

Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority
Board Meeting Minutes
11/5/2024

I. Call to Order:

Board Chair, John Waltman, called the November 5, 2024 meeting of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority Board to order at 10:30 a.m.

II. Roll Call was taken:

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Waltman, Brandon Wheeler, Nick Huyck (arrived at 10:34 a.m.)
Joe Henne, and Lynda Garlitz

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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: Lynda Garlitz	Approve the November 5, 2024 agenda, as presented
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V. Public Comment:

- Jim Traynor
- Jim Martin
- Phyllis Reed

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

MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Brandon Wheeler	Approve the October 1, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.
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VII. Finance Director Report:

- Ms. Gordon discussed the A/P and EFT transfers for September 2024. Audit will begin the second week of December. We are near to closing out financials for FY2024. FY2024 Financials will be in draft form until the audit is finished.
- Public Act 152 has to be approved before December 1, 2024 which is our renewal date. There are two calculations to choose from;
 1. The Caps which are adjusted every year for inflation or
 2. The 80/20 split. Since inception EUPTA has adopted 80/20 split. This is more cost savings for EUPTA.
 3. We will need a board motion to approve.

Public Act 152 Adoption: It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Joe Henne SECOND: Brandon Wheeler	Approve Public Act 152 Adoption for FY2025 – Medical Benefits Annual Cost Limitations Accept the 80/20 option for 2025
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- Financials will be in draft form until auditors make adjustments. They will make an adjustment for the pension portion. Unfunded liability requirement has been decreasing each year.
- Bussing: October 4th a driver hit a deer with vehicle. The vehicle was deemed as totaled. The insurance company bid the vehicle out for salvage. We will be compensated for loss of vehicle. We had a grant for an expansion vehicle in the works and it was delivered today. It is a 2025 Equinox. Since we are receiving an additional vehicle, we will play it by ear if we will be replacing the RTW Equinox that was deemed totaled by our insurance pool.
- Graphs break down bussing operations for Luce and Chippewa Counties for passenger counts and fares.
- Ferries had a 5% increase in fare revenue. ARPA revenue was 18% in FY 2023 and in FY 2024 it was 9%. After FY2024 there will no longer be receiving any Covid or ARPA funding. Vehicle counts for the year were up 13,000 and 18,000 for passengers
- Reviewed graphs for ferries. Graphs show the differences in how the tickets are being sold. Drummond Island has more full fare sales from tourists and Sugar has a majority of commuter ticket sales. Neebish Island is about ½ and ½ of each of the types of ticket sales. Other graphs breakdown the various type of tickets that are sold along with the count of vehicles and passengers

VIII. Director's Report:

- We continue to work on the facility punch list items. We have had a few problems, including water infiltrating the building in some spots. They will be back to fix the issue in the near future. We are still waiting for the waste oil tank. This tank is bulk storage for our used drain oil from ferries and vehicles. This used oil will be used in an oil burning furnace to supplement heat in the garage. The tank should be here soon. A few issues with the pressure washer are still being worked out.
- Our facility project is still under budget with unused federal funds. We are looking into purchasing a loader for snow removal. We have a bigger area now for snow removal. We can use it to lift spare engines for drydock projects. We are also looking at a scissor lift.
- Drummond – Mechanics are putting Drummond III away for the winter. Done with two boats and Drummond will only have one boat in service during drydock next summer.
- Submitted RFQ to MDOT for naval architect for design of new boat and waiting for their feedback.
- Sugar – repaired sink hole on island side. Recently hired two fill-in deckhands; Jenna Miles and Rod Sanford. Working on hiring another as soon as paperwork can be finished.

- Neebish – Currently working on routine maintenance. This November has been two years since the new boat was commissioned. Schedule change begins December 1, 2024. Runs are not being utilized much on Saturday and Sundays. Provided board with a copy of report.
- Director Paramski attended PVA conference. He stated that much of the discussion revolved around EV vehicles on ferries. This is due to potential fire hazard. EV vehicles have fire problems, and conventional extinguishers do not work on them. EV fires can reignite. Best solution is heavy, expensive blankets. Operators from all over the Great Lakes Region attend this conference. It is great networking and very informative.
- Our MDOT project manager took a promotion within the Office of Passenger Transportation. We do not know who will be our new Project Manager. There are only two that deal with marine issues in the state of Michigan. We wish Brian luck in his new endeavor. He will be supervising the new person and we have confidence he will train the next person to be as efficient and helpful as he is.

IX. New Business

- Trustee Garlitz requested we add Review of 2025 Board Meeting Dates. Request to change April meeting to April 8, 2025, and change June to June 10, 2025.
- 2025 Board Meeting Dates: It was moved and carried by unanimous vote to:

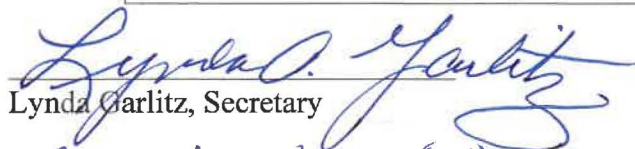
MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Brandon Wheeler	Accept the 2025 Board meeting dates with the following changes: April Meeting will be April 8, 2025; June Meeting will be June 10, 2025
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X. Board Comment:

- Lynda Garlitz
- Joe Henne

XI. Adjourn: It was moved and carried by unanimous vote to:

MOTION: Joe Henne SECOND: Nick Huyck	Adjourn the meeting at 11:15 AM
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Lynda Garlitz, Secretary


Bonnie Kaunisto, Recording Secretary

Board Approved: 12/3/2024