

TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

March 10, 2026

The Charlevoix County Transportation Authority met in person on the above date. Present were Authority members Michael Cunningham, Scott Hankins, and Pat Klooster. Also, present were Joe Kroll, Transit Director; Becki King, Fiscal Officer; Julia Drost, County Clerk; and Kim Garver, Chief Deputy Clerk.

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

Oration of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Motioned by Klooster and seconded by Cunningham to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2026, meeting, as presented. Motion carried. Voice Vote 3.0.

Public Comment:

None.

Manager's Report

Gordie Russell, Manager, was not present.

Transportation Coordinator's Report

Joe Kroll, Transportation Coordinator, is still waiting for fuel bids and plans to work on separating the fuel lines prior to opening day.

New Business

Becki King, Fiscal Officer, gave a quick summary of the 2025 completed audit. Important items to note; authority documents still list the Ferry as our asset, full net position at end of 2025 is \$771,000; \$486,000 in unrestricted funds for general operations, and a few corrected journal entries.

Joe Kroll, Transportation Coordinator, recommends keeping rates at \$5.00/car, \$1.00/bike, and free/walkers. Motioned by Hankins and seconded by Cunningham to maintain current rates of \$5.00/car, \$1.00/bike, and free/walkers for the 2026 season. Motion carried. Roll Call Vote 3.0.

Motioned by Hankins and seconded by Klooster to tentatively set April 15, 2026, as our opening date, with the remaining days in April fare free. Motion carried. Roll Call Vote 3.0.

Joe Kroll, Transportation Coordinator, provided the FY2027 budget for review, including the FY 2027 Resolution of Intent. MDOT has already approved and signed off on it. We must set a public hearing and post the public notice for 30 days, prior to approving. Motioned by Hankins and seconded by Klooster to approve the FY 2027 Resolution of Intent for the 2027 budget with estimated expenses in the amount of \$496,117 and to set the public hearing for the next scheduled meeting on April 14, 2026. Motion carried. Roll Call Vote 3.0.

Old Business:

Motioned by Hankins and seconded by Klooster to set new operating hours for the 2026 season;

April 15, 2026, thru May 15, 2026, from 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

May 16, 2026, thru September 15, 2026, from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

September 16, 2026, thru close from 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Motion carried. Voice Vote 3.0.

Joe Kroll, Transportation Coordinator, is still researching details of the point-of-sale system; will continue to utilize the books.

The Board considered a prior request to fund MERS from the Transportation Coordinator's yearly stipend, approximately \$5,550. Consensus is to keep the stipend amount autonomous from Transit. Motioned by Hankins and seconded by Cunningham to give the Transportation Coordinator a 3% cost-of-living increase effective immediately, same as other county and Ferry employees received on October 1, 2025. Motion carried. Roll Call Vote 3.0.

Approval of monthly bills

Motioned by Klooster and seconded by Cunningham to approve the February 2026 monthly bills in the amount of \$742.65. Motion carried. Roll Call Vote 3.0.

Public Comment:

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Submitted by: Kim Garver, Chief Deputy Clerk