

Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: Monday, June 1, 2009

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rodney Richards Frank Sasso Ted Postula
Dennis Robinson Jack Kibble

MEMBERS ABSENT: None absent

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

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF ABSENT: None absent

OTHERS PRESENT: See attached sign in sheet.

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

Mr. Willis (Sugar Island) reported the cell on the island side is torn up. EUPTA is aware of this and Charlie from MCM will be taking care of the problem.

Jesse Knoll (Sugar Island) questioned whether the public would have WiFy Internet access to the ferry dock lines. Moser reported we have not pursued this lately. A short discussion ensued

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –May 4, 2009

With regard to Regular Board Meeting Minutes for May 4, 2009; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT-P.E.-April 30, 2009

BUSSING

Finance Director Gordon reported February, March and April experienced a downturn on rider ship. We are only 50 passengers ahead of last year. Total revenue is up 3.45% and expenses are up 3.87%.

Gordon reported July 1st will be the third year of an approved rate increase for the bussing. Gordon recommended postponing this last increase at this time if it is possible. During the months of February, March and April rider ship decreased over 1,200. Rider ship may suffer even more if we proceed with this 3rd year. It was questioned if we can postpone this increase without having to do another public hearing? Attorney Dunn reported we can do this if the board agrees. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Robinson; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to postpone the July 1st fare increase for the bussing for 6 months. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. This will be re-evaluated in January.

FERRIES

Gordon reported a slight increase in vehicle (826) and passenger (1280) traffic in April. Drummond's vehicles were down 56 with passengers down 978. Sugar's vehicles went up 158 with passengers up 1238. Neebish's traffic was up 724 vehicles and 1020 passengers.

Overall deficit through the end of April for the ferries is just over \$105,000. A year ago at this time our deficit was over \$200,000. This summer's traffic will be crucial for us in terms of getting out of our current deficit and building up our retained earnings.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Moser presented and recommended approval of Resolution Agreement No. 2002-0035, Authorization No. Z21/R1 for the purpose of adding one vehicle and extending the term of the capital contract by one year so that there is sufficient time to complete the project. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble to approve said resolution. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

Moser presented and recommended approval of Resolution Agreement No. 2007-0204, Authorization No. Z13/R1 for the purpose of increasing operating funds by \$29,678. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Kibble; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve said resolution. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

Moser presented and recommended adoption of Title VI Plan as well as our LEP (Limited English Proficiency) plan which all board members have received. Both documents are now necessary for EUPTA to continue to transport passengers. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Robinson to adopt said Plan. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

Moser reported Congressman Stupak spent the past week end on Drummond Island which gave Moser the chance to speak with him about Transportation issues. One of the issues that Moser asked for help on is a legislative issue dealing with a state mandating security credentials for employees that have Merchant Mariners Documents (MMDs). Florida recently mandated that marine operators and employees must carry an extra credential in addition to a TWIC card. This is extremely cumbersome and expensive. Not only that, but the very same employees have just went through the TWIC credentialing process making this new mandate a duplicative and very unnecessary exercise. Also, there is nothing currently preventing other states to follow suit. Congresswoman Castor from Florida has offered an amendment to the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) annual authorization bill (HR 2200) that would address this problem by preventing states from doing security background checks on persons who have already been checked by the federal government in order to get a TWIC or other security document. The amendment is scheduled to be taken up Wednesday or Thursday of this week. Congressman Stupak asked Moser to contact him early this week with all of the background and details, and that he would be willing to consider supporting and voting for the amendment. Moser has spoken with our Legislative Director at PVA, and he will be in touch with Stupak's office.

Moser reported a good Memorial Day Week end on Drummond Island. Finance Director Gordon reported revenues were up but vehicles and passengers were down from the previous year for the month of May. Moser reported a problem with Drummond IV's new port engine; bolts that fastened the cooling line rattled loose and dumped some coolant. The Captain discovered this before there were any engine problems and Lyn Rairigh made sure it was charged back up properly and notified CAT of this problem. They also had a problem with the cable that runs the shifting and throttle linkages. This has been taken care of as well.

The Lions Club has contacted EUPTA regarding putting in a Viewing Platform on the Drummond side dock. There was some discussion regarding where this should be located.

Moser reported we had a request today from Big Brothers/Big Sisters regarding a fishing program at Rotary Park and bus transportation from Kincheloe.

Moser reported Director Richards has been in touch with some folks regarding possible Charter School Transportation in Curtis in September. Moser has done some research on this matter. It is projected there will be 70-100 children.

VII. ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Dunn reported with regard to current lawsuit; he is optimistic this will be resolved by our July meeting.

Chairman Sasso asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to give an update on Labor Contract. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Robinson; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula that this Board go into Executive Session. A Roll Call Vote was taken at 4:45pm...

Director Richards: yes Director Robinson; yes Director Kibble; yes
Director Postula; yes Chairman Sasso; yes

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

IT WAS MOVED by Director Kibble; **SUPPORTED** by Director Richards that this Board return to General Session. A Roll Call Vote was taken at 5:09PM...

Director Richards: yes Director Robinson; yes Director Kibble; yes
Director Postula; yes Chairman Sasso; yes

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

At 5:09PM Chairman Sasso called the meeting back to order in "General Session".

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to come before the Board, **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Kibble; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to adjourn. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 5:10 pm. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 6, 2009, at 4:00p.m

Ted Postula, Sec. /Treas.

Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder