

# Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority

## Regular Board Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** Monday, November 3, 2008

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

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None absent

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:** Chuck Moser      Akemi Gordon      Renee Hillock  
Lynda Schexnayder      Jim Dunn, Attorney

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF ABSENT:** None absent

**OTHERS PRESENT:** See attached sign in sheet.

## **BOARD MEETING**

**Page 2**

**November 3, 2008**

### **I. - II. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 4:03p.m. by Chairman Sasso. All directors were present.

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Willis asked if the surcharge is going to be taken off the ferry ticket price since diesel prices are down. Chairman Sasso noted that diesel prices are not down as much as gasoline and explained that the finances with regard to the ferry are still at a deficit.

Mr. Willis also reported with regard to the cell at Sugar Ferry; the bumper pads are in bad shape. Captain Dan Cairns explained that 2 inserts are bad and they will be taken care of.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –October 6, 2008**

With regard to Regular Board Meeting Minutes for October 6, 2008; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

### **V. FINANCIAL REPORT - P.E. September 30, 2008**

Finance Director Akemi Gordon went over September financial statements.

### **BUSSING**

Gordon reported total revenue increased 7.16% for the year and total expenses increased almost 6%. July 1st of this past year was Year 2 of a 3-year increase in fares for our bussing division. These increases have helped EUPTA offset the steep increases in fuel as well as some other increases in expenses that we have been experiencing. The bussing ended up in the black with Chippewa County with a surplus of around \$18,000; but Luce County lost about \$6,500 so if you combine the two, we end up in the black about \$12,000.

Total passengers carried for 08 are up 3% or 1,609. Chippewa bus had an 8% increase in passengers or 3,554 and Luce Dial-A-Ride had 21% decrease or 1,945 rides.

## **BOARD MEETING**

**Page 3**

**November 3, 2008**

### **FERRIES**

Gordon reported the ferry system combined ended up with a deficit of \$68,000 for the entire year. Last year we ended up with a surplus of just \$1,200.

With regard to the fuel surcharge; since July 1<sup>st</sup> we have collected just a little over \$62,000 with the surcharge and the increase with fuel for this fiscal year compared to a year ago is \$183,000.

The overall vehicle and passenger traffic were both down 4% for the year. Vehicles were down 22,360 and passengers were down 35,272. All three ferry systems experienced decreased traffic.

Gordon went over quarterly graphs. Drummond; at the end of June, full fare revenue comprised of 54% of total fare revenue and throughout the summer months to the end of September it increased to 63% of total fare revenue with ticket revenue at 37%. Sugar; the full fare revenue at the end of June was 28% and through the summer months to the end of September is now at 36% with ticket revenue making up 64%. Neebish; full fare revenue at Neebish went from 50% at the end of June to 55% at the end of September. Ticket revenue makes up 45% on that ferry.

## **VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **BUS SYSTEM**

Director Moser reported Pathways yearly contract renewal has been sent out.

Moser gave an update on MPTA/TF2 Progress. Possible legislation changes to Public Act 51 would be cause for concern as far as our bussing system goes. Attorney Dunn interjected at this point; giving a brief definition of the Task Force and its role. Dunn gave explanation of the Gasoline Tax. Dunn reiterated the importance of Act 51 as it applies to EUPTA.

Moser reported Jean Ruestman has been promoted into the planning section.

### **FERRY SYSTEM**

Moser reported with regard to engine change out for Drummond IV; it is hoped to build in one year separation between starboard and port engine replacements.

## **BOARD MEETING**

**Page 4**

**November 3, 2008**

Director Moser presented and recommended approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with Chippewa County Commission in regards to the \$25,000 Ferry Operating Grant. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Hopper; **SUPPORTED** by Director Robinson to accept said memorandum. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

### **VII. ATTORNEY REPORT**

Dunn reported EUPTA has received a court proceeding which we will respond to. No further comment on this at this time. Our answer will be filed next week.

Dunn reported there is a bill pending in the legislature to allow public transportation authorities to establish a Tax Increment Finance Agreement (TIFA).

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business to come before the Board, **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Robinson to adjourn. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 1, 2008, at 4:00p.m

---

Mr. Aaron Hopper, Sec. /Treas.

---

Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder