

Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: Monday, May 6, 2013

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ted Postula Michael Herbst
Frank Sasso Jack Kibble

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dennis Robinson

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

**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 4:00p.m. by Chairman Sasso. All Directors were present with the exception of Director Robinson.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –April 1, 2013

With regard to Minutes for April 1, 2013; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Herbst to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT-P.E.-March 31, 2013

BUSSING

Finance Director Gordon reported passenger counts for the month of March were down 20% and are currently down 13% for the year. Part of this decrease for the year was from Luce County but we're showing Chippewa County experiencing some decreasing numbers as well. It looks like a combination of our regular and contract riders.

Gordon distributed a handout and went over the MTP annual meeting. The handout shows a historical cost analysis since EUPTA joined the pool back in 1989. EUPTA has experienced a significant cost savings from being in the pool as the handout shows.

FERRIES

Gordon reported there is not any significant change in the overall vehicles so far. We are showing a 1% increase in vehicles and 2% increase in passengers this year. Our loss through the end of March is just over \$200,000.

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VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Moser gave an update on Board Member Dennis Robinson; Robinson's son called to say he is expected home from the hospital today after by-pass surgery on his leg.

FERRIES

Moser reported with regard to radio mentioned in the Public Comments at April meeting; equipment would cost \$400-\$500, training and setting up policy/rules of operating, licensing, maintenance. Moser would rather pursue preventing interruptions in the first place and look into a cooperative effort with local radio stations as much as possible. The down side of going with this idea is not so much the cost factor, but to do it properly we will have to designate a person that will need to be trained on how to develop messages and program them 24/7-365 days per year, or try to train everyone with the skills to operate the system in a consistent way.

Moser reported he has facilitated a new relationship between the Michigan Public Transportation Association (MPTA) and the Passenger Vessel Association (PVA) in an effort to generate ideas on how we might approach marine funding. Rep. Wayne Schmidt who chairs the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee at the state level seems willing to assist with this effort. Dusty Fancher who lobbies on behalf of MPTA has been working on transportation legislation with Rep. Schmidt and his staff who have an interest in marine and port funding. Moser reported that he facilitated and participated in a conference call between Dusty and Ed Welch of PVA last Friday. They talked about several key topics but mostly about federal marine funding and the importance of what the state can do in terms of helping to promote their needs and being willing and able to cover any non-federal share.

Moser reported that we have “firmed up” our dry-dock date for Neebish II. We should have the necessary 3rd party contract anytime.

Board member Jack Kibble attended the Michigan Transit Pool Annual Meeting this year. Jack was able to meet many of the system members and learn about the pooled insurance program. Akemi covered the business meeting while Jack attended the STC meeting with Moser on the following day.

Moser reported the fish plant for the Drummond Islander has been cancelled.

BUSSING

Moser reported we met with Lisa Hinkson, Lisa Lauzon, and Patty Crawford from HBH today for a couple hours. We gave a very thorough overview of our contractual service to them and NTI, and listened to their concerns, mostly in regard to their difficulty with funding. They are

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having problems with direct as well as indirect costs and are looking at losses in each category. They understand our financial concerns but repeated numerous times that they have serious financial concerns of their own and are getting to a point where they may have to make lay-offs a necessity to try and stay within budget. One of the thoughts that we shared is that the goal of efficient transportation is so hard to make any substantial improvement on in such a rural service area, is if we redouble our effort to find more local funding. We also explained what we have done, including lay-offs, and our insurance program, to contain our costs.

VII. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Dunn gave a brief overview of the State Transportation funding increase efforts. Mr. Dunn feels that there may be an announcement soon in regard to funding. He stated that the state's budget is on track to be finished by the 3rd week of June or maybe sooner.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to come before the Board, **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Herbst; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble to adjourn. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 3, 2013 at 4PM.

Ted Postula, Sec. /Treas.

Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder