

# EUPTA

## Regular Board Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** Monday, December 1, 2008

**PLACE:** 4001 I-75 Business Spur  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rodney Richards      Frank Sasso      Aaron Hopper  
Dennis Robinson      Ted Postula

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None absent

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:** Chuck Moser      Akemi Gordon      Renee Hillock  
Lynda Schexnayder      Jim Dunn, Attorney

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF ABSENT:** None absent

**OTHERS PRESENT:** See attached sign in sheet.

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### **I. - II. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00p.m. by Chairman Sasso. All directors were present.

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –November 3, 2008**

With regard to Regular Board Meeting Minutes for November 3, 2008; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

### **V. FINANCIAL REPORT - P.E. October 31, 2008**

Finance Director Akemi Gordon went over October financial statements.

### **BUSSING**

Gordon reported passengers carried in Chippewa County increased 21% or 859 in the month of October and decreased 23% or 190 in Luce County. The October Financial Statements for this year represent 3 pay periods compared to 2 pay periods in 07.

### **FERRIES**

Gordon reported vehicle traffic on the ferries combined was up 136 units and 620 passengers.

Drummond was up 566 vehicles and down 230 passengers

Sugar was up 244 vehicles and up 1,698 passengers

Neebish's vehicles were down 674 and down 848 passengers

Gordon reported in about a month, we will be applying for our 2010 capital and operating assistance for the Rural Bus System and JARC. March 1<sup>st</sup> is the due date for our Ferry System Application.

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### **VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **BUS SYSTEM**

Director Moser gave an update on legislative issues and funding; reporting it is looking likely that within the next couple of weeks there will be an effort by the legislature to take up the issue of increasing funding for public transportation through a variety of possible bills. MPTA will be tracking the issue closely and advising us on developments if and when they occur so that each member can contact their respective reps and senators. Representative Marie Donigan and others plan to make it a full effort to get the transportation funding package taken up before the close of this legislative session. Her plan is to push her colleagues on the issue basically because of the economic development which will be realized through public transit investment. She has asked our executive director, Clark Harder to provide her with a state wide list of transit projects that could occur with significant new money and would like a break down by legislative district so that she can share it with other legislators and relate it to economics of each legislator's local area. If this effort is successful, it could mean \$150 million could be available. That is, if pending new funding bills are passed. The funds would be available for operating as well as capital projects. Moser has already provided Clark with input from our perspective so that he could pass it along to Representative Donigan, and is prepared to ask for support from Representative McDowell and Senator Allen as soon as we get the "green light".

Director Moser explained that MPTA and MASStrans are working together to try and find a solution to the current disparity in funding between large and small transit agencies.

Moser reported we are waiting for a State contract to purchase 2 cut-a-way(s).

Moser reported we are preparing a bid package for a mini-van for Newberry.

#### **FERRY SYSTEM**

Moser reported there have been a lot of questions regarding the surcharge and whether or not it is going to be removed. Moser gave a brief explanation. Moser reported he will also issue a press release with an explanation regarding ferry rates.

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Moser explained and recommended for approval a proposed Agreement with the Chippewa County Road Commission in regard to their vehicles crossing on the ferries. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Hopper; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve agreement. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried. Terms of Agreement will begin January 1, 2009.

Moser reported PVA Leadership met with Presidential Transition Team for the US Department of Transportation and the Federal Maritime Commission. Moser reported it was a very good meeting.

Moser reported John Drury will be coming here within the next week to ten days to review our Marine Capital Program.

Moser reported he is planning on attending the PVA Annual Meeting if it is approved for RTAP reimbursement.

### **VII. ATTORNEY REPORT**

Attorney Dunn reiterated Director Moser's discussion about the formula and the local funding percentage needed in order to maintain the funding ratio. Therefore, the money coming from the County would count as a local match towards maintaining that percent on the ferries.

Dunn reported Detroit just received federal ferry capital money for the first time for a facility that they built.

Dunn reported the pending lawsuit regarding fares continues to be under discussion. Anticipates action will be taken this month so that by January there will be more to report.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business to come before the Board, **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Robinson;

**SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to adjourn. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:48pm. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 5, 2009, at 4:00p.m

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Frank Sasso, Chairman For:  
Mr. Aaron Hopper, Sec. /Treas.

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Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder