

Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: Monday January 6, 2014

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ted Postula Michael Herbst Frank Sasso
Dennis Robinson Jack Kibble

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE
STAFF ABSENT:** None

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.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –December 2, 2013

With regard to Minutes for December 2, 2013; IT **WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT-P.E.-November 30, 2013

BUSSING

Finance Director Gordon reported for the month of November, our passenger counts are down 313 or 856 for the two months of October and November. Chippewa bus was down 257 and Luce Dial-A-Ride was down 56. Total revenue from all sources was down 5.5% with expenses increasing 4.5%.

FERRIES

Gordon reported the ferry system did not experience a very good November. Fares decreased 8% overall with vehicles down almost 2,000 and passengers decreased by almost 1,500.

Drummond's vehicles were down 10% with passengers down 16%.

Sugar experienced a 4% decrease in vehicles and a 7% increase in passengers.

Neebish had a 64 vehicle increase and passengers were up 122.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

BUSSING

Director Moser reported each year MDOT's Public Transportation Division advises public transit agencies at what percentage they will be reimbursed. This past year 38.48% was the number they gave us. The rural systems planned accordingly, but when news came down that the actual percentage came down by over 2% the rural systems decided to try and press for the original

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number that was given to us. Moser has been working with Clark Harder and the other members of the rural operators committee to get MDOT to agree with our effort. The committee has run all of the numbers which shows a shortfall of around \$2.6million. we had a very similar situation last year that happened regarding the urban systems. It took some time but a correction was eventually made. We are asking the same correction be made for the rural systems. We have a plan to move forward and expect that the MPTA Board of Directors will take formal action supporting our plan at its next meeting a week from Thursday. Although there are a number of agencies that are operating at the "97 floor" funding level, most will not be impacted either negatively or positively. EUPTA is one of the three systems that will be impacted positively by approximately \$8,000 if a correction is made.

Moser reported Cloverland Electric has informed us that they will no longer be utilizing EUPTA for courier service from DeTour. They have made some operational changes and will be handling their own inter-office mail. We spoke with Wendy Milaska at some length last week. There is nothing that we had done wrong in terms of service and she said they would be monitoring how it goes and if they decide doing it themselves doesn't work out, they would be happy to re-consider.

FERRIES

Director Moser reported a Public Hearing will need to be held soon regarding increase in fares.

Moser reported another mechanic is needed. It was suggested a job description regarding this position should be brought back to the board at the next meeting.

Moser reported receiving a complaint with regard to Christmas lights on the ferry. Over the years our crews have taken it upon themselves to put up lights. To our knowledge there has never been any specific policy. This year someone took them down on the Sugar Islander which promoted a complaint. The complaint ant wanted to know why one person's decision to take the lights down would take precedence. Moser will look further into this complaint.

VII. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Dunn congratulated Director Moser on his re-appointment to the State Transportation Committee.

Dunn reported with regard to the Fogcutter property; all is done. Just waiting for the title to clear.

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Dunn spoke briefly on the Federal Discretionary Fund.

With regard to the previous complaint regarding delivery of elderly and handicapped; this matter is closed.

Dunn spoke briefly regarding the change in the formula; not less than 50%.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to come before the Board, **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Robinson; **SUPPORTED** by Director Herbst to adjourn. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 3, 2014 at 4PM.

Ted Postula, Sec. /Treas.

Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder