

MART Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Remotely
June 5, 2023 10:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Michael Nicholson	Gardner
Ken Troup	Bolton
Richard Maki	Sterling

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Robert Pontbriand	Ayer
Joseph Layden	Littleton
Selectperson Heather Billings	Westminster
Jan Robbins	Ashburnham

GUESTS PRESENT:

Michelle-Elissa Glaser

STAFF PRESENT:

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

- Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 10:39 a.m.

- General / Public Comments
None

- **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**
 - March 6, 2023

**RESOLUTION- Ken Troup of Bolton moved to approve the minutes from March 6, 2023.
The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.**

Roll call was done.

Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Ken Troup	yes
Richard Maki	yes

- **FY2023 Update**

- Ten Month Financial Update

James Sluss went over the 10-month financial update. MART will end the year with no deficit and no surplus. MART used AARP money through FY2023 and now will be using CARES and 5307 funding. On the brokerage side MART has been earning more incentives. On the transit side MART is looking at all contracts and pricing structures.

- Full Year Financial Projection
 1. FY23 Key Financial Drivers
- CARES / CRRSAA / ARPA Grant Updates
CARES- the remaining money in this will be used in June 2023
CRRSAA- \$2.3 million

ARPA – money used for operating cost

Dick Maki asked if 5307 funding would be increasing?

James stated no hope at this time that 5307 will be increasing. MART is hoping to get additional funding from the State.

- Operating Company Contract Executed

Bruno Fisher told the Committee the operating contract is done and final review is being done by operating companies lawyer. Contract starts on July 1, 2023

- **FY24 Proposed Budget**

- Fin Comm Review / Recommendation for Advisory Board Approval

James stated the FY2024 budget was reviewed at the last meeting.

RESOLUTION-Richard Maki of Sterling moved to recommend to the Advisory Board the FY2024 Budget as presented by the Chief Financial Officer. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll call was done.

Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Ken Troup	yes
Richard Maki	yes

- **Purchase of Property at 27 Antietam St, Deven**

- Fin Comm Review / Recommendation for Advisory Board Approval

Bruno stated the property at 27 Antietam St., Devens (P4 old bakery building) is 1300 square feet of space. MART is looking to invest in this property because we need a place to house transit vehicles east of Fitchburg. Housing vehicles in this area will give us fewer dead head miles.

MART has submitted a grant for \$1 million to rehab the entire building. We should hear in October if we have received the grant. If we don't receive the grant, we can get our original investment back.

RESOLUTION- Ken Troup of Bolton moved to approve the purchase of property at 27 Antietam Street, Devens. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll call was done.

Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Ken Troup	yes
Richard Maki	yes

- **Proposed Fare Structure Changes**

- Fin Comm Review / Recommendation for Advisory Board Approval

Bruno informed the committee MART is looking at fares for fixed bus routes and subscription service. Subscription service is not a required/core transit service per FTA. Subscription service was the primary driver of the potential deficit in FY2020 but then we received COVID funds. MART is looking to increase the price of subscription service by 73.3%, if we don't have a price increase, we will not be able to offer this service in the future. We are hoping the price increase will encourage people to use the fixed bus route, where the fare is decreasing.

Dick asked if the introduction of the taxi service is helping with the cost.

James said the taxi service is something we can look at in the future but right now rides cost more using taxis.

MART is looking to reduce the fixed bus route fare
\$1.25 reduced to \$1.00
\$0.60 reduced to \$0.50

All students including college students will ride fare free.

MART will also be revising the transfer policy in hopes of increasing intercity ridership.

RESOLUTION- Ken Troup of Bolton moved to approve the price increase for subscription service as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll call was done.

Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Ken Troup	yes
Richard Maki	yes

RESOLUTION- Ken Troup of Bolton moved to approve the fixed route price reduction and new transfer rules as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll call was done.

Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Ken Troup	yes
Richard Maki	yes

- **Items Not Reasonably Anticipated to be Discussed**

- **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.