

Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: Monday, February 2, 2009

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None absent

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT: Chuck Moser Akemi Gordon Lyn Rairigh
Lynda Schexnayder Jim Dunn, Attorney Renee Hillock

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.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –January 5, 2009

With regard to Regular Board Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2009; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT - P.E. December 31, 2008

Finance Director Gordon reported we have three resolutions we need to approve for updating our signature cards with Central Savings Bank. These resolutions will remove Aaron Hopper as an approved signer and add Jack Kibble. The three resolutions will be for our general checking, Drummond, Sugar and our Money Market accounts. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve resolution for General Checking account at Central Savings Bank. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve said resolution for Money Market account at Central Savings Bank. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve said resolution for Drummond, Sugar and CD at Central Savings Bank. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. Gordon will check with the other banks we have accounts with to see who they have on file as approved signers and update those at a later date.

BUSSING

Finance Director Gordon reported the 2010 annual application for operating and capital assistance is completed and was submitted via PTMS. EUPTA has applied for \$78,167 in federal operating assistance and \$191,263 in state operating assistance. EUPTA has also applied for capital grant money total \$345,450 for 5 light-duty cutaway busses, a computer system, office furniture replacement, training equipment and various tool replacement and overhead lube system replacement. Gordon presented and recommended approval of Resolution of Intent. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Robinson to approve said resolution. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

Gordon reported passenger counts for Chippewa County increased by 488 for the month of December and we are up 1565 for the year. Luce County had a small increase of 16 passengers for December and is down 383 for the year.

FERRIES

Gordon reported the 2010 application for the ferry system is due March 1st. Gordon will have a separate resolution at next month's meeting for that application.

Vehicle traffic is down 4,662 for the three months ended December, 2008. All three ferry systems are experiencing a decrease in vehicles and passengers for the year.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Moser reported EUPTA's Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy has been updated and recommended adoption of this policy. There was a short discussion. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to adopt said policy. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

Moser reported we have two projects listed that might be qualified for funding, provided the Federal Stimulus Funding effort is approved. Last week legislation that would provide over \$800 Billion to the States passed the House, and is awaiting action in the Senate. MDOT as well as MPTA have been asking for projects that are ready to move forward.

BUS SYSTEM

Moser reported we have replaced the second van at Newberry, and are waiting on a third party contract for the purchase of a replacement vehicle for the tool van. We will soon have three used vans for sale which we will put up for bids.

FERRY SYSTEM

Moser reported he is still getting complaints and comments regarding the fuel surcharge on the ferries. There was discussion regarding the cost involved in operating the ferries and the amount of money EUPTA needs to collect in order to operate. If the charge comes off EUPTA will not have enough money to operate. There was some discussion regarding renaming the fuel surcharge to being part of the fare. Chairman Sasso directed the question to Attorney Dunn, can the fuel surcharge just be called a part of the fare and do we need a public hearing to change this? After a short discussion Dunn reported we do not need a separate public hearing to change this. An announcement on the Agenda is notice enough. Chairman Sasso reported we will just watch this for now.

Moser reported plans to suspend operations on the Neebish Ferry Sunday, February 8th. With closure of the West Neebish Channel a couple of weeks ago, and the USCG suspending Ice breaking operations in the Channel, operating conditions have become quite difficult. Moser rode across with Rich late last week. With any wind at all coming out of the North, it is near impossible to not get blown in to the solid ice just down bound of our route.

Moser reported there has not been much snowmobile traffic to date this winter at Drummond. It appears that with ample snow downstate that a lot of our usual clientele is staying closer to home to ride. February is looking to be busier according to the Drummond Resort. Snowmobile races and

Dog Sled races are both scheduled for this month.

At this time Dan Cairns, Head Captain, Sugar Island Ferry gave a report on the recent Industry Days annual training session for ferry captains held in Traverse City. Cairns reported speakers at the conference addressed the water levels and the effect the dredging of the St. Clair River has on our system. Also addressed were changes in the medical form for license renewal, prescription drug use, body mass index, and the way renewals will be processed.

In closing, Cairns noted Captains should be aware they will need extra time when updating their Marine License.

VII. ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Dunn had nothing to report.

Chairman Sasso asked for a motion to go into Closed Session to give an update on current lawsuit and Union Negotiations. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Robinson; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble that this Board go into Closed Session. A Roll Call Vote was taken at 4:45PM...

Director Richards; yes **Director Postula; yes** **Robinson; yes**
Director Kibble; yes **Chairman Sasso; yes**

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

IT WAS MOVED by Director Kibble; **SUPPORTED** by Director Richards that this Board return to General Session. A Roll Call Vote was taken at 5:20PM...

Director Richards; yes **Director Postula; yes** **Robinson; yes**
Director Kibble; yes **Chairman Sasso; yes**

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

At 5:20pm Chairman Sasso called the meeting back to order in "General Session".

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to come before the Board, **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Robinson to adjourn. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 5:21pm. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 2, 2009, at 4:00p.m

Ted Postula, Sec. /Treas.

Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder