PVTA
Pioneer
Valley
Transit
Authority

Administrative Headquarters Old North Main St. Firehouse 2808 Main Street

2808 Main Street Springfield, MA 01107

(413) 732-6248

MINUTES OF PVTA'S ADVISORY BOARD MEETING May 19, 2021

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Advisory Board Meeting of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority was held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at 12:00 P.M. and was held remotely in accordance with the Governor's State of Emergency Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, Section 20, relieving from the requirement of section 20 of chapter 30A that it conduct its meetings in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, permitting a public body to allow remote participation by all members.

Present (56.37 votes) Not Present (5.63 votes)

Agawam Michael Squindo
Amherst Douglas Slaughter
Belchertown Brian O'Leary
Chicopee Steve Huntley
East Longmeadow Alicia Smith
Easthampton Brendan Rogers

Granby Glen Sexton

Hadley David Moskin
Hampden Becky Moriarty
Holyoke Aaron Vega

Leverett Peter D'Errico

Longmeadow Mark Gold

Ludlow Tony Goncalves

Northampton Mayor David Narkewicz

Palmer Benjamin Hood
Pelham David Shanabrook
South Hadley Michael Sullivan
Springfield Timothy Sheehan
Sunderland Geoff Kravitz
Ware John Carroll

West Springfield Mayor William Reichelt

Westfield Peter Miller
Wilbraham Paula Dubord
Williamsburg J.M. Sorrell

ADA Representative Vacant Rider Representative Vacant

A quorum of 31.05 vote being present, Chairman of the Advisory Board, Mayor David Narkewicz, called the remote meeting of PVTA's Advisory Board to order at 12:01 PM; majority vote of 56.37 present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Mayor Narkewicz asked if any members of the public would like to make a public comment. No public comments were made.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Mayor Narkewicz asked for a motion from the Advisory Board to approve the meeting minutes from the March 24, 2021 Regular Advisory Board Meeting and the April 20, 2021 Special Advisory Board Meeting.

<u>Motion</u>: Moved and seconded (O'Leary/Huntley) to approve the meeting minutes from the March 24, 2021 Regular Advisory Board Meeting and the April 20, 2021 Special Advisory Board Meeting.

Chairman Mayor Narkewicz asked if the Board had any discussion. Hearing none; asked for a roll call vote to approve the minutes.

e to approve the minutes.			
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstained</u>
Agawam	Michael Squindo		
Amherst	Douglas Slaughter		
Belchertown	Brian O'Leary		
Chicopee Steve Huntley			
East Longmeadow			
Fasthampton			

Easthampton	
Granby	
Hadley	David Moskin
Hampden	Becky Moriarty

Holyoke Leverett

Longmeadow Mark Gold

Ludlow

Northampton Mayor David Narkewicz

Aaron Vega

Palmer Benjamin Hood
Pelham David Shanabrook
South Hadley Michael Sullivan
Springfield Timothy Sheehan
Sunderland Geoff Kravitz
Ware John Carroll

West Springfield

Westfield Peter Miller Wilbraham Paula Dubord

Williamsburg

ADA Representative Rider Representative

Motion passed by a vote of 49.06/0. 17-0.

4. REPORT OF THE FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

Doug Slaughter, Chairman of the Finance & Audit Committee reported the following:

The Finance & Audit Committee had a scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 18th but a quorum was not present. The committee called an emergency meeting for Wednesday, May 19th but was unsuccessful in attaining a quorum and the committee met informally to review PVTA's FY22 Budget. Chief Financial Officer, Lisa Seymour, reported to the Finance & Audit Committee that there are only a few slight changes from the budget that was presented prior; an increase an Unemployment Insurance, an increase in Shuttle Service (Palmer/Ware), and a decrease in Paratransit Expenses. These expenses offset each other. The committee would like to make an informal recommendation to the Board to approve PVTA's FY22 Budget as presented in the Board Packet at \$53,188,029.

5. APPROVAL OF PVTA'S FY22 BUDGET

Doug Slaughter made the motion approve PVTA's FY22 Budget of \$53,188,029 as presented in the Board Packet.

<u>Motion</u>: Moved and seconded (Slaughter/O'Leary) to approve PVTA's FY22 Budget of \$53,188,029 as presented in the Board Packet.

Chairman Mayor Narkewicz asked if the Board had any discussion. Hearing none; asked for a roll call vote to approve PVTA's FY22 Budget.

No

Abstained

	105
Agawam	Michael Squindo
Amherst	Douglas Slaughter
Belchertown	Brian O'Leary
Chicopee	Steve Huntley

Yes

East Longmeadow

Easthampton Brendan Rogers

Granby

Hadley David Moskin
Hampden Becky Moriarty
Holyoke Aaron Vega

Leverett

Longmeadow Mark Gold

Ludlow

Northampton Mayor David Narkewicz

Palmer Benjamin Hood
Pelham David Shanabrook
South Hadley Michael Sullivan
Springfield Timothy Sheehan
Sunderland Geoff Kravitz
Ware John Carroll

West Springfield Mayor William Reichelt

Westfield Peter Miller Wilbraham Paula Dubord ADA Representative Rider Representative

Motion passed by a vote of 54.92/0. 20-0.

6. FARE IMPACT & EQUITY REPORT

Amelia Morrissey from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission gave a presentation on the Fare Impact & Equity Report.

PVTA is proposing the following fare modifications:

- Make Senior Fare-Free Tuesdays permanent
- Pilot monthly fare capping at \$54 using PVTA's mobile fare payment app: MassDOT BusPlus
- Fare Structure for Amherst/Worcester Intercity Route

Fare Equity Analysis Report shows:

- A fare change would not have a discriminatory impact based on race, color, or national origin.
- Low-income populations would not bear disproportionate burdens (PVTA defines a disparate impact or disproportionate burden as a situation in which a fare change would adversely impact minority and low-income riders by 1.2 times (more than 20%) the impact on non-minority and non-low-income riders).

This presentation has been filed with the minutes of this meeting.

7. <u>APPROVAL TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PROPOSED FARE MODIFICATIONS – AS PRESENTED IN THE FARE IMPACT & EQUITY REPORT</u>

Chairman Mayor Narkewicz asked for a motion from the Advisory Board to accept the Fare Impact & Equity Report and approve holding public hearings on the proposed fare modifications presented in the Fare Impact & Equity Report:

- Make Senior Fare-Free Tuesdays permanent
- Pilot monthly fare capping at \$54 using PVTA's mobile fare payment app: MassDOT BusPlus
- Fare Structure for Amherst/Worcester Intercity Route

<u>Motion</u>: Moved and seconded (O'Leary/Sullivan) to accept the Fare Impact & Equity Report and approve holding public hearings on the proposed fare modifications presented in the Fare Impact & Equity Report.

Chairman Mayor Narkewicz asked if the Board had any discussion. Hearing none; asked for a roll call vote to accept the Fare Impact & Equity Report and approve holding public hearings on the proposed fare modifications presented in the Fare Impact & Equity Report.

Agawam Yes No Abstained
Michael Squindo

Agawam Michael Squindo
Amherst Douglas Slaughter
Belchertown Brian O'Leary

Chicopee

East Longmeadow Alicia Smith
Easthampton Brendan Rogers

Granby

Hadley David Moskin
Hampden Becky Moriarty
Holyoke Aaron Vega

Leverett

Longmeadow Mark Gold

Ludlow

Northampton Mayor David Narkewicz

Palmer Benjamin Hood
Pelham David Shanabrook
South Hadley Michael Sullivan
Springfield Timothy Sheehan
Sunderland Geoff Kravitz
Ware John Carroll

Ware John Carroll

West Springfield Mayor William Reichelt Westfield Peter Miller

Wilbraham Paula Dubord Williamsburg J.M. Sorrell

ADA Representative Rider Representative

Motion passed by a vote of 51.85/0. 20-0.

8. REPORT OF THE ROUTE SUB-COMMITTEE

Brian O'Leary, Chairman of the Route Committee, reported the following:

The Route Committee voted to approve meeting minutes from the January 15, 2021 meeting. The Committee also voted to recommend approval of changes to Ware-Palmer Shuttle and implementation of Quaboag microtransit project. The route is funded primarily from PVTA's operating as well as some grant funding to support microtransit along the Ware-Palmer route. This route also connects with and aligns to the proposed Amherst-Worcester route.

The Committee voted to approve implementation of the Northampton-Holyoke-Springfield Express Pilot Route. This route is funded through a MassDOT Discretionary Grant of \$487,000.00. Committee members indicated that they heard from community members that they were excited about this service addition as it can be challenging to get from Northampton to Springfield in a time efficient manner. This route is estimated to bring in \$500,000.00 in annual revenue from fares.

The Committee voted to approve implementation of the PVTA & Quaboag Connector's Amherst-Worcester Intercity Pilot Route, with the caveat that the route include a stop at the Belchertown Common.

Chairman Mayor Narkewicz asked for a motion from the Advisory Board to approve the report of the Route Committee.

Motion: Moved and seconded (Miller/Sorrell) to accept the report of the Route Committee.

Chairman Mayor Narkewicz asked if the Board had any discussion. Hearing none; asked for a roll call vote to accept the report of the Route Committee.

Yes No Abstained

Agawam Michael Squindo Amherst Douglas Slaughter

Belchertown

Chicopee Steve Huntley

East Longmeadow

Easthampton Brendan Rogers

Granby

Hadley David Moskin
Hampden Becky Moriarty
Holyoke Aaron Vega

Leverett

Longmeadow Mark Gold

Ludlow

Northampton Mayor David Narkewicz

Palmer Benjamin Hood
Pelham David Shanabrook
South Hadley Michael Sullivan
Springfield Timothy Sheehan

Sunderland

Ware John Carroll

West Springfield Mayor William Reichelt

Westfield Peter Miller
Wilbraham Paula Dubord
Williamsburg J.M. Sorrell

ADA Representative Rider Representative

Motion passed by a vote of 52.10/0. 18-0.

9. <u>APPROVAL OF CHANGES TO WARE-PALMER SHUTTLE & QUABOAG</u> MICROTRANSIT SERVICE

Paul Burns, Director of Transit Operations stated the following:

PVTA will provide circulator service in Palmer. The Quaboag Connector will provide circulator service in Ware. In addition, Quaboag is proposing the addition of a Belchertown-Ware Shuttle that will provide additional service to the town of Ware.

The proposed changes to the Ware-Palmer Shuttle provide the following:

- Trips to Springfield Union Station change to a morning and a midday trip.
- Increases the number of round trips (from 1 trip to 2 trips) to the Eastfield Mall. A morning and an afternoon trip will be provided. Both trips will connect with the B7 Service.
- Provides 4 trips (instead of 3 trips) to Three Rivers. All 4 trips will start at the Palmer Big Y, follow Park Street to the Dollar General, return via South Main Street and continue to Three Rivers and Bondsville along the current route.
- Adds service to Bondsville. We propose resuming service to Bondsville with 4 trips to Bondsville daily.

- Increases the number of round trips (from 4 trips to 7 trips) between the Palmer Big Y and Ware Walmart.
- Increases the number of round trips (from 4 trips to 9 trips) between the Ware Walmart and Ware Center.
- The proposed Belchertown Spencer Shuttle provides as much service in Ware as the circulator but provides more comprehensive service within the community.
- Still provides 5-daily trips in Ware.
- Provides same-day microtransit service for connections to the fixed route as well as same day service for certain on-demand trips.

Chairman Mayor Narkewicz asked for a motion from the Advisory Board to approve the changes to the Ware-Palmer Shuttle & Quaboag Microtransit Service.

<u>Motion</u>: Moved and seconded (O'Leary/Sorrell) to approve the changes to the Ware-Palmer Shuttle & Quaboag Microtransit Service.

Chairman Mayor Narkewicz asked if the Board had any discussion. Hearing none; asked for a roll call vote to approve the changes to the Ware-Palmer Shuttle & Quaboag Microtransit Service.

No

Abstained

	<u>res</u>	
Agawam	Michael Squindo	
Amherst	Douglas Slaughter	
Belchertown	Brian O'Leary	
Chicopee	Steve Huntley	

East Longmeadow Alicia Smith

Easthampton Brendan Rogers

Granby

Hadley David Moskin
Hampden Becky Moriarty
Holyoke Aaron Vega

Leverett

Longmeadow Mark Gold

Ludlow

Northampton Mayor David Narkewicz

Palmer Benjamin Hood
Pelham David Shanabrook
South Hadley Michael Sullivan
Springfield Timothy Sheehan

Sunderland

Ware John Carroll

West Springfield Mayor William Reichelt

Westfield Peter Miller
Wilbraham Paula Dubord
Williamsburg J.M. Sorrell

ADA Representative Rider Representative

Motion passed by a vote of 53.44/0. 19-0 with 1 abstention.

10. <u>APPROVAL OF NEW EXPRESS PILOT ROUTE: NORTHAMPTON – HOLYOKE - SPRINGFIELD</u>

Paul Burns, Director of Transit Operations stated the following:

The Northampton–Holyoke–Springfield Express pilot route is funded through a MassDOT Discretionary Grant program.

This proposed pilot route will:

- Improve travel time between PVTA's northern and southern systems
- Provide faster, more direct service along I-91 to improve accessibility and travel range for riders
- Service between:
 - o Northampton and Holyoke will improve from 48 minutes to 20 minutes
 - Northampton and Union Station will improve from 1-hour with transfer to 35-minutes with no transfer
 - Service between the Holyoke Mall and Union Station will remain at 15 minutes, replacing P20E service
- Pilot express service stops at the Northampton Academy of Music, Holyoke Mall and Springfield Union Station
- Operate on weekdays and Saturdays
- Have timed connections to FRTA, Amtrak, CT Rail, and other PVTA routes
- Tentative start date June 27, 2021
- MassDOT FY21 discretionary contract to end June 30, 2022
 - o Contract award \$487,000

Chairman Mayor Narkewicz asked for a motion from the Advisory Board to approve the new pilot express route: Northampton-Holyoke-Springfield.

<u>Motion</u>: Moved and seconded (Sorrell/O'Leary) to approve the new pilot express route: Northampton-Holyoke-Springfield.

Chairman Mayor Narkewicz asked if the Board had any discussion. Hearing none; asked for a roll call vote to approve the new pilot express route: Northampton-Holyoke-Springfield.

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		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	Abstained		
	Agawam	Michael Squindo				
	Amherst	Douglas Slaughter				
	Belchertown	Brian O'Leary				
	Chicopee	Steve Huntley				
	East Longmeadow			Alicia Smith		
	Easthampton	Brendan Rogers				
	Granby					
	Hadley	David Moskin				
	Hampden	Becky Moriarty				
	Holyoke	Aaron Vega				
	Leverett					
	Longmeadow	Mark Gold				
	Ludlow					
	Northampton	Mayor David Narkewicz				
	Palmer	Benjamin Hood				
	Pelham	David Shanabrook				

South Hadley Michael Sullivan
Springfield Timothy Sheehan
Sunderland Geoff Kravitz
Ware John Carroll

West Springfield Mayor William Reichelt

Westfield Peter Miller
Wilbraham Paula Dubord
Williamsburg J.M. Sorrell

ADA Representative Rider Representative

Motion passed by a vote of 54.92/0. 20-0 with 1 abstention.

11. <u>APPROVAL OF PVTA & QUABOAG CONNECTOR'S AMHERST-WORCESTER</u> INTERCITY PILOT ROUTE AND FARE STRUCTURE

Paul Burns, Director of Transit Operations stated the following on the Amherst-Worcester Intercity Pilot route:

- Funded by Section 5311(f) Intercity Bus Program: federal funds competitively distributed by MassDOT
- The national objectives for the Intercity Bus Program are to support the connection between rural areas and the larger regional or national system of intercity bus service, helping to meet the intercity travel needs of residents of rural areas
- The Amherst-Worcester (Rt. 9 Local) route was identified as a service gap and recommended in MassDOT's 2015 Regional Bus Network Assessment and Quaboag Connector Needs

The Grant specifies that the Amherst-Worcester Intercity Route:

