

Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: Monday, December 7, 2009

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rodney Richards Frank Sasso Ted Postula
Dennis Robinson Jack Kibble

MEMBERS ABSENT: None absent

ADMINISTRATIVE Chuck Moser Akemi Gordon Renee Hillock

STAFF PRESENT: Lynda Schexnayder Jim Dunn, Attorney

ADMINISTRATIVE None absent

STAFF ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Debbie Gill, Forrest Insurance Agency
See attached sign in sheet.

I. - II. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 4:08p.m. by Chairman Sasso. All directors were present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Willis, Sugar Island, reported cell at Sugar needs work. Moser assured him this will be taken care of. Willis questioned the difference in fare with regard to a student from the mainland and a student from Sugar Island. It was explained to Mr. Willis that the school pays for Sugar Island students. They do not pay for students from the mainland because they do not ride the school bus that is covered in the Sault Area Schools contract. Students not covered under the Sault Schools Contract pay the regular student fare.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –November 2, 2009 APPROVAL OF SPECIAL SESSION-November 2, 2009

With regard to Regular Board Meeting Minutes for November 2, 2009; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

With regard to Special Session Meeting Minutes for November 2, 2009; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT-P.E.-October 31, 2009

Finance Director Gordon reiterated the closing of MERS Premier Health Program on January 31, 2010. She went over quotes received for Health Insurance from other agencies. Following a lengthy discussion **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Kibble; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to accept proposal from Forrest Insurance Agency as EUPTA's new Health Insurance for active employees and retirees. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

Gordon reported beginning December 1, 2009 EUPTA is the agent for Indian Trails coming to Sault Ste. Marie at 7:30am; leaving at 7:40am. They also come at 12:30am, leaving at 12:40am. The office is not open then, but people can catch the bus or be dropped off. All equipment has been provided by Indian Trails with no cost to EUPTA. They are hoping to link up with Greyhound Canada.

BUSSING

Gordon reported passengers for October were down 1,397 for Chippewa County and 58 in Luce County.

FERRIES

Gordon reported vehicles were down 606 for October with passengers up 1,026.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Moser presented and recommended approval of Contract 2009-0722 for the purpose of modifications to the existing docks for the St. Mary's River Ferry System (Drummond, Sugar, Neebish Islands and mainland docks). Work to be performed includes construction, engineering, oversight and inspection and all necessary work. Total cost of the project; \$1,175,000; Federal Funds (ARRA). **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble to approve said resolution. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

A negative article was presented by Director Robinson from the Newberry News regarding AECOM, the engineering firm proposing to do dock work. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the course of action to take with regard to this article. Attorney Dunn reported he will speak with the Attorney and Director Moser could speak with lady mentioned in article to get two separate points of view. Moser recommended that he be approved to sign contract with caveats that we receive an acceptable explanation of said article and any other questions we may have. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Kibble; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to have a special meeting if necessary with AECOM (date to be determined) to get an explanation of article and assurances that we won't have these problems. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

Director Moser reported with regard to Ferry Labor Contract, a tentative agreement has been reached. Tentative agreement allows for 0% increase for Year 2007, 0% increase for Year 2008, a 1% increase for Year 2009; retroactive to February 1st, 2009 and a 1% increase for Year 2010 making it a 4 Year Contract. Also agreed upon was an increase in payable benefits in the current life insurance program (increased from \$10,000 to \$50,000), company pays for TWIC cards, employee able to opt out of health insurance, limitation of accumulative leave time to 320 hours per year, language change for deckhand with Captain license revised to demonstrate ability to run vessel, clean up language with regard to discipline for just cause, language changes with regard to free passage on vessels. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble to approve said contract. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

Moser reported the MPTA has informed him of a Bill with regard to a possible diesel fuel tax of 4 cents.

VII. ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Dunn reported with regard to current lawsuit; his recommendation is to have a Closed Session at the next board meeting to discuss the suit.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to come before the Board, **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards;

SUPPORTED by Director Postula to adjourn. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 4, 2010 at 4:00p.m.

Ted Postula, Sec. /Treas.

Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder