

Beaver Island Transportation Authority

Approved Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2025

12:00 pm

**In Attendance:**

BITA: Roberta Welke, Mike Green, Craig Peirano, Vic Van Deventer

BITA Absent: Kevin McDonough, Mary Cook

BIBCO: Tim McQueer, Bill McDonough, Jim Wojan, Pete LoDico

Others: Mark Engelsman

Quorum was determined and meeting called to order by the Chair (Welke) at 12:00 pm.

Motion by Van Deventer to approve December 10, 2024, meeting minutes. Seconded by Green. Motion carried.

**Additions to Agenda:**

- Announcement after Approval of Agenda.
- Closed session after Announcement to discuss proprietary information regarding Fares/Schedule/Negotiations/Property Agreements Committee and New Vessel Planning Committee items.

**Removed from Agenda:**

- Treasurer's Report
- Director's Report
- Correspondence
- Other pertinent business

**Approve Agenda:** Motion by Green to approve Agenda. Seconded by Peirano. Motion carried.

**Announcement:**

Welke announced Kevin McDonough has resigned from the BITA Board. St. James Township Board will be asked to post this vacancy.

**Closed Session:**

Motion by Welke to close this open meeting and go into a closed session at 12:02 pm. Seconded by Green. Motion carried.

Motion by Welke to open this meeting at 12:30 pm. Seconded by Peirano. Motion carried.

**Fares/Schedule/Negotiations/Property Agreements Committee:**

Welke stated, "For the record, there is great reluctance by the BITA Board members to approve this motion given our concern for Island residents' access to a convenient time of departure from the Island."

Motion by Peirano to rescind the BITA Board motion passed at the December 10, 2024, meeting regarding the 2025 season's yellow schedule leaving Charlevoix at 8:30 am and Beaver Island at 11:20 am. Seconded by Van Deventer. Motion carried.

Motion by Welke to approve the 2025 season schedule on the yellow days leaving Charlevoix at 10:30 am and Beaver Island at 1:20 pm. Seconded by Peirano. Motion carried.

**New Vessel Planning Committee:**

Motion by Van Deventer to place Peirano on the new vessel committee. Seconded by Green. Motion carried.

The Board has an interest in a review of a new vessel type which would use next generation materials and engines. Therefore, the following motion was called:

Motion by Welke to engage Synergist with a Memorandum of Agreement to perform six months of consulting services to enable BITA to enter into a future agreement with a qualified firm to design and build a next generation ferry. Seconded by Green. Motion carried.

**Public Comment: Bill McDonough**

Motion to adjourn by Green at 12:52 pm, seconded by Van Deventer. Motion carried.



Craig Peirano  
Secretary