

**MINUTES OF THE  
EAGLE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
August 9, 2023**

A meeting of the Eagle Valley Transportation Authority (“Authority”) Board of Directors (“Board”) was held on August 9, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. The meeting was held in person at the Avon Council Chambers located at 100 Mikaela Way, Town of Avon, Colorado, 81620, and on Zoom. Notice of the meeting was posted on August 4, 2023, and included agenda items, location and time, as well as the teleconference information, needed to participate in the public portion of the meeting. The Notice of Board of Directors Meeting dated August 4, 2023, and the certification of posting are attached hereto.

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**ATTENDANCE**

**Directors in Attendance:**

Director Amy Phillips, Mayor and Councilor, Town of Avon

Director Dave Eickholt, Beaver Creek Metro District

Director Jeanne McQueeney, Commissioner, Eagle County

Director Barry Davis, Councilor, Town of Vail

Director Earle Bidez, Mayor, Town of Minturn

Director Nick Sunday, Councilor, Town of Eagle.

Director Dana Veljacic, Member of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Red Cliff

**Directors Absent:**

All Directors were present for this meeting.

**Also in Attendance:**

Tanya Allen, Executive Director, EVTA

Ray Shei, Alternate Board, Beaver Creek Metro District

Larry Tenenholz, Acting ECO Transit Director

Jeff Wetzel, Operations Manager, ECO Transit

Greg Barret, Safety and Training Supervisor, ECO Transit

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Jessie Cooper, Fleet Asset Supervisor, ECO Transit

Sage Thornbrugh, Planning Manager, ECO Transit

Vanesa Duarte, Admin/Fiscal Tech, ECO Transit

Joanna Kerwin, Community Member, Town of Edwards

Zoe Goldstein, Journalist, Vail Daily

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**APPROVAL OF THE  
AGENDA**

Director Phillips presented the agenda. Director Eickholt motioned to approve the Agenda. Director Davis seconded this motion, which passed with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
AND FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS**

Director Phillips presented the Minutes dated July 12, 2023, for approval and asked if there were any questions or requests for corrections from other Directors. Hearing none, Director Davis motioned to approve the minutes and financial statements. Director Eickholt seconded this motion, which passed with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No member of the public had a comment at the time of this meeting.

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**AGENDA ITEMS**

**5. ECO Transit Quarterly and Winter Service Planning Updates**

Executive Director Allen introduced ECO Transit's Acting Director, Larry Tenenholz, who proceeded to give the Board an update on ECO Transit's Quarterly operations and Winter Service Planning.

Mr. Tenenholz highlighted riders' growing adoption of the mobile fare system. He shared route productivity numbers, but noted limitations with how this data was collected. Specifically, these figures did not include the 30% of riders who used mobile fares as we were not yet able to assign mobile fare ridership to specific routes.

Mr. Tenenholz highlighted recent service quality improvements, including fewer route cancellations during the

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summer season and measures being taken to address fleet availability and staffing problems.

Mr. Tenenholz noted an increase in revenue from Q2 2022 to 2023, with mobile fare revenue accounting for a significant portion of this increase.

Mr. Tenenholz shared that Mr. Thornbrugh, who served as a Planning Manager for ECO Transit, will be leaving his position to pursue new opportunities. He mentioned exciting updates on the planning front, such as the approval of a grant to enhance the Bus Barn at the Maintenance Service Center and the pending installation of new shelters in the Town of Eagle.

Mr. Tenenholz highlighted ECO Transit's exemplary safety record for the second quarter of 2023. There was only one preventable accident, a rate that exceeded top industry standards.

Regarding fleet maintenance, Mr. Tenenholz outlined continuing issues with vehicle condition and availability, particularly with respect to the Proterra electric fleet. On the positive side the maintenance team was completing more Preventative Maintenance (PM) inspections on time than in 2022.

Given the issues with electric vehicle performance, Director Davis asked Mr. Tenenholz for his opinion on the best buses to buy at this time. Mr. Tenenholz suggested that in his view hybrid buses were the most desirable option for this area at this time.

Director Eickholt asked for additional information regarding ECO's recruitment and advertising strategies, compensation packages, and hiring needs. Mr. Tenenholz summarized ECO's current recruitment approach, adding that they were currently searching for 8 full-time equivalent employees. He expressed concern about ECO's competitiveness in terms of compensation given recent increases at neighboring transit systems.

Director Bidez asked if ECO staff could explain the significant difference in farebox revenue between 2022 and 2023. Mr. Tenenholz did not see a clear explanation in terms of strategy or service. Ms. Herr suggested the addition of the mobile fare

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option was attracting some new riders to the system and accounted for some of the increase in mobile fare revenue. She added that this initiative has also greatly benefited youth and senior riders by providing them with an easier option to obtain an annual pass and use the transit system more frequently.

Director Bidez asked for additional details regarding the ongoing service issues with the Proterra buses. Mr. Cooper said that while some of the parts they had been waiting on had arrived, new issues appeared after those parts were installed. He added that Proterra reps were expected to be on-site the following week to assist with these new issues.

## **6. Winter Service Planning**

Mr. Tenenholz acknowledged the passion of the ECO team for providing excellent service to the Eagle County community and highlighted planned winter service enhancements. These included increasing the AM and PM services on the Highway 6 routes, adding an extra express trip during the morning rush hour, and extending the night hours from 12:05am to 1:05am.

Director Phillips asked if ECO had sufficient housing for all planned winter hires. Mr. Wetzel said that ECO was in a good position but was seeking an additional RV spot.

Director McQueeney asked if any amendment was required in the current budget to accommodate the highlighted enhancements. Director Allen said that the enhancements mentioned to this point were all within the existing ECO budget. Additional service enhancements under consideration would require funding from EVTA. These included accelerating the implementation of the future fare-free zone by adding frequency to the Vail/Beaver Creek Express and operating it fare-free with assistance from an outside contractor and adding additional trips where necessary to reduce overcrowding on the Highway 6, again possibly using contracted vehicles and staff. She asked for the Board's initial feedback and said she would bring additional information on costs and timelines to the next meeting.

## **6. 2023 Amended Budget Public Hearing and Approval**

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Executive Director Allen presented recommendations regarding amendments to the 2023 EVTA Budget. No changes to proposed revenue were included. On the expense side, key amendments included the addition of line items for salary and benefits for up to 10 employees and costs for technology equipment and services. In addition, there were new line items for enhanced Winter service, based on the contract proposal under discussion, and an allocation for the possible lease or purchase of employee housing should any desirable opportunities become available as the winter season approached. She noted that budgeting these items made these funds available, but any decision to lease or purchase property remained subject to Board discussion and approval.

### **6.1 Public Comment**

No public member had a comment regarding this matter.

### **6.2 Approval of Resolution 2023-17 to Amend the 2023 EVTA Budget**

Director Davis motioned to approve Resolution 2023-17 to Amend the 2023 Budget. Director Eickholt seconded this motion, which passed with a unanimous 7-0 vote.

**NOTE: Following the vote, Red Cliff representative Director Veljacic had to leave the meeting. Six Directors remained, maintaining a quorum.**

## **7. FAMILI Leave Act Opt-Out**

### **7.1 Public Comment**

No public member had a comment regarding this matter.

### **7.2 Approval of Resolution 2023-18 A Resolution Declining Participation in the FAMILI Leave Program**

Director Davis motioned to approve Resolution 2023-18 A Resolution Declining Participation in the FAMILI Leave Program. Director Eickholt seconded this motion, which passed with a unanimous 6-0 vote.

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## **8. Financial Policies – Revised Procurement and Signature Policies**

Executive Director Allen presented proposed changes to the existing Procurement Policy. Changes included clearer differentiation between purchasing mechanisms and contract signature authority and changes to specific purchasing levels.

### **8.1 Approval of Resolution 2023-19 A Resolution Adopting a Procurement Policy**

Director Davis motioned to approve Resolution 2023-19 A Resolution Adopting a Procurement Policy. Director Eickholt seconded this motion, which passed with a unanimous 6-0 vote.

### **8.2 Approval of Resolution 2023-20 A Resolution Adopting a Signature Policy**

Director Davis motioned to approve Resolution 2023-20 A Resolution Adopting a Signature Policy. Director Eickholt seconded this motion, which passed with a unanimous 6-0 vote.

## **9. Communications Update**

Mr. Ray mentioned that he has been preparing a mid-year update from the EVTA board to present at various jurisdiction meetings. He also said that Executive Director Allen has already attended a few meetings, including the Town of Vail and Eagle County Commissioners. More meetings are scheduled for August and September.

## **10. Executive Director's Updates/Future Topics**

Executive Director Allen presented June sales tax collections, which totaled \$861,752, along with updates on EVTA hiring plans, the naming and branding work, and budget conversations with Eagle County.

Executive Director Allen proposed that the Board begin future meetings at 12:00pm (vs. 12:30pm) to allow for extra discussion time on important items that were likely to come up during the next few months. Board members agreed with this time change.

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**Public Comment:** Joanna Kerwin expressed appreciation to the Board for serving. She noted the tremendous amount of work before the Board and suggested scheduling an additional work session before October to better show progress and address outstanding public commitments.

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**NEXT MEETING**

September 13, 2022

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**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 PM

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