



## EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

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# Regular Board Meeting

**DATE:** Monday, February 11, 2008

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rodney Richards      Frank Sasso      Aaron Hopper

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ted Postula      Dennis Robinson

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:** Chuck Moser      Akemi Gordon      Jim Dunn, Attorney  
Lynda Schexnayder      Lyn Rairigh

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF ABSENT:** None absent

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sugar Island residents

## BOARD MEETING

Page 2

February 11, 2008

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:03p.m. by Chairman Sasso. All directors were present with the exception of Ted Postula and Dennis Robinson.

### III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jesse Knoll inquired as to when the cameras would be installed on the Sugar Ferry. Chairman Sasso reported the funding had been held up and we are working on it now. Knoll also asked what other ferry systems have a discount rate for handicap cars? Sasso explained how state and federal subsidies work.

### IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –January 7, 2008

With regard to Regular Board Meeting Minutes for January 7, 2008; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Hopper to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

### V. FINANCIAL REPORT - P.E. December 31, 2007

Finance Director Gordon presented and recommended approval of Resolution of Intent to provide a local transportation program for the state fiscal year of 2009 and, therefore, apply for state financial assistance under provisions of Act 51. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Hopper; **SUPPORTED** by Director Richards to approve said resolution. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

Gordon reported the auditors will be presenting the audit report at our March meeting this year. There have been several changes to the report because of the new Audit Guide for Transportation Authorities that have added different schedules.

### BUSSING

Gordon reported the 2009 annual application for operating and capital assistance is completed and was submitted via PTMS. We've applied for \$74,196 in federal operating assistance and \$191,263 in state operating assistance. We also applied for capital grant money to replace one of the minivans in Luce County, one of our cutaway busses here in Chippewa and some diagnostic and lift equipment.

Gordon reported passenger counts in Chippewa County are up 5% or 550 and down 23% or 562 in Luce County. There are several contract passengers in Newberry that have been cut back.

## **BOARD MEETING**

**Page 3**

**February 11, 2008**

### **FERRIES**

Gordon reported the 2009 application for the ferry system is due March 1<sup>st</sup>, so at the next meeting there will be a resolution for that as well.

Vehicle traffic on the ferries through December is down 2,550 or 2%. Both Drummond and Sugar ferries are down through December and Neebish's are slightly up.

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

### **FERRY SYSTEM**

Director Moser gave an update on the PVA Annual Meeting. The newly elected president of PVA is from Chicago. Mike Borgstrom is the president and CEO of Wendella Sightseeing Tours. Moser noted it is nice to have the leadership back in our region. The annual meeting last week was very well attended and was a good conference. The Legislative Meeting was held on Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, with a number of issues taken up. We have lobbied successfully to the Homeland Security Department to set up mobile enrollment centers for the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC) Program. Otherwise, our employees would have had to make two trips to Toledo. With the Mobile Enrollment Program, we'll be able to have our guys enroll here in the Sault, which will begin on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The cost per employee is \$132.00.

Moser reported the Radar/AIS Project is about 50% complete. We started the project at Drummond because the radar units on both Drummond III and IV were the most prone to having problems. Both of those vessels are complete and working well. The advances in technology are very good and very user friendly. The automated identification systems (AIS) are a great addition to the radars and really advances the safety of operations.

### **BUS SYSTEM**

Moser reported with regard to the Executive Budget; the FY 08-09 Transportation Budget recommends no change to the bus operating (\$166,624,000). The recommendation for the capital line item is \$34.4 million without a "redirection" of CTF funds which has been done a lot recently to stabilize the General Fund. Moser reported this is pretty good news overall. The Budget starts in the House this year and hearings could start as early as Thursday.

## BOARD MEETING

Page 4

February 11, 2008

Moser reported earlier today meeting with Rural Task Force #11 at the Chippewa County Road Commission. We have submitted a capital request to replace some windows, install a garage door, add some insulation and replace carpet in the conference room. The project was adopted and will be in the 08 Budget for appropriation next year. John Drury drove up for the meeting. He would have liked to stay around to attend our meeting, but had to get back down state to prepare for a meeting tomorrow.

With regard to the labor contract renewal (bus) Moser reported agreement to language changes to clarify a few issues, a 3% increase (retro) extending into the coming year and a re-examination at the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> year. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Hopper to approve said Contract for Bussing. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried. Moser commended the drivers and bussing supervisor Rairigh for their excellent safety record and dedication.

In closing, Moser reported quite a lull in the State Marine Capital, but all of the cameras that we had originally specked are installed. What we are doing now is on hold as far as accessing them via internet for several reasons; cost being one and provider another. There was some discussion regarding what could be accessed via internet with regard to security, etc.

### VII. ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Dunn reported they are starting to talk about transportation in the legislature; however there is no talk about supporting any new taxes. There was a short discussion. Dunn stressed the need to stay involved and maintain what we have.

Dunn reported with regard to the elderly/handicap policy; there are still a few problems with cars vs people and is not ready to make a final recommendation yet.

### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

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



Mr. Aaron Hopper, Sec. /Treas.



Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder