

Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority Regular Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: Monday, October 6, 2008

PLACE: Luce County Courthouse
407 W. Harrie Street
Newberry, MI 49868

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None absent

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT: Chuck Moser Akemi Gordon Lyn Rairigh
Lynda Schexnayder

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF ABSENT: Jim Dunn, Attorney

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

Brenda Shoebottom (Pathways) thanked EUPTA for the services provided to their clients.

Deb Schultz thanked EUPTA for services provided to her sister.

Rebecca (Pathways) thanked EUPTA for services provided to clients.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –September 3, 2008

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

V. FINANCIAL REPORT - P.E. August 31, 2008

IN GENERAL

Finance Director Gordon reported our October state operating funds will be delayed until there is a signed budget for FYE 2009 from the State of Michigan.

Gordon reported she will be attending the 3rd annual MERS Premier Health Meeting November 6 in Lansing and will need a motion to appoint her as the employer delegate for voting purposes. Any travel costs for this meeting will be covered by the RTAP grant with no cost to EUPTA. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Hopper; **SUPPORTED** by Director Robinson to approve said appointment. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

Gordon presented and recommended approval of a resolution to move the post-retirement trust fund money from JP Morgan to the Retirement Health Funding Vehicle with MERS. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Hopper; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve said resolution. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

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BUSSING

Gordon reported Chippewa County is experiencing a 6% or 2,759 increase in passengers through the end of August and Luce County is showing a 22% or 1,821 decrease in passengers. Through August, Chippewa County is showing net income of just over \$5,600 with Luce County showing a net loss of around (\$4,100), so the bus system as a whole is netting around \$1,500 in income. This could change once our fiscal year is closed out.

FERRIES

Gordon reported for the ferry system, we were able to offset \$63,000 in August of our year to date deficit which brings the deficit down to just under \$38,000. Last year at this time we had a \$358 deficit. The preliminary counts for September are: Total vehicles are down 22,360 or 4%. Drummond Island is down 12,604 or 6%; Sugar Island is down 8,484 or 3%; Neebish Island is down 1,272 or 5%. Total passengers are down a total of 35,272. Drummond Island is down 26,022 or 7%; Sugar Island is down 6,868 or 2%; Neebish Island is down 2,382 or 6%.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

BUS SYSTEM

Director Moser reported with regard to decrease in rider ship in Luce County; Lyn is working on a survey to make changes in Luce County.

Director Moser reported Pathways yearly contract is out for approval.

Moser reported the Transportation Budget passed and is signed.

Moser reported with regard to JARC Training; Moser attended training last Friday. In order to be a recipient of Federal Funds to provide JARC services, an agency must submit a "coordinated" Plan. We did host a meeting year before last to get started with our plan. This year MPTA retained a consulting firm to put on training sessions in several locations. Moser attended the one in Gaylord.

Moser reported the Rural Transportation Planning is set for October 17th at 10:00am in the Cisler Center at Lake Superior State University.

Moser reported with regard to transportation funding; the Alternative Funding Task Force appointed by the Governor is expected to support tolls on Interstates. MPTA is following the issue and Moser has asked that we put the issue on the Agenda for the 10/23/08 meeting.

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FERRY SYSTEM

Moser reported Sugar II, Neebish II, and Drummond III have all been inspected. No major issues have been cited. Drummond IV is scheduled for October 14th.

The last two weeks has been busy at Drummond not only with tourist traffic, but Payne & Dolan has been paving on the island. The last time that Payne & Dolan paved on Drummond, instead of moving their batch plant to the island, they have chosen to haul pre-mixed asphalt from the mainland. Hauling pre-mix obviously generates more revenue for us. Kudos to Drummond crew for working “all out” to keep up! Also, Lyn did a good job “beefing up” the onshore ramps so that the heavy loads didn’t tear up our ramps.

Moser gave an update on the \$25,000 Chippewa County Grant. Moser went over the amendment recommended by Commissioner Shackleton, our letter requesting clarification in regards to long standing agreements with Chippewa County Road Commission, employees, re-cycle trailers, etc. Following meeting with Commissioner Shackleton and Jim German we have worked out a verbal agreement with CCRC to “phase in” a payment schedule which will give them a substantial discount from full fare and be phased in. This will allow us to use revenues collected from CCRC to help maintain our docks and vessels.

Moser reported he has been shopping around for a new hull insurance program. He reported that not only did he find a broker that really seems to understand what we need, but he offered the same or better coverage for Hull & Personal Injury for about \$10,000 less in premiums than we paid out last year. Moser renewed the policy with the new broker on October 1, 2008. The name of his agency is Robinson & Son and the company is a member in good standing of the PVA.

With regard to purchasing diesel for the ferries; Moser is checking into this area as well.

With regard to Non Union Contract; specifically Lyn Rairigh who is close to retirement; it was suggested a committee get together to discuss options for him.

Moser reported that a tentative agreement has been worked out with the ferry group, USW local unit 13685. The tentative agreement would approve clarifications regarding some needed language changes, would limit wage increase to 2% (retroactive to end of last contract term with no increase for 2008), reimbursement for TWIC cards, annual leave payout limits, term life insurance upgrade, health insurance opt out up to \$6,000 per year.

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VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

IT WAS MOVED by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula that all officers remain the same. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

Director Rodney Richards recommended signature cards be made available so that he and Director Dennis Robinson are able to sign checks. This would allow all board members to sign checks. Finance Director Gordon will make these arrangements.

VIII. ATTORNEY REPORT

No report given. Attorney Dunn was not present.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to come before the Board, **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Robinson; **SUPPORTED** by Director Hopper to adjourn. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 3rd, 2008, at 4:00p.m

Mr. Aaron Hopper, Sec. /Treas.

Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder