex and Hamilton were in attendance.

There were no public comments

Michelle Brown, Rockport, entered the meeting after the attendance was taken.

Approval of October 28, 2020 minutes

Laurel: In Item A- The spelling for personnel was incorrect, also Vote- Unanimous was missing on some of the motions.

Motion to approve the Laurel's corrections to the minutes by Jim Destino  
Seconded by Laure Eisenhauer  
Roll Call Vote  
Vote Unanimous

Motion to approve October 28, 2020 minutes as amended by Jim Destino  
Seconded by Laure Eisenhauer  
Roll Call Vote  
Vote Unanimous

#### Brokerage Contract Update

Felicia briefed the Board about CATA's brokerage contract. CATA's region has been absorbed by MART. Mart was awarded Region 1&2 and GATRA was awarded Region 3. The state has been trying for almost 15 years to have only one RTA for all of Massachusetts.

Felicia has reached out to MART to see if CATA could serve as a contractor for them. It does seem unlikely that we will work for them. CATA's budget now is approximately \$20M, the loss of the brokerage would cut the budget to approximately \$3.5M, which is just the transit side of CATA.

Jim asked if Mart would pick up some of the cost.

Felicia: If they accept us then yes they will pick up some of the cost, if they do not then its switches to CATA. There is brokerage money and transit money. If the brokerage goes away, all expenses will be paid out of the transit funds.

Felicia: The contract ends June 30<sup>th</sup> if MART does not keep us on the brokerage will be gone as of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Jim: If there is state contract assistance money, is it possible to say some of the staff? We need to stress to MART that we have all local people working here, who are knowledgeable about the area, the clients and the programs and hope they give you the option to stay with MART and keep it as is and to keep CATA moving forward.

Felicia: I have reached out to the Deputy Administrator about CATA contracting with them so that 6-8 employees will not lose their jobs.

Laurel expressed concerned about the van service and if anything would change, would CATA have excess capacity or extra vans.

Felicia assured her that van service would not be interrupted, that that is part of the transit operation not the brokerage. The brokerage operation is the PTI, Dialysis, DDS programs and EIP (children) programs. These services will continue but not by CATA, MART will handle them.

Jim: Is there anything we can do as the Board or anyone we can contact?

Felicia: The Brokerage is under HST (Health and Human Services) The contract is for 5 years and cannot go past 15 years. If you talk about CATA, keep in mind all the good work the brokerage has done.

Jim: The board needs to be informed that if MART does not keep us, what will it cost by laying off 6-8, meaning vacation, sick time and personal time.

Joe was asking also about Hamilton being affected and Felicia said they would not be affected by this.

Jim asked about ridership was being down due to Covid and if the state wanted to consolidate, this would be a time for them to do so.

Felicia said the ridership is about half than before Covid and 30% for DDS and there are no EIP Programs (children) at this time.

Jim: We need to stress to MART and HST that the ridership will come back and Covid will not last forever.

Laurel asked if MART would hire these 6-8 employees.

Felicia said MART has already laid off some of their employees so they won't until they hire their own back.

Jim: is the possibility high that they will not keep CATA.

Felicia: yes it is.

Jim asked to please keep the Board involved in the decision with MART going forward, the Board needs to know of any changes and how the budget is going to shape up for next year.

Michelle Brown came into the meeting late but wanted to comment on CATA doing such a good job and to keep up the good work we are doing.

Jim Destino Motion for the Board to move into Executive Session

The board shall next move into executive session under M.G.L. 30A, Section 21, for the purpose of discussing litigation pending against the Cape Ann Transportation Authority. Please note that the discussion of this litigation in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Cape Ann Transportation Authority. The open session shall not reconvene at the conclusion of the executive session and the meeting shall be adjourned.

I will now entertain a motion to move into executive session pursuant to M.G. L. Chapter 30 A §21(a) to discuss the pending litigation. Pursuant to the statute, there must be a majority vote by roll call to go into executive session.

Moved by Laurel  
Seconded by Joe  
Roll Call Vote  
Vote: Unanimous

Jim asked Bob Ryan to please leave the meeting.

Motion to adjourn at 10:24am by Jim Destino

Moved by Laurel  
Seconded by Joe  
Roll Call Vote  
Vote: Unanimous