- Fill service gaps along Route 9 between Ware and Worcester using an intercity service model
- Provide connections from rural towns to urban centers in Worcester and the Pioneer Valley
- Provides stops in the following communities to connect with urban center; Amherst, Belchertown, Ware, West Brookfield, and Leicester
- Partnership between PVTA and the Quaboag Connector to operate the pilot service connecting Amherst and Worcester
- Intermediate stops at Amherst Center, Belchertown, Ware, West Brookfield, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Spencer, Leicester

The proposed pilot route:

- 49-mile route segment operating primarily along MA Route 9 corridor
- 1 hour and 45 minutes travel time
- 3-daily round trips on weekdays, Saturday, and Sunday
- Timed connections with MBTA commuter rail trains to/from Boston
- Distance-based fares ranging from \$1.50 within PVTA's service area and \$3.50 to \$9.00 outside PVTA's service area (fare structure included in Board Packet)
- Tentative start date July 12, 2021

Chairman Mayor Narkewicz asked for a motion from the Advisory Board to approve PVTA & Quaboag Connector's Amherst-Worcester Intercity pilot route and fare structure.

<u>Motion</u>: Moved and seconded (O'Leary/Squindo) to approve PVTA & Quaboag Connector's Amherst-Worcester Intercity pilot route and fare structure.

Chairman Mayor Narkewicz asked if the Board had any discussion. Hearing none; asked for a roll call vote to approve PVTA & Quaboag Connector's Amherst-Worcester Intercity pilot route and fare structure.

Yes No Abstained

Agawam Michael Squindo
Amherst Douglas Slaughter
Belchertown Brian O'Leary
Chicopee Steve Huntley

East Longmeadow Alicia Smith

Easthampton Brendan Rogers

Granby

Hadley David Moskin
Hampden Becky Moriarty
Holyoke Aaron Vega

Leverett

Longmeadow Mark Gold

Ludlow

Northampton Mayor David Narkewicz

Palmer Benjamin Hood
Pelham David Shanabrook
South Hadley Michael Sullivan
Springfield Timothy Sheehan

Sunderland

Ware John Carroll

West Springfield Mayor William Reichelt

Westfield Peter Miller
Wilbraham Paula Dubord
Williamsburg J.M. Sorrell

ADA Representative Rider Representative

Motion passed by a vote of 53.44/0. 19-0 with 1 abstention.

12. REPORT OF THE PARATRANSIT SUB-COMMITTEE

Brian O'Leary reported that the Paratransit committee met remotely today prior to the Board meeting at 10:00am. The committee voted to approve the minutes from January 21, 2020. The committee received an update on MV Transportation, PVTA's new paratransit contractor that will be taking over starting July 1, 2021 and received a presentation on PVTA's Fare Impact & Equity Report.

Chairman Mayor Narkewicz asked for a motion from the Advisory Board to accept the report of the Paratransit Committee.

<u>Motion</u>: Moved and seconded (O'Leary/Squindo) to accept the report of the Paratransit Committee.

Chairman Mayor Narkewicz asked if the Board had any discussion. Hearing none; asked for a roll call vote to accept the report of the Paratransit Committee.

<u>Yes</u> <u>No</u> <u>Abstained</u>

Agawam Michael Squindo
Amherst Douglas Slaughter
Belchertown Brian O'Leary
Chicopee Steve Huntley

East Longmeadow Alicia Smith

Easthampton Brendan Rogers

Granby

Hadley David Moskin
Hampden Becky Moriarty
Holyoke Aaron Vega

Leverett

Longmeadow Mark Gold

Ludlow

Northampton Mayor David Narkewicz

Palmer Benjamin Hood
Pelham David Shanabrook
South Hadley Michael Sullivan
Springfield Timothy Sheehan
Sunderland Geoff Kravitz
Ware John Carroll

West Springfield Mayor William Reichelt

Westfield Peter Miller
Wilbraham Paula Dubord
Williamsburg J.M. Sorrell

ADA Representative Rider Representative

Motion passed by a vote of 54.92/0. 20-0 with 1 abstention.

13. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator, Sandra Sheehan, reported the following:

The House budget is amended at \$94M all to be distributed to the RTAS. The Senate budget was issued at \$94M with \$90.5M to be distributed and \$3.5M to be awarded based on performance as discretionary grants. That will be level funding the RTAs. Senator Chandler has requested an amendment to the budget to \$94M all to be distributed to the RTAs.

Yesterday, the Massachusetts House of Representatives adopted a measure to provide relief to employers affected by the increase in COVID-related Unemployment Insurance solvency assessments. The plan, if adopted by the Senate and signed by the Governor, will lower the solvency assessment from 9.23 percent to 1.12 percent and spread the \$7.4 billion bill for COVID unemployment benefits over 20 years through borrowing.

The Solvency fund Assessment section of the unemployment taxes has resulted in PVTA making additional payments totaling \$112,178. Total estimated budget impact is estimated to be 131.6%. SATCo's rate increased from 1.736% to 4.15% for an estimated budget impact of \$98,853. VATCo's rate increased from 2.006% to 3.896% for an estimated budget impact of \$13,325.

The CDC Mask recommendation for fully vaccinated individuals does not supersede the Transportation Security Administration's Security Directive (TSA Security Directive, 1582/84-21-01 "Security Measures – Face Mask Requirements") of requiring face coverings on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation. This directive remains fully in effect. Union Station requires face coverings. We are working with HR to determine the masks requirements for PVTA's administration.

MV is the largest privately owned transportation services contracting firm in the US. MV is the largest operator of on demand services in the country. In our solicitation, we asked for a management team with paratransit expertise, transparency in operations, leading safety programs, excellent customer service and a labor plan that includes the well-being of its employees. We also asked for a contractor that could provide a seamless transition with no disruption in service. The Selection Committee comprised of PVTA staff, a Board member, and a staff member from PVPC management made the recommendation to award a contract to MV Transportation for paratransit management services. The recommendation was based on the evaluation of technical and costs proposals submitted to the Authority. There were six responses received. MV's proposal was the highest ranked proposal that was determined by the Committee to be the responsive and responsible firm whose proposal was most advantageous to the Authority with price and other factors considered.

Thus, PVTA awarded a contract to MV. The start date of service is July 1st. The MV team is in attendance, Bill Ryan, Senior Vice President as well as Tiffany Duff, the General Manager for PVTA.

Bill Ryan addressed the Board about the paratransit transition and looks forward to a seamless transition with no changes in service.

14. NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Mayor Narkewicz reported that there is no new business to discuss.

15. OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Mayor Narkewicz reported that there is no old business to discuss.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Mayor Narkewicz asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Moved and seconded (O'Leary/Squindo) to adjourn.

Chairman Mayor Narkewicz asked if the Board had any discussion. Hearing none; asked for a roll call vote to adjourn.

Agawam <u>Yes</u> <u>No</u> <u>Abstained</u> Michael Squindo

Amherst Douglas Slaughter
Belchertown Brian O'Leary

Chicopee Steve Huntley
East Longmeadow Alicia Smith
Easthampton Brendan Rogers

Granby

Hadley David Moskin
Hampden Becky Moriarty
Holyoke Aaron Vega

Leverett

Longmeadow Mark Gold

Ludlow

Northampton Mayor David Narkewicz

Palmer Benjamin Hood
Pelham David Shanabrook
South Hadley Michael Sullivan
Springfield Timothy Sheehan

Sunderland

Ware John Carroll

West Springfield Mayor William Reichelt

Westfield Peter Miller
Wilbraham Paula Dubord
Williamsburg J.M. Sorrell

ADA Representative Rider Representative

Motion passed by a vote of 53.88. 19-0.

The meeting of the Advisory Board adjourned at 12:59 P.M.

A TRUE RECORD

ATTEST:

BRANDY PELLETIER

Documents filed with Board Meeting packet:

- Roll Call Votes
- Regular Advisory Board Minutes of 5-24-2021
- Special Advisory Board Minutes of 4-20-2021
- PVTA's FY 22 Budget
- Fare Impact & Equity Report
- Proposed Ware-Palmer Shuttle & Quaboag Microtransit Service
- Proposed Express Pilot Route: Northampton-Holyoke-Springfield
- Proposed PVTA & Quaboag Connector's Amherst-Worcester Intercity pilot route and fare structure

Minutes Approved: June 23, 2021