

MART Finance Committee Meeting Minutes  
Remotely  
December 12, 2022 10:30 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Michael Nicholson  
Ken Troup

Gardner  
Bolton

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Richard Maki  
Robert Pontbriand  
Joseph Layden  
Selectperson Heather Billings  
Jan Robbins

Sterling  
Ayer  
Littleton  
Westminster  
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
  - September 26, 2022  
The Committee will wait to approve minutes until next meeting.
- FY2023 Update
  - Four Month Financial Update
  - Full Year Financial Projection
  - CARES / CRRSAA / ARPA Grant Updates
    - CARES - \$3.9 million
    - CRRSAA – \$2.3 million
    - ARPA – \$3.3 million

Bruno Fisher informed the Board that the State Auditors are doing an ADA audit right now and as it stands there should be no findings. The costs across the board are higher than they should be. Workforce shortage is increasing the cost of van drivers because they are working for higher amounts of over time. MART is using ARPA funds to cover the higher costs.

MART has also implemented new technologies to optimize schedules, real time tracking and reassign late trips.

MART is also working on improving the performance of the fixed bus route. Athol has been redone with new timing and service area to increase ridership. Athol High School students will ride for free and made Athol Link a true link service connecting Athol center to Gardner center.

MART will see the depletion of COVID funds within the next year. We are looking at ways to improve services and lower cost. Within the brokerage we have implemented technology innovations to control costs and optimize workforce. Upgrading the phones with call back feature, performance dashboard and call center monitoring.

MART is also working on a contract with Lyft and Uber but it is very difficult, GPS in the vehicle is required by State Contract.

- FY2024 Financial Projections  
MART is struggling to hire drivers and paying higher overtime cost. By the first quarter of FY2024 the ARPA funds will be gone. Once ARPA is gone MART will use CARES funds. By FY2025 MART is hoping to have costs under control and have an increase in funding.

- Other Business

- A. Items Not Reasonably Anticipated to be Discussed

- The fare free promotion currently running has increased ridership by 8% so far.

- Adjournment

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.