

Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority
Board Meeting Minutes
6/4/2024

I. Call to Order:

Board Chair, John Waltman, called the June 4, 2024 meeting of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority Board to order at 10:31 a.m.

II. Roll Call was taken:

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Waltman, Brandon Wheeler, Joe Henne, Nick Huyck, and Lynda Garlitz

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

III. Pledge of Allegiance:

Those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

IV. Agenda: It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Brandon Wheeler SECOND: Nick Huyck	Approve the June 4, 2024 agenda with additions in New Business: 1. Discuss Date for Financial Workshop 2. Closed Session Regarding Employee Issues
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V. Public Comment:

- Bob Malpass

VI. Minutes: It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Brandon Wheeler SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	Approve the May 7, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.
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VII. Special Meeting Minutes: It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Nick Huyck	Approve the May 20, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes as presented.
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VIII. Finance Director Report:

- Ms. Gordon discussed the A/P and EFT transfers and fielded questions from the Board. Discussed RCL transactions.
- Bussing – There was a 13% increase in fares for the month of April and a 21% increase in fares year-to-date. Passenger counts are down a minimal amount. We are often at capacity for NEMT with all of our vehicles and employees. We have a mini-van with a ramp being delivered on Thursday, June 6, 2024. Currently we are using a transit van or a bus for one person wheelchair transports.

- Ferries – The Ferry System had a good April, with an increase in fares, passengers, and vehicles. EUPTA Ferries were up 3,000 vehicles and 4,000 passengers from last April.
- Discussed Jeep the Mac Graphs. This year the amount of jeep crossings was down. This is due to the fact there was not a “MAC” as part of the Jeep the Mac. The Mackinac Bridge did not allow them to gather and have a parade over the bridge. This year there were 302 jeeps that traveled across the Drummond Island Ferry as part of the Jeep the Mac. Last year there were 502 jeeps that crossed. The crew reported there were still a lot of jeeps but believe they did not purchase the package due to the Mackinac Bridge not being included. The counts provided in the graphs were based on people who registered.
- Ms. Gordon reviewed the April 2024 graphs.

IX. Director’s Report:

- Neebish Schedule- The new schedule has begun as of May 23 and things have settled down for the time being and are going well. Improvements to the regular schedule during the day has increased service opportunities to the island. Director Paramski gave kudos to the Neebish Island Committee that helped with implementing the new schedule.
- Facility Update- Active work is still happening. Restoration work and work on the irrigation system is on-going. The electrician is here today to work on the well system. We are waiting for the extra bulk tank for the drain oil burner reservoir. This will be additional heat from recycled oil.
- Drummond Islander V Funding: Things are progressing rapidly for funding of a new Drummond Islander V with a 90% chance the funding for a new ferry is coming to fruition. This ferry will be used as a switch hitter for all three islands. The D3 is currently the only boat that will work at all docks. A new D-V would primarily be used at Drummond but then would also be used to fill in at all three islands i.e. for drydock of other ferries, etc.. The build would ensure it could be used at all three docks. Initial thoughts are that the hull design would be similar and expand on the design from the Neebish. Pre-scoping meetings have begun. The plan will be to keep two ferries at Drummond full-time with the Drummond V to rotate out as needed. As our fleet ages, we must ensure we have back-up ferries to cover all scenarios.
- Luce County Dial-A-Ride – We are down a driver due to a health issue of a long-time employee. The driver recently resigned, effective immediately. We currently have a part-time person and full-time person to cover.
- Miscellaneous
 - Sugar Island Ferry recently had Retirement/Resignation from a deckhand with captain papers. Norris Seward will be leaving and pursuing a new career. We wish him well in his new endeavors.
 - Nate St. Onge has accepted the full-time deckhand position that opened from Norris Seward’s retirement.
 - Neebish will be having a shutdown during the middle of the day on Wednesday, June 12, 2024. This is needed to fix the ramp to accommodate it for low water.

X. New Business

- Trustee Garlitz would like to set a date for a Financial Board Workshop, proposing the workshop be July 2, 2024 after the regular scheduled meeting.

Finance Workshop It was moved and carried by roll call vote to:

MOTION: Joe Henne SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	Have a finance workshop after the July meeting, with the July Regular meeting beginning at 10:00 a.m. and the workshop to follow directly after meeting.
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XI. Closed Session It was moved and carried by roll call vote to:

MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Brandon Wheeler	To go in to closed session at 10:46 a.m.
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XII. Open Session: It was moved and carried by roll call vote to:

MOTION: Nick Huyck SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	Go back into open session 11:14 a.m.
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XIII. Administrative: It was moved and carried by roll call vote to:

MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Brandon Wheeler	Provide administration increase to match union increase with retroactive to January 1, 2024
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XIV. Board Comment:

- Trustee Garlitz asked about traffic counts from Neebish for last weekend's runs. It was reported from the captain on duty:
 - May 24th = 6 vehicles from mainland on 10 p.m. 3 vehicles off
 - May 25th = 2 from mainland and 2 to the island
 - May 28th = 0 for both ways
 - May 29th = 2 on both ways

XV. Adjourn: It was moved and carried by roll call vote to:

MOTION: Joe Henne SECOND: Nick Huyck	Adjourn the meeting at 11:17 AM
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Lynda Garlitz, Secretary


Bonnie Kaunisto, Recording Secretary

Board Approved: