



**Benzie Transportation Authority
Millage Committee Meeting
Thursday January 11, 2024 @ 5:30PM
14150 US 31 Beulah, MI 49617**

MINUTES APPROVED AS PRESENTED MARCH 5, 2024

1. Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 5:30PM by Chair Brian Halliday
2. Roll Call - Present: Anne Noah, Jeannette Feeheley, Dorene Strang, Brian Halliday; Board Chair John Morse (ex officio); Staff Present: Jessica Carland, Wendy Wedemeier
3. Welcome and Recognition of Visitors - None
4. Consent Agenda - **Motion** by Feeheley with support by Strang to approve the consent agenda as presented. All ayes, **motion carried**
 - a. Correspondence - None
 - b. Approval of November 2023 Meeting Minutes
5. Public Comment - None
6. Approval of Agenda - **Motion** by Noah with support by Strang to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes, **motion carried.**
7. Call for Conflict of Interest - None
8. Old Business
 - a. Community visioning session - Carland reached out to Networks Northwest (NNW) to inquire about assistance with a community visioning session in late winter/early spring. NNW is putting together a proposal which Carland will share once completed.
 - b. Rider/Community Survey - Carland shared the draft community survey. She plans on distributing the survey prior to the community visioning session.
 - c. Data Requests from November Meeting - Carland provided data requested by the Committee at the last meeting. Discussion took place regarding the average taxable value of homes in the county.
 - i. Homestead vs Non-Homestead data
 - ii. Resident/Workforce changes since last millage
 - d. Deadlines for August 2024 Millage - The deadline for petitions to place the ballot question on the August ballot must be filed by April 30. The deadline for ballot wording must be certified to the county clerk by May 14. BTA's attorney will assist in drafting the ballot language which will then be presented to the Board for approval.
 - e. "Friends" Update - Carland provided an update on potential Friends.
 - f. 5-Year Financial Forecast - Lengthy discussion over the financial forecast and different potential mill rates. Discussion specifically around whether to ask for 0.85, 0.95 or 1 mil. Carland explained that by law BTA may not ask for more than a mil. **Motion** by Noah to recommend the finance committee review and approve a full mil. Support by Halliday.

Discussion. Morse stated that psychologically 0.95 is better than 1. Feeheley stated that 0.85 is as well. Roll call vote. Noah - yes; Halliday; - yes; Strang - yes; Feeheley - No.; Tally: 3 yay's, 1 nay. **Motion carries.** Carland will prepare supporting documentation for the Finance Committee's review and send it out as soon as possible.

9. New Business

- a. Millage Committee/Communications - Discussion over the role the Millage Committee should play after the mil rate has been decided. The committee will transition into an ad hoc communication committee. All members of the board will be invited to participate.

10. Public Comment - None

11. Roundtable - Strang announced she plans on renewing her Board term which expires April 2024. Strang brought to the committee's attention a BTA employee that left for a higher paying position despite her love for this organization. Feeheley inquired about the November financial statements and requested she receive the finances monthly. Carland to send financials along with her ED report. Feeheley thanked Wedemeier for breaking out ineligible expenses on the income statement, and requested the APR for the CD accounts be included. Strang suggested a potluck for a future Board meeting. Carland suggested she bring the topic up at the next Board meeting.

12. Adjournment - Meeting adjourned at 6:55PM

Recording Secretary

Date