

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: Monday, July 7, 2008

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rodney Richards Frank Sasso Aaron Hopper
Ted Postula Dennis Robinson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None absent

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT: Chuck Moser Akemi Gordon James Dunn, Attorney
Lynda Schexnayder Lyn Rairigh Renee Hillock

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.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Earl Kay reported that the Ethanol Plant coming to Chippewa County will be a great boom for the entire Upper Peninsula. Kay reported it will enhance the logging industry up here ten fold. They will begin construction next spring and will be ready for operation in 2012.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –June 2, 2008 & June 10, 2008

With regard to Regular Board Meeting Minutes for June 2, 2008; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. With regard to Special Meeting held June 10, 2008; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT - P.E. May 31, 2008

IN GENERAL

Finance Director Gordon requested a motion to delegate Gordon for the 62nd annual **MERS** meeting scheduled for the end of September. This will allow Gordon to vote on behalf of EUPTA for issues pertaining to the annual business meeting. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Hopper; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to delegate Gordon for said position. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. This year's meeting will be held in Traverse City and will be eligible for RTAP reimbursement.

Gordon reported with regard to the summary of the audit bids that came in for a three year period. Two of the audit bids came in the same with the exception of the per hour fees. If any additional work is needed within this three year period (single audit) or any correspondence with commission audit, the per hour fee would apply. Bids were as follows: Anderson Tackman, \$30,000. Schneider, Larche & Haapala (Escanaba), \$30,000. The Rehmann Group (Traverse City), \$50,250. Anderson Tackman's per hour fees were less than Schneider Larche. After some discussion **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to accept the bid from Anderson Tackman. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

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BUSSING

Gordon reported Chippewa County's passenger count for the year is up almost 1,400 or 4% and Luce County is down a little over 1,600 or 25%.

FERRIES

Gordon reported ferry statistics and financials were discussed at the June 10th meeting and there have been no significant changes since then.

In closing, Gordon reported she will be working on the FYE 09 budgets. She will have a "Draft" form in August with a final budget at the September board meeting.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Moser reported John Drury recently informed him there are two policies that need EUPTAB action regarding our bus operations: 1) In that we are required to allow service animals and oxygen tanks onboard our buses, we are also required to have the appropriate policies concerning both. Moser has asked Attorney Dunn to provide these policies which he has done. Moser read said policies and a short discussion followed.

Director Moser presented and recommended adoption of Oxygen Bottle Policy. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Hopper; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to adopt said policy. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

Director Moser presented and recommended adoption of Service Animal Policy. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Hopper to adopt said policy. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

BUS SYSTEM

Moser reported John Drury will be coming here on Wednesday and will be here Thursday as well doing a "tri-annual review" of our system. We have been very busy making sure that we're prepared for inspection.

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Moser reported fare box revenues are up, obviously in part because new rates kicked in on July 1st, but also because of new riders that are either not able or not willing to pay pump prices.

Moser reported getting ready to purchase a replacement van for Newberry. We will be purchasing it through the MIDeal program which is pretty simple and straight forward; it also makes it easier than doing a bid spec from scratch.

FERRY SYSTEM

Moser reported all three islands were very busy over the past week. Hopefully vacationers will continue to visit now that the big July 4th holiday is behind us.

Moser reported the new rates with the added surcharge were put into effect on midnight June 30th. Renee did a good job coordinating the printing with the printers and made sure that everything could be done to minimize costs of making the changes was done. It is a lot of work.

Moser reiterated EUPTA's request for funds through MDOT's 5311 funding program to purchase a backhoe/loader that can be used to remove snow, hang tires, adjust our hydraulic ramps, etc. We learned that this item could be purchased through the MIDeal program as well, which not only qualified for a 36% discount, but also made the purchase very simple. We have received the unit and are in the process of procuring a trailer so that it can be moved to all of our dock locations. The trailer is being purchased through a separate capital fund, so we are required to purchase it separately. Lyn is in the process of making sure that the specifications for the trailer are right before we make the purchase. The back hoe can also be used in place of the old fork truck that we've been limping along with for a long time.

Moser reported receiving a written request from the director of the Sault Ste. Marie Port of Customs and Border Patrol asking for Boarding Priority for the 11:40 boat at Drummond. Moser believes this can be handled unofficially without a problem.

VII. ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Dunn reported the Budget has passed, but it is still in Congress.

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VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to come before the Board, **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to adjourn. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 4, 2008, at 4:00p.m.

Mr. Aaron Hopper, Sec. /Treas.

Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder