



EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

4001 I-75 Business Spur

Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

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Regular Board Meeting

DATE: Monday, January 7, 2008

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None absent

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

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF ABSENT: None absent

OTHERS PRESENT: Sugar Island residents

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I. - II. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 4:03p.m. by Chairman Sasso. All directors were present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –December 3, 2007

With regard to Regular Board Meeting Minutes for December 3, 2007; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT - P.E. November 30, 2007

BUSSING

Finance Director Gordon reported our 2008 State operating assistance rate for this fiscal year has decreased from 38.62% to 36.15% or 2.47% decrease. As long as we continue to sustain our local revenue above \$143,298, we will receive no less than the amount we received in 1997 of \$191,268.

Ridership in Chippewa County so far this year is up 502 passengers or 11% and has decreased in Luce County by 220.

We will be working on the FYE 2009 State application for the bus system which will have to be submitted by Feb. 1st.

FERRIES

Gordon reported both vehicles and passengers are down YTD for the ferries combined. Drummond Island has experienced a decrease of 1,150 vehicles and 1,314 passengers for the two months into this fiscal year. Sugar Island is down 374 vehicles and 610 passengers. Neebish's vehicles are up 586 and passengers have increased 544 for the past two months.

The State Ferry application is due March 1st. Gordon and Moser will be getting with Steve and Lyn to come up with a capital plan for 2009.

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VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FERRY SYSTEM

Director Moser presented and recommended approval of renewing Richard Hill's three year contract for the Neebish Island Ferry Service. They will forego any increase in compensation increase for the first year; then in year two and three would receive a 3% increase for each year. After a short discussion **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Robinson; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to renew three year contract as proposed. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

Director Moser presented and recommended approval of Resolution Agreement No. 2007-0204/Z8 for the purposes of utilization of funds provided by MDOT for various Marine Capital projects in the amount of \$222,222. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Hopper to approve said resolution. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

Moser reported the need to hire a Marine Consultant to develop a plan of action regarding docks. He has spoken with John Drury about the necessity of developing a plan of action regarding the ramps at the various locations with the continual drop in lake levels. John agrees the right approach is to get a consultant on board so that we can put together a plan to identify exactly what needs to be done, how much costs are going to be and where and when to begin.

With regard to the Marine Gear for Drummond III; Moser reported Lyn and Steve are almost finished reinstalling the recently rebuilt transmission on Drummond III.

Moser reports installation of new radars and AIS units for all ferries is set to begin on Wednesday. This project has taken a long time to bring about and Moser is really happy to get it underway.

BUS SYSTEM

Moser reported we had some extra-ordinary success with our federal funding request for the 1st Congressional district. The 20 or so transit agencies in the district will share a combined \$4 million. The money will be used for bus replacements and facility work such as new construction, and rehabilitation of existing facilities. This is the largest earmark our District has ever received and this year is the largest earmark in any Congressional District.

Moser reported, thankfully the Chippewa County Commissioners have approved our funding request for the coming year. Luce County has also approved our funding request.

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Moser reported he has requested funding through the Rural Task Force in Chippewa County for the purpose of fixing up the conference room and also install insulation along the back wall of the maintenance shop.

In closing, Moser reported Attorney Dunn has been working on the handicap fare policy and will have some drafts for the board to look at and comment on.

VII. ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Dunn reported the legislature has been working on a bill that establishes a task force consisting of many interests. They have been holding off on this because they had no one to address the transportation issue in light of all the problems they had with the budgets. Finally at the end of the session they passed the bill that establishes the committee. Dunn gave a brief explanation of Public Act 221 of 2007.

Attorney Dunn presented a "draft" of the elderly/handicap policy he has been working on. He went over HIIPA restrictions, definition of "handicap", and a form to be filled out by a qualified individual. Dunn requested the board look over this draft to be adopted at our next meeting.

Dunn reported he and Director Moser have been reviewing other policies that need to be upgraded.

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 4:55pm. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, February 11, 2008, at 4:00p.m.



Mr. Aaron Hopper, Sec. /Treas.



Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder