

# Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority

## Regular Board Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** Monday, July 6, 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 STAFF PRESENT:** Chuck Moser      Akemi Gordon      Lyn Rairigh  
Lynda Schexnayder      Jim Dunn, Attorney

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF ABSENT:** None absent

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF 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 –June 1, 2009**

With regard to Regular Board Meeting Minutes for June 1, 2009; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

## **V. FINANCIAL REPORT-P.E.-May 31, 2009**

Finance Director Akemi Gordon reported she will be attending the MERS Premier Health Annual Meeting on July 30<sup>th</sup> in Lansing. Gordon has a delegate form that will need board action. This will allow her to vote on behalf of EUPTA on any business issues that are discussed. This trip will be covered under our RTAP grant. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Kibble; **SUPPORTED** by Director Robinson to approve. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried. Gordon also needed approval for September MERS pension meeting. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Richards to approve. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

Director Moser reported Gordon has been asked to sit on MERS Premier Health Board. EUPTA Board was asked if there were any objections. There were none.

## **BUSSING**

Gordon reported rider ship for the bus system was down 826 passengers for the month of May and YTD our numbers are down 776. Chippewa bus is down 81 YTD with Luce down 624 compared to a year ago.

## **FERRIES**

Gordon reported in April and May we had slight increases in traffic on the ferries (826 and 334) but we are still down 4% for the year or 10,786 vehicles and 8,524 passengers. Drummond's vehicles and passengers are down 4%, Sugar's vehicles are down 3% with an increase in passengers of 1%. Neebish is showing a 19% decrease in vehicles and 16% decrease in passengers compared to last year. If you compare the counts to a similar year when they were shut down (2005) for the winter months, they would be up around 15% in vehicles. The ferry system has around a \$58,000 loss to make up with what's left of this fiscal year.

Gordon will be working on the budgets for FYE 2010 with hopefully a "draft" available at the August meeting with final approval in September.

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

### **FERRIES**

Director Moser gave update on RFP for A&E Ferry Dock Project. The State has applied for stimulus funds which may change this project.

Moser reported with regard to 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend traffic on Drummond; if the annual art fair, fireworks display, and the number of people seen driving around on the island is any indication, vehicle count should be very acceptable. Drummond seemed busy, and even though the weather was a bit on the windy and rainy side, there seemed to be quite a bit of boating and leisure activity like kayaking, golf, etc. Mackinac Bridge traffic was up for the third month in a row with June gaining 6% over June of 08'. Hopefully people will continue to come up north. Obviously if the weather ever gets good and hot downstate, we'll stand the best chance to see more tourists coming up.

Moser reported he will leave the Transportation Budget for Attorney Dunn to report on, but did say that they recently spent a day with Senator Jason Allen and his Chief of Staff. Senator Allen gave us somewhat of a compliment when he asked Moser why some of the rural school districts didn't take a lesson from us on how to keep our needs and issues in front of the legislators on the various standing committees. Moser believes he was alluding to the fact that some of the "special hardship" type schools like Island schools, and remote schools like Paradise, are really coming up against it in terms of funding cuts. Moser told him he would pass that message along. Moser noted he was happy to see State Representative, Wayne Schmitt who is a former BATA Board member.

Moser reported Project Manager, John Drury and his Regional Supervisor will be here the end of July for an M-DOT site visit. They will be touring Sugar Island and Neebish Island.

### **BUSSING**

Moser reported Pathways Program Coordinator, Brenda Shoebottom was given notice that her job was being eliminated due to budget cuts. At this point it does not appear our clientele will be affected by these cuts.

Moser has not heard back from the folks in Curtis in regards to student transportation for their charter school.

Moser reported we will continue to work on legislative/funding issues the rest of the summer and into the fall, both through MPTA and Jim and Moser together as the budget process moves forward.

## **VII. ATTORNEY REPORT**

Attorney Dunn went over the Transportation Budget and bills recently passing the Senate and House.

Dunn reported with regard to the recent lawsuit; the board will definitely have something at the next meeting.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business to come before the Board, **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Robinson; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble to adjourn. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 3, 2009, at 4:00p.m

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Ted Postula, Sec. /Treas.

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Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder