

MART Finance Committee Meeting Minutes  
Remotely  
September 26, 2022 10:30 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Stephen DiNatale	Fitchburg
Ken Troup	Bolton
Richard Maki	Sterling
Robert Pontbriand	Ayer

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Joseph Layden	Littleton
Selectperson Heather Billings	Westminster
Jan Robbins	Ashburnham

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Bruce D. Norling, CPA, P.C.  
Jennifer Bassett Glynn, CPA

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Bruno Fisher, James Sluss, Jessica Lashua, and Keary Connors.

- Call to Order  
The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m.
- General / Public Comments  
None
- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
  - March 21, 2022  
**RESOLUTION-Richard Maki of Sterling moved to approve the minutes from March 21, 2022. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**
  - May 16, 2022  
**RESOLUTION-Robert Pontbriand of Ayer moved to approve the minutes from May 16, 2022. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**
- Auditors Report FY2022
  - A. Audit Presentation  
Bruce Norling went over the audit. MART is financially strong again this year but still recovering from 2020 pandemic. The audit received a clean opinion again this year. There was nothing unexpected in the audit. The RAN rate this year is 2.776% compared to last year's .27% and will not be going down soon.

Bruno Fisher informed the Committee that MART cannot put Federal or State funding against the RAN.

B. Audit Committee Recommendation

**RESOLUTION- Robert Pontbriand of Ayer moved to accept and recommend the audit to the MART Advisory Board and as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

- FY2022 Full Year Financial Update

James Sluss informed the Committee that FY2022 ended with no deficit and no surplus. He then went over the key drivers document (attached). He informed the Committee that overtime has been higher because we are having trouble hiring drivers and parking at the parking garages is still very low. Farebox revenue is at 50-60% of pre Covid numbers. At the Brokerage we have added technology and technology experts to help meet contract goals.

To help reduce costs MART is reviewing routes for ridership and will use technology to keep cost under control. By FY2025 all additional fundings will be gone (CARES, ARPA and CRRSA).

- FY2023 Financial Projections

Richard Maki voices his concern about what will happen in FY2025 when the additional funding is gone.

James informed him that MART is going through all costs to make sure we are not overpaying. We are looking at facilities, services, maintenance, and routes for cost improvements. We are looking at improving the routes to carry more passengers.

Richard Maki asked if MART will be increasing charge back to towns for Council on Aging Services.

James informed him MART will not exceed the 2.5% increase allowed in each year.

- Other Business

- A. Items Not Reasonably Anticipated to be Discussed

- None

- Adjournment

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.