

Cape Ann Transportation Authority
Board Meeting
February 14, 2022
9:30am

Attendance Mayor Greg Verga (Gloucester), Mitch Vieira (Rockport), Laurel Eisenhauer (Essex), Tony Marino (Ipswich), Felicia Webb (CATA), Liz O'Connor (CATA Legal Counsel), Jackie LaFlam (CATA, Board Clerk)

This meeting was conducted remotely through GotoMeeting. All votes were Roll Call

Called to order by Mayor Greg Verga at 9:30am

Roll Call: Representatives from Gloucester, Rockport, Essex, Ipswich were present.
Hamilton not present

Approval of October 26, 2021 minutes

Motioned by Tony Marino
Seconded by Laurel Eisenhauer
Roll Call Vote
Vote – unanimous in favor

ADA Board Member and a Rider Board Member

Felicia Webb, explained 161B, Section 5 that outlines Advisory Board member, each community has a representative on the board and there should be a Rider and an ADA representative as well. CATA has never had a rider member, it's difficult to find one. This past fall, our ADA Board member retired. The Advisory Board is to appoint these representatives from the CATA communities. The board also has to determine the order in which the communities will appoint someone.

General discussion by the members, Tony asked about where do we find someone to fill this position, some towns/cities have accessibility commissions. Laurel suggested going to the Councils of Aging. Felicia said they just need to be within the CATA community.

Mayor Verga asked if Felicia would write up a brief description as to what we need to recruit someone as a board member. Felicia said she would and we will bring it to the next meeting.

Staff Retirement Benefits

Felicia discussed staff retirement benefits. She would like to improve the retirement options offered by CATA. Seeing as the brokerage is gone, CATA is now a very small RTA and it will be difficult to attract people when openings occur. Currently, CATA participates in a 457b program with a 7.5% match from CATA and employees able to contribute additional funds. In reviewing other RTAs retirement offerings, 12 of the 15 RTAs participate in a pension program and several offering the 457b as an additional employee only contribution option.

Again, there was a general discussion of the current retirement plan and the idea of joining the pension program. Felicia's recommendation to keep the 457B as a voluntary contribution and add a pension plan Chapter 32 Section 1-28 for the three remaining employees. All members agreed it was a good idea and long overdue.

Mayor Greg Verga requested Felicia read the motion "the Cape Ann Transportation Authority Advisory Board hereby accepts the requirements of Chapter 32, Section 1-28, inclusive, of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

Motioned by Mayor Verga

Seconded Tony Marino

Roll Call Vote

All in favor.

CATA Updates

Felicia briefly explained the fare analysis project and adjusting all fixed route fares to \$1.00 for full fare across the board. Right now, between Gloucester and Rockport, West Gloucester, and Magnolia is \$1.25. Felicia will present at the next meeting a presentation explaining the fare. We will bring it back for a review. The board thinks it's a good idea to eliminate different fares.

Felicia also stated that the ridership is better this year than last and the On Demand Bus is very popular and going very well.

Mayor Greg Verga motioned to adjourn at 9:50am

Seconded by Laurel Eisenhauer

Roll Call Vote

All in favor.