

Regular Board Meeting

DATE: Monday, April 7, 2008

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None absent

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT: Chuck Moser Akemi Gordon Steve Soule
Lynda Schexnayder Lyn Rairigh Renee Hillock

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF ABSENT: James Dunn, Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT: Sugar Island residents Neebish Island residents
Jack Storey, Evening News Earl Kay, County Commissioner
Jim German, County Administrator

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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. Attorney Dunn was absent.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marvin Willis (Sugar Island) stated he believes the public should have a copy of EUPTA's Agenda.

Harry Knight (Neebish Island) had questions regarding the "pinhole" leak in the Neebish Ferry. Director Moser reported it has been fixed temporarily and is approved to run on a limited basis when conditions permit until it can get into the drydock. Moser is waiting to hear from MDOT and the insurance company with regard to a replacement vessel.

Jesse Knoll reported his experience with leaky boats is that 50% of them have a poured concrete wall inside of them.

Earl Kay introduced Jim German, the new County Administrator.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –March 3, 2008

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

V. FINANCIAL REPORT - P.E. February 29, 2008

BUSSING

Finance Director Gordon reported rider ship for the bus system is down 4% for the month as well as YTD. Fare revenue is showing an 11% increase due to the fare hike that took effect in July of 2007.

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FERRIES

Gordon reported overall vehicle/unit counts for the ferry system is up by only 6 for this fiscal year and passengers are down around 5100. Drummond's vehicle/units are down 798 with passengers down 3088. Sugar's vehicle/units are down 410 with passengers down 3212. Neebish's showed an increase of 1214 vehicles and 1196 passengers. This is the third year in a row where the Neebish Ferry has run all year.

Gordon reported EUPTA has been given an opportunity to save some money on our per gallon fuel price for the ferries with a discount if paid within 5 days. In order to do this in a timely manner we would need the board's approval to pay the vendor via electronic funds transfer. Currently our vendor checks require two signatures, one board member and Chuck's. By doing this for our fuel purchases only, Chuck would approve the invoice and we would be able to pay our vendor within the 5 days and receive our discount. Just for the month of March we purchased over 10,000 gallons of fuel for our ferries. It would be worth it for EUPTA to take advantage of this opportunity. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Robinson; **SUPPORTED** by Director Richards to approve request to allow electronic transfer of funds for fuel purchases only. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Moser reported Attorney Dunn will not be present. He had made plans to go on vacation with his family during spring break.

Moser reported Kelly Beaune requested that we send our meeting minutes to them electronically so that the County can have them available on their website. Moser told her we would be happy to send our approved meeting minutes. Chairman Sasso asked if the Agenda and the Minutes could be put on our website as well. Chuck agreed. Renee will take care of this request.

FERRY SYSTEM

Director Moser reported Neebish II ferry has been down since a week ago Sunday because of ice conditions in the river. Steve went down to help Rich Hill with routine maintenance and oil change and they noticed a little more water in the bilge than was normal so they checked and found a pinhole leak on the upriver side. The Coast Guard was notified. A temporary repair plan was submitted and approved. Repairs have been done and approval has been obtained to run with Coast Guard restrictions when ice conditions permit. Four trips a day will be made as well as emergency runs. A schedule will be posted. Moser has also requested the use of contingency funds for the purposes of dry-docking the vessel to make permanent repairs.

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Moser has been checking into a replacement vessel and reported that will not come cheap. There was some discussion regarding other vessels in the area. Moser reported it is hard to pinpoint exactly how long Neebish II will be in dry-dock.

Director Moser thanked Jack Storey from the Evening News for getting information out as it was available.

Director Moser reported with regard to the winter schedule at Drummond Island; Renee is putting together a report regarding usage at Drummond from the "East/West" sheets which will give us a better idea of what might be possible as far as service reductions. We will continue with the winter schedule through April in an effort to save money. Moser has also encouraged the Drummond Island and Sugar Island crews to let him know of any scheduling suggestions or other inventive ways that we might be able to operate more efficiently.

VII. ATTORNEY REPORT

No report given. Attorney Dunn absent.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to come before the Board, **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Robinson to adjourn. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:32pm. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 5, 2008, at 4:00p.m.

Due to the emergency nature of the Neebish ferry repairs, Chairman Sasso asked that the meeting be adjourned "at the call of the chair" so that a special board meeting could be held in the event board decisions are needed in short order.

Mr. Aaron Hopper, Sec. /Treas.

Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder