

---

**Transportation Authority of Calhoun County**

July 23, 2024

Regular Meeting - 9:00 AM

---

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

**2) ROLL CALL**

**Present: Tom Tarkiewicz, Erick Stewart, Linda Morrison, Vivian Davis, Amy Evans and Dr. Paul Watson**

**Absent: Jenasia Morris**

**3) APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION** by Tom Tarkiewicz, supported by Linda Morrison, to approve the agenda as presented. On a voice vote: **Motion carried.**

**4) APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the June 4, 2024 will be presented at the August 13 meeting.

**MOTION** by Tom Tarkiewicz, supported Amy Evans, to approve the June 25, 2024 and July 9, 2024 meeting minutes. On a voice vote: **Motion carried.**

**5) PUBLIC COMMENT**

Doug Ferrell stated that there is an upcoming deadline for the ballot language for the November election and that they will need to present the minutes, a resolution, and the ballot language in Word to Jill Stout at the County.

**6) CONSENT AGENDA**

Nothing was pulled from the consent agenda.

**7) PRESENTATION AND RECOGNITIONS**

There was a presentation to the Battle Creek Rotary club discussing the transportation options currently in the county and the issues that are being faced, as well as what the TACC Board is working towards. Tom stated that on the One Drive there was a schedule of presentations for future presentations to be scheduled.

Erick stated that they are working towards getting a table at the County Fair in August. He would like to get the presentations to the LAC board before their September meeting.

Peter Varga stated that he worked more on the Federal/legislative level. Peter stated that he will be working together with Clark to consult for the board. Peter said that he will only step in during the meetings if asked to, and that they do not intend to attend every meeting.

Tom commented that he is encouraged by the positive tactical experience and expertise.

Peter advised the board to be purposeful with the promises and mission they provide to the public of the board. Peter further commented on the success of the board being dependent on the delivered promises that are made to the public.

Erick will have tactical workshops and would like to have the attendance of Clark or Peter to provide feedback.

Peter advised he has not had a contract yet and just received access of the documents on the One Drive to review and will ask questions through staff.

Erick offered direct line of communication through himself or Tom.

Amy representing Springfield stated One Drive has missing documents and advises that the One Drive should be updated to most current before review to prevent confusion by review.

Tom suggested sending out packets to Board as well as Chuck, Peter, Doug, Battle Creek staff, and Clark to keep the most updated and clear communication.

Peter commented on a brief meeting with Mallory Avis where they discussed the best way to move forward. Stating that when the TACC board requests documents it should be stated by the TACC board and not the individual to keep consistent and provide who is utilizing the documents and for what purpose.

Erick confirmed the advice of Peter to have clear and defined roles and responsibilities. Stating the clarifying document should also be on the One drive.

## **8) Public Hearings**

### **9) Unfinished business**

Working on finishing the insurance paperwork.

Erick stated that he found a template that he would like to use for the conflict of interest form and will bring it to a future board meeting.

## **10)New Business**

### **a. Approval of Ballot Language**

This is the same ballot language that has been previously looked at and must be filed by August 13, 2024. The board language in front of the board has been vetted by the County attorney. Erick stated that it is a palatable ask. The ballot language needs to have the highlight removed on the amount and the words final draft removed. Tom stated that he will take everything to the County.

The ballot language is as follows:

#### **2024 TACC Ballot Language**

**Shall the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County (TACC) levy a new tax for public transportation purposes of up to 2.66 mills (\$2.66 per \$1,000 of taxable value on all property) for a period of five (5) years 2024 through 2028, inclusive, to provide funds for all public transportation authority purposes permitted by law, including all capital and operating expenses necessary to provide fixed route, on-demand and other related transit services for the general public including seniors, veterans, persons with disabilities, and non-drivers within the TACC boundary or beyond, with disbursements to such other or fewer local units of government as required or determined by the TACC Board. If approved and levied, the requested millage would provide estimated revenues to the Transit Authority of \$5,023,197 when first levied in 2024.**

**THE FOLLOWING IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.**

**Expanded public transportation services may include, but not be limited to:**

- Cities of Albion and Springfield: New and enhanced public transit opportunities;**
- Cities of Battle Creek and Marshall: Improved and increased public transit services and routes;**
- A fleet of at least 12 on-demand vehicles, mobile phone app, electronic fare payment, enhanced technology and same-day service; and**
- Services designed with the customer in mind so that they are easy to understand and use, affordable, safe, comfortable, and convenient.**

**If approved and levied, this millage will provide more transportation options to get employees to jobs, patients to healthcare, students to education, and**

people to recreation and entertainment. Expanded transit opportunities will be implemented within the TACC boundary which currently includes the cities of Albion, Battle Creek, Marshall, and Springfield. Services may be expanded based on partnerships and contracts with entities outside the TACC boundary.

--- RESOLUTION ---

At the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County, held in the Chambers of Marshall City Hall, located at 323 West Michigan Avenue, Marshall, Michigan 49068, on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 with Chair Erick Stewart presiding, the following action was taken:

RESOLVED that the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County does hereby approve the proposed language to place a 2.66 mill Transportation Millage on the ballot for a vote of the people at the November 5, 2024 election, or subsequent election and authorizes the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County Board to take all steps required by law to accomplish the same.

Resolution 001-2024

“Moved by Tom Tarkiewicz, second by Paul Watson to approve the proposed language to place a 2.66 mill Transportation Millage on the ballot for a vote of the people cities of Albion, Battle Creek, Marshall, and Springfield at the November 5, 2024 election, or subsequent election, and authorizes the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County Board to take all steps required by law to accomplish the same.”

YES – Stewart, Tarkiewicz, Morrison, Davis, ██████, Watson, Evans

NO – 0

ABSENT - Morris

Motion CARRIED

**b. LAC By-laws Adoption**

There needs to be consistency in the grammar, including capitalization in the by-laws. There were questions on the number of board members and the composition of the LAC. It was stated that the requirements for the composition of the board were pulled from state law and that it currently meets the requirements. The word amended should be removed from the document. The LAC has adopted the document as it stands. The secretary of the LAC is not a voting member of the council.

**Motion** by Linda Morrison, supported by Vivian Davis to approve the LAC By Laws as submitted. On a voice vote: **Motion carried.**

### **c. Presentation by BluFish**

Ryan Traver of BluFish Branding gave a presentation. He stated that the logo and name had been created based on input. He presented the main logo, as well as secondary logos for each of the types of transit. There was questioning on the colors for the secondary logos. The graphics and coloring are different than others that are out there, so that it will stand out to those who view it based on research. Merchandise concepts, including various styles of shirts and hats, were presented for the staff. There was a question on whether staff would be required to purchase or would it be purchased for them, which would be determined at a later date. It was stated that the orange for employees brings an element of safety, and it was suggested to have grey over white for shirts.

Traver presented options on Mission statements for the organization. The consensus of the board was that they like "Improving lives in Calhoun County, one ride at a time, by providing equal access to transportation... for all." The takeaways from the 1-on-1 was that there is not a sense of county wide community and that the TACC must offer specific information on how services would improve for each area. He stated that there will need to be individualized information and campaigns for each community, and that it needs to be shown how public transportation impacts everyone. He would like stories from the communities to be used during the campaign, and that a small community approach will be needed to start with.

It was stated that there needs to be a placeholder website that will house the minutes and agendas of the board and information on the Authority. It was suggested to own TACC and RideCalhoun on both the .gov and .com domains to eliminate the chances of a copycat site.

#### **11)Public Comment**

Doug Ferrell said the County Parks millage renewal is back on the ballot for August 6th and with a relatively small millage renewal. A portion goes to the municipalities and a portion to the county parks.

#### **12)Board Comment**

#### **13)Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 am.

We, the undersigned, Secretary and Chairperson to the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County at its regular meeting held on July 23, 2024, relative to adoption of the resolution there set forth; that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and

in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be made available as required by said Act.

Dated: July 23, 2024



---

Vivian Davis Secretary to the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County



---

Erick Stewart Chairperson to the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County

TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF CALHOUN COUNTY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

--- RESOLUTION ---

At the regular Board of Directors meeting of the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County, held in the Chambers of Marshall City Hall, located at 323 West Michigan Avenue, Marshall, Michigan 49068, on Tuesday, July 23, 2024 with Chair Erick Stewart presiding, the following action was taken:

RESOLVED that the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County does hereby approve the proposed language to place a 2.66 mill Transportation Millage on the ballot for a vote of the people at the November 5, 2024 election, or subsequent election and authorizes the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County Board to take all steps required by law to accomplish the same.

Resolution 001-2024

“Moved by Tom Tarkiewicz, second by Dr. Paul Watson to approve the proposed language to place a 2.66 mill Transportation Millage on the ballot for a vote of the people at the November 5, 2024 election, or subsequent election, and authorizes the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County Board to take all steps required by law to accomplish the same.”

YES – Stewart, Tarkiewicz, Morrison, Davis, ~~Morris~~, Watson, Evans

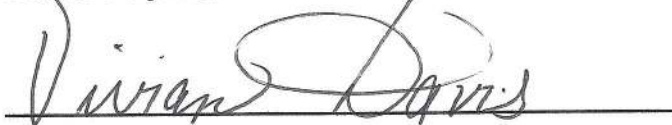
NO – 0

ABSENT - Morris

Motion CARRIED

We, the undersigned, Secretary and Chairperson to the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County at its regular meeting held on July 23, 2024, relative to adoption of the resolution there set forth; that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, as amended, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be made available as required by said Act.

Dated: July 23, 2024



Vivian Davis

Secretary to the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County



Erick Stewart

Chairperson to the Transportation Authority of Calhoun County