

Eastern UP Transportation Authority

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: Monday, October 5, 2009

PLACE: Luce County Courthouse
407 W. Harrie Street
Newberry, MI 49868

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None absent

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

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF ABSENT: None absent

OTHERS PRESENT: See attached sign in sheet.

I. - II. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 4:00p.m. by Chairman Sasso. All directors were present. Chairman Sasso added Election of Officers to Agenda.

(ADDED) ELECTION OF OFFICERS

IT WAS MOVED by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula that officers remain the same. Chairman Sasso asked if there were any other nominations. There were none. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were a few questions from a Newberry resident regarding why there is no weekend service and why days of service for Curtis residents has been cut. Director Moser and Finance Director Akemi Gordon explained the funding process to her. There was also a question regarding how far service extended outside of downtown Newberry. Response was five miles.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –September 9, 2009

With regard to Regular Board Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2009; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

V. DEB GILL-Forest Insurance Center Agency

Finance Director Gordon reiterated that the end of January MERS Premier Health will be shutting down their health division. Deb will be getting quotes from other firms.

Deb Gill gave a presentation regarding health insurance. A health questionnaire went out to all full time employees and retirees currently with health insurance and they have all been returned. She will be requesting quotes from Assurant Health, Aetna and Blue Cross. They are looking at health reimbursement and health savings accounts. Deb discussed government compliance and noted they would find us a company to handle any Cobra accounts. She will have some numbers within the next two weeks.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT-P.E.-August 31, 2009

Finance Director Gordon went over financial statements ending August 31, 2009. Gordon reported we have not received our Operating yet for the month of October.

BUSSING

Gordon reported so far this year we have experienced a combined 7% decline in passengers for our bus system. To break this down further, Chippewa is down 2,879 or 6% and Luce is down 1,006 or 15% for the year. Gordon reiterated we have lost several contract passengers due to funding cuts in other agencies. In addition, general ridership last year was up because of the high gas prices. Through the end of August we have been able to run with a surplus. This is before any year end adjustments. Retained earnings have suffered a declining balance for many years. It would be nice if we can begin to add to this for a change.

FERRIES

Gordon reported vehicle crossings for the ferries have decreased 8,198 but our passengers have increased 1,530 for the year.

Drummond's vehicles are down 1,964 with passengers down 3,942. Sugar's vehicles are down 3,564 with passengers up 8,634. Neebish's vehicles are down 2,670 and passengers are also down 3,162. This includes the winter months it was not running, compared to 2008 when it ran all year.

There was some discussion regarding the low balance in our retained earnings. It is unknown at this time whether or not we will receive the \$25,000 from the County that we got last year. It is possible this will be cut to balance their budget.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

BUSSING

Moser reported with regard to the loss in contract fare to the Hulbert run; after checking the numbers it is thought we can still operate this run so we will be leaving it as it is for now.

Moser reported with regard to contracts with Hiawatha Behavioral Health, Northern Transitions, and Pathways; we will maintain the same rate as last year.

Moser reported the State Transportation Budget came out the same as it was before at \$166 million for the bus operating; with some serious cuts to the CTF. Moser circulated an email thank you from Ron DeCook at MDOT thanking the MPTA for all their efforts in support of the MDOT 2010 budget.

Moser reported Indian Trails is strongly considering servicing the Sault. They would like to speak with us about using the EUPTA headquarters as a terminal and we would do some ticketing for them with a 10% commission for tickets sold. Moser will check into this further.

Moser reported with regard to recent risk management audit by Michigan Transit Pool. A copy of proposed policy recommendations was sent to all board members and Attorney Dunn. Director Moser asked Attorney Dunn to go through this and come back to the board with any policy

recommendations in this audit.

FERRIES

Moser reported we have the AECOM proposal. They would like a decision soon. There was some discussion regarding the bid coming in too high. It was suggested AECOM come to the EUPTA office one hour before the next regular board meeting to go over the document and get any questions answered. A public notice will be put in the newspaper and on our website.

Moser reported he and Attorney Dunn met with Jackie Shinn regarding the direction Capital money is headed. There are states that receive “set asides” out of the ferry boat discretionary, which is a federal highways program. El Welch from the PVA is willing to help us try to push this.

Moser reported the Coast Guard is pushing on us to leave a passenger manifest on shore every time we cross at all three ferries. We will address this issue.

There was some discussion regarding the fuel surcharge.

VIII. ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Dunn made clarification with regard to the budget. The governor has the budget for transportation. She has 14 days from the time it was presented to sign it or it becomes law automatically.

Dunn spoke briefly on the ferry fares.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to come before the Board, **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble to adjourn. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 2, 2009, at 4:00p.m.

Ted Postula, Sec. /Treas.

Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder