

MART Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
Remotely
September 25, 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:

Melissa L'Ecuyer (MTS), Jennifer Bassett Glynn (Burse Norling, CPA), Bruce Norling, CPA

STAFF PRESENT:

Bruno Fisher, James Sluss, Scott Rich, Benilda Martinez, Louis Brown, Jessica Lashua, and Keary Connors.

- Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 10:32 a.m.
- General / Public Comments
- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – June 5, 2023

RESOLUTION- Richard Maki of Sterling moved to approve the minutes from June 5, 2023. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll call was done.

Mayor Michael Nicholson	yes
Ken Troup	yes
Richard Maki	yes

- Auditors Report FY2023
 - Audit Presentation

Jennifer Bassett Glynn from Bruce Norling, CPA informed the committee the audit had a clean opinion with no issues. The staff were very helpful, and everything went smoothly. They went over the Audit presentation, noting that operating revenue is higher than pre- Covid due to the brokerage. The brokerage has had a 37.5% increase

year over year. Capital grants are down by 45% and the net position is down. There were also no findings on the Federal Awards and internal controls. The RAN interest rate is up to 4% from FY2023 2.776%.

Richard Maki asked if there was a plan to reduce the \$19 million RAN.

Jennifer recommended that MART should try to reduce the RAN because interest rates are only going to rise.

James Sluss stated that MART has had active conversation on how to reduce the RAN, but it will take years to reduce. MART will be looking to bring system costs down in the second half of FY24 and work on a plan to reduce the RAN. Higher interest rates could cause issues with funding for services.

Richard Maki asked how we will make up for the CARES and ARPA funds once they are depleted.

James stated that in FY24 we will still have some funds left but we will need to reduce costs.

Richard Maki stated it looks like MART will be short \$6 million this year.

James stated that FY2024 operating costs are down, and MART has some reserved CARES funds. In FY25 MART will receive more state contract assistance.

- Audit Committee Recommendation

RESOLUTION- Richard Maki of Sterling moved to accept and recommend the audit to the MART Advisory Board and as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Roll call was done.

Mayor Michael Nicholson yes

Ken Troup yes

Richard Maki yes

- FY2024 Financial Projections

James informed the committee that in FY23 MART reviewed the security contract, janitorial services, and insurance services. MART is hoping to see \$1.5 million in savings with these 3 new contracts. MART has increased subscription service pricing in hopes of recovering some money. This program should be self-funded but is not.

- Status Update: Fare Changes, Student Ridership Program, Transfer Structure.
- Other Business
 - Items Not Reasonably Anticipated to be Discussed
- Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.