

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority
Finance/Audit Committee
Executive Session

November 29, 2023

In Person

BRTA Boardroom, 2nd Floor, 1 Columbus Avenue, Pittsfield, MA

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Finance/Audit Committee Members present:

Sandra Lamb, North Adams; Sheila Irvin, Pittsfield, and Doug McNally, Windsor.

Also present: Robert Malnati and Sarah Vallieres, BRTA.

Discussion Administrator Contract Extension

R. Malnati asked the Finance Committee to enter Executive Session for the purpose of conducting strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel. D. McNally made the motion to move to Executive Session, was seconded by S. Irvin, and was approved by all. The Finance Committee meeting will adjourn from Executive Session. The next meeting will be determined after the new year.

Town	Move to Executive Session
North Adams	Yes
Pittsfield	Yes
Windsor	Yes

The Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 10:26 AM and went into Executive Session.

The Executive Session of the Finance Committee commenced at 10:31 AM.

R. Malnati stated that his Administrator contract ends at the end of March and is looking for an opportunity to extend this contract. In the past, the Massachusetts Association of Regional Transit Authorities provided a copy of all of the Administrator's salaries. This has not been done recently, but the Administrator's salaries are listed in the Open Government portion of the RTA's websites. Bob will compile this information and provide this information to this group. There was a discussion on the type of contract to which R. Malnati posed a 2-year contract, with a salary set for each year. He shared that he likes his job of helping people in our community and is not here for the money.

At 10:34 AM, D. McNally requested to stay in Executive Session and R. Malnati left the room.

There was a deliberation of what R. Malnati's salary should be in accordance with COLA. It was ascertained that Cost of Living increases were between 2.9%-4% dependent on many factors, with a concern of the cost of food, gas, etc. There was a discussion on the possibility of a bonus if the raise was lower. The group was concerned as there is a contract renewal for the union at the end of the year and R. Malnati's salary may have an impact on negotiations. R. Malnati's pension and that process was discussed. There was a question on if his salary makes a difference for his payout. S. Lamb stated she would investigate. The group would also research other administrator's salaries compared to his. It was stated that the Finance Committee is not talking about not renewing, just figuring out the salary percentage raise and the start of a transition/succession plan.

S. Irvin will mention the BRTA's Administrator Contract Extension at the BRTA Advisory Board, November 30, 2023 and the Finance Committee is currently reviewing this.

At 10:42 AM, D. McNally made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session, S. Lamb seconded the motion, and the adjournment was passed unanimously.