

# EUPTA

## Regular Board Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** Wednesday, September 3, 2008

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

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None absent

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF ABSENT:** None absent

**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 4:05p.m. by Chairman Sasso. All directors were present.

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Peter Pietrangelo from the Evening News introduced himself. He will be replacing Jack Storey.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –August 4, 2008**

With regard to Regular Board Meeting Minutes for August 4, 2008; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Hopper to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

### **V. FINANCIAL REPORT - P.E. July 31, 2008**

#### **IN GENERAL**

Finance Director Gordon went over and recommended adoption of the Fraud Policy and Fixed Asset Capitalization Policy that were presented at the August 3, 2008 meeting. There was a short discussion with Attorney Dunn making reference to the Whistle Blower Act and confidentiality issues. With regard to the Fraud Policy, **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Hopper to adopt said policy with reference to Whistle Blowers Act. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. With regard to the Fixed Asset Capitalization Policy, **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Hopper to adopt said policy. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

#### **BUSSING**

Gordon went over and recommended approval of 2009 budget. Two options were handed out at the August board meeting; 15 and 25 hours per week for the Curtis run. Gordon recommended the 15 hour per week option with scheduled runs to Curtis rather than the existing demand response. This would be on a trial basis and would be advertised. Obviously we cannot continue to incur the expenses of providing the service if it is not going to be used enough to support doing it. These hours would work around the contract fares. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Robinson to approve said budget with 15 hours per week for the Curtis run with details to be worked out. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

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Gordon reported through the end of July, EUPTA has provided just over 48,000 rides. (Almost 42,000 in Chippewa County and 6,000 in Luce County). Luce County's contract fares are half what they were a year ago.

### **FERRIES**

Gordon went over and recommended approval of 2009 budget. Moser initiated some discussion regarding changing the way fuel is delivered to reduce cost. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Hopper to approve said budget with current retained earnings to take care of a projected \$22,000 deficit. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

Gordon reported EUPTA has carried almost 16,000 fewer vehicles and 24,000 fewer passengers than a year ago. All three ferries are experiencing decreased traffic.

Our YTD deficit is approximately \$103,000 through the end of July, so we've been able to reduce that somewhat during the month of July. We only have August and September to make up the rest of this deficit.

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

### **IN GENERAL**

Moser reminded the board our next regular board meeting, Oct 6, 2008 will be in Newberry's small courtroom in Luce County.

Director Moser presented and recommended approval of Resolution number 2007-0204/Z9 FY 2008 Section 5311 Capital/Surface Transportation Program for the purpose of Facility Renovation in the amount of \$50,000; \$40,000 being Federal and \$10,000 being State. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Hopper; **SUPPORTED** by Director Richards to approve said resolution. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

Moser presented and recommended approval of Resolution number 2007-0204/Z10 FY 2008 Section 5311 Capital/Surface Transportation Program for the purpose of a Service Vehicle in the amount of \$20,000 (F). **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Hopper; **SUPPORTED** by Director Richards to approve said resolution. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

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Moser presented and recommended approval of Resolution number 2007-0204/Z12 FY 2009 Section 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute Program for the purpose of utilizing funds provided by the Federal Transit Administration, United States Department of Transportation and MDOT in the amount of \$19,360; \$9,680 being Federal and \$9,680 being MDOT. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Hopper; **SUPPORTED** by Director Richards to approve said resolution. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

### **BUS SYSTEM**

Moser reported LEP/DBE training by MDOT will be held in Gaylord on the 18<sup>th</sup> of this month. He and Director Gordon will attend this training.

Moser reported the older of the two mini-vans in Newberry was replaced last week.

Moser reported each year the Michigan Public Transit Association comes to the U.P. for the September Board Meeting. Earlier this year the association had requested to hold the meeting at the Drummond Island Resort and Conference Center. Moser has made all the arrangements and next week we will be hosting the MPTA Board of Directors September Board Meeting. This year's meeting will begin with a dinner at the Bayside Restaurant at 6:00pm on Wednesday, the 10<sup>th</sup>. Any board member interested in attending the dinner was instructed to let Moser know so arrangements can be made.

Moser reported he has been in touch with HBH and NTI regarding contract renewals. EUPTA has proposed an increase of 30 cents each way per rider. No formal contract has been received from HBH as yet, but it does not appear as though our proposed increase will be a significant problem in regards to getting a new contract. Last year we implemented a "daily charge" where we bill \$15 (one time daily per bus) for passengers up to 15 miles outside of town and \$25 (one time daily per bus) for passengers more than 15 miles outside of town. The proposal leaves this unchanged.

### **FERRY SYSTEM**

Moser reported with regard to funding; he is working on the recommendation letter from the 1<sup>st</sup> congressional district regarding the distribution of the 08 federal transit grant. This letter will go to MDOT. Moser is working with Congressman Stupak's office on the 09 earmark request.

Moser reported with regard to the Sugar Island Pow-Wow; Renee did a good job of coordinating the ferry service and Cecil Pavlot, from the Pow-Wow center asked her to pass along their thanks to EUPTA and the ferry crew.

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**VII. ATTORNEY REPORT**

Attorney Dunn reported he is continuing to work on Policies. There are still a few more that need to be updated.

Dunn reported there is no budget with the State Department yet.

Dunn reported there have been a lot of changes in the Freedom of Information Act in the last couple of years.

Dunn reiterated how good it is that we have the 50% provision with regard to the ferry system.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business to come before the Board, **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Hopper; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to adjourn. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:52pm. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 6, 2008, at 4:00p.m. in the small courtroom/Courthouse/Luce County.

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Mr. Aaron Hopper, Sec. /Treas.

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Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder