



EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

4001 I-75 Business Spur

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Regular Board Meeting

DATE: Monday, March 3, 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 Jim Dunn, Attorney
Lynda Schexnayder Lyn Rairigh Renee Hillock

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF ABSENT: None absent

OTHERS PRESENT: Sugar Island residents
Jack Storey, Evening News

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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

Jesse Knoll reported that windows were broken out of the shelter at the Sugar Ferry Dock.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –February 11, 2008

With regard to Regular Board Meeting Minutes for February 11, 2008; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

V. AUDITOR’S REPORT-Anderson Tackman

Deana Mayer thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with EUPTA. Deana went over the graphs included in the report. She also went over Report to Management giving a brief explanation.

Deana went over the recommendation for policies and closed with the Independent Audit Report. Deanna noted the Luce and Chippewa County appropriations were reversed and these have been corrected. Deana reported the audit went very well.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT - P.E. January 31, 2008

BUSSING

Gordon reported passengers are down 14% for January and 4% to date. Chippewa and Luce County both experienced a decline in rider ship for the month of January compared to the same month in 2007.

FERRIES

Gordon reported the 2009 Application for Ferry Operating Assistance and Capital has been completed. Finance Director Gordon presented and recommended approval of Resolution of Intent

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for Marine Program. Gordon reported EUPTA has applied for \$1,285,712 in State operating assistance and \$1,980,000 in Capital of which \$1,512,000 will be federal funds, \$270,000 will be State and \$198,000 will be local match. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Richards to approve said resolution. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. At this time Director Moser explained the need to request federal funds. Especially if the current declining water level continues downward. We will obviously need to be prepared to increase our capacity to adjust all of our shore side ramps down more than what our current capacity is. Because the State Marine Capital Program is usually only funded with a total of \$400,000 (which is shared equally between EUPTA and Beaver Island, Moser is submitting a federal request this year.

Gordon reported vehicles and passengers for the ferries are down once again for the 3rd straight month in a row. To date vehicles are down 3,944 and passengers are down 6,778.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

FERRY SYSTEM

Moser reiterated the need for federal funds as he discussed in the Financial Report above with regard to the Marine Program.

BUS SYSTEM

Director Moser reported the MPTA Legislative Conference was held Feb. 21 & 22 in Lansing. Both Senator Allen and Representative McDowell were able to attend. A lot of focus was given to the rising costs of providing public transportation made worse by stagnant revenue sources. Quite a bit of focus was given to the Governor's recent formation of a Transportation Task Force and a Citizen's Advisory Committee for the purpose of reviewing the adequacy of surface transportation and funding of transportation and transit in Michigan. Moser provided a "handout" with a list of members of both groups. MPTA has a representative on each of these two bodies. The Task Force is charged with issuing a public report no later than October 31, 2008. They will: review alternative funding options; review alternative transportation investment priorities; review potential strategies for maximizing returns on transportation investments, and evaluate the potential of alternative strategies to replace or supplement the .19cent state gas tax. The appointments to the Task Force are subject to Senate consent but the Citizens Advisory Committee apparently is not. Also during the conference the Road Builders also known as the Michigan Infrastructure and Transportation Association (MITA) gave a very convincing presentation on the need to raise more transportation revenue and reported that their 9-cent gas tax increase proposal has received the endorsement of every major daily

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newspaper in the state. They believe that this is the year state lawmakers will finally make Michigan's transportation funding needs a top priority. They definitely have begun a "full court press" with their lobbying efforts.

VIII. ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Dunn distributed and gave a brief explanation of the state's Budget Recommendation for TRANSPORTATION. Dunn spoke briefly on gasoline taxes and its effect.

IX. 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 4:40pm. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 7, 2008, at 4:00p.m.

Mr. Aaron Hopper, Sec. /Treas.

Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder