

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority
Minutes of the Finance/Audit Committee

April 7, 2016 at 2 PM
BRTA Intermodal Transportation Center
One Columbus Avenue, Pittsfield, MA 01201

MINUTES

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Finance/Audit Committee Members present:
Sandra Lamb, North Adams; Peter Gallant, Lanesborough; and Leonard Lipton, Pittsfield
Also present: Robert Malnati and Sarah Vallieres, BRTA staff

1. **Approval of Minutes for September 24, 2015 -VOTE**
Committee members reviewed the minutes of September's meeting. Ms. Lamb made the motion to accept the minutes, was seconded by Mr. Lipton, and approved by all.
2. **State Budget Update**
Mr. Malnati provided the same information as presented in the Administrator's Report for the Board Meeting. Governor Baker's budget last year was \$80M, but the House and Senate overrode the budget, increasing funding levels to \$82M for the RTAs. This year the Governor's budget is at \$80M. The RTA caucus is looking for a funding level of \$84.1M.
3. **FY 17 Budget**
Mr. Malnati explained that this is a very rough draft of the 2017 budget, as BRTA does not have all of the numbers. He went through each line item and explained the difference of \$40,718 in revenue will be balanced in the next draft. BRTA's budget is at \$80M and is dependent upon what happens to the Governor's budget.
Mr. Malnati discussed the advice he received from Jeannette Orsino, MARTA's Executive Director, regarding the Interest Expense line item. She said to fund at \$4.3M, rather than \$4.1M and with that extra \$200K, see what BRTA can do with the extra money; pilot new service on the street or later evening service. The Fixed Route Operator is providing scenarios to review.
4. **Old Business**
Mr. Malnati let the Finance Committee know that the Route 4 bus route will be changing to include the Springside neighborhood. He also made the group aware that he had met with Mayor Linda Tyler to discuss the BRTA. Mr. Malnati mentioned to the group that BRTA is looking at fuel pricing. Mr. Lipton asked for the summer season if there would be extra service to Tanglewood. Mr. Malnati explained the service issues the buses face at Tanglewood.
5. **New Business**
Mr. Malnati told the Finance Committee that Marianne Somes, the Lanesborough Disability Representative, had resigned. Williamstown is the next community to provide the Disability Representative.
Mr. Malnati met with Kristine Hazzard from the United Way and provided information about BRTA for their organization to disseminate. The BRTA will be installing one of the Bookhouses for Literacy at the ITC. This program is for children under the age of eight to leave a book, take a book promoting literacy.
6. **Next Meeting**
The next meeting will be May 19, 2016 at 3 PM, with the Board Meeting to follow.