

Berkshire Regional Transit Authority  
Finance/Audit Committee

September 26, 2024

In Person

BRTA Boardroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 1 Columbus Avenue, Pittsfield, MA

**Berkshire Regional Transit Authority Finance/Audit Committee Members present:**

Doug McNally, Windsor and Sandy Lamb, North Adams

Also present: David Irwin, Adelson & Company, PC; Robert Malnati and Sarah Vallieres, BRTA

R. Malnati called the Finance/Audit Committee meeting to order at 2:08 PM.

1. **Approval of Minutes for May 23, 2024-VOTE**

The Finance Committee members reviewed the minutes of the May 23, 2024 meeting. D. McNally made the motion to accept the minutes, was seconded by S. Lamb, and was approved by all.

2. **FY 24 Draft Financial Statements Review-David Irwin, Adelson**

D. Irwin thoroughly reviewed the audit with the Finance Committee and stated that Adelson provided the BRTA an unmodified or clean opinion on the financial statements. Finances were accurate with nothing missing, no issues, no material deficiencies and agreed to the general ledger. He explained the details of the audit and thoroughly reviewed the financial statements with the Finance Committee. The finances were in conformance with the auditing principles, including government auditing standards and the BRTA complied with FTA and State funding requirements. Most of the notes are the same as last year but enhanced some of the disclosures for better understanding for the reader. There is a new note about Economic Dependence which discusses the reliance on Federal and State assistance to fund the BRTA. The 2 new GASB pronouncements has no impact on BRTA and the 2 future GASB pronouncements are already being met. The COVID note will be removed next year as it is no longer pertinent.

Discussion:

Members felt that the Advisory Board should be aware of the Economic Dependence Note to describe the dependence of the BRTA on Federal and State funding as a government subsidized agency and the customer fare is not enough. R. Malnati will share this with the Advisory Board.

3. **FY 24 Draft Financial Statements- VOTE**

S. Lamb made the motion to accept the draft Financial Statements to recommend to the Advisory Board as presented by D. Irwin, was seconded by D. McNally, and approved by all.

4. **FY 25 RTA Funding Update**

R. Malnati discussed the State funding including the \$90.5M; \$3.5M parity, and \$66M of Fair Share is divided 60/30/10. The State contract for BRTA is a total of \$4.6M; FY 24 was \$4.3M. MassDOT explained the funding timing this year as 75% of the \$90.5M as received, the remaining 25% and the \$3.5M share will come in February. 75% of the Fair Share will come in October and the remaining 25% will arrive in December. If awarded the Fare Free grant, totaling \$30M, BRTA will receive just under \$700K. There would be a contract for January-June, with no lag time for the July 1 contract through September. BRTA, PVTA, and FRTA applied for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of funding to MassDOT for the Connectivity grant. No funding has been received from the FY 24 grant funding, due to an amendment needed by the Legislature to extend the funding past the 6/30/24 deadline. MassDOT had the buses assessed and is now working on finding the contractor to perform the work for the bus renovations. This language was corrected for the FY 25 grant. BRTA is fine with cash flow and has access to Federal funds when it reopens. MassDOT is working with A&F on these issues.

Discussion:

Windsor is having fast chargers installed near the new bus stop. BRTA will be working with these communities on where bus stops will be.

**5. Pension Overview**

R. Malnati discussed the LPL Financial Pension Overview document. The pension fund is growing with a 5.2% return and is happy with the growth. The starting market value last year was \$916K, BRTA contributed \$250K into the plan, and there was \$64K of investment returns.

**6. Next Meeting**

January 23, 2025 at 3 PM

The Finance Committee meeting adjourned at 3:13 PM.

**Meeting Materials**

- **BRTA Finance/Audit Committee Agenda**
- **BRTA Finance/Audit Committee Packet**
- **BRTA FY 24 Financial Statements Package**
- **LPL Financial Pension Overview 9/15/23 - 9/16/24**

Town	(1) Minutes of 5/23/24	3) Draft Financial Statements
North Adams	Yes	Yes
Windsor	Yes	Yes