

Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: Monday, March 2, 2009

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rodney Richards Frank Sasso
Dennis Robinson Jack Kibble

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ted Postula

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT: Chuck Moser Akemi Gordon Lyn Rairigh
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 with the exception of Director Ted Postula.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Willis (Sugar Island) questioned whether the Handicap Cardholder List is in violation of any HIPPA laws. The Board does not believe it is. Willis also reported that a deckhand allegedly accused him of buying and selling handicap tickets. Mr. Willis would like it on record that he has never done this.

Jesse Knoll requested a list of persons attending the last meeting be included with the board minutes that are mailed out monthly.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –February 2, 2009

With regard to Regular Board Meeting Minutes for February 2, 2009; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

V. AUDITOR’S REPORT-Anderson Tackman

Trish thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with EUPTA. Trish went over the graphs included in the report. She reported the audit went very well and gave EUPTA the highest opinion possible.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT-P.E.-January 31, 2009

Finance Director Gordon presented and recommended approval of Resolution of Intent to apply for Financial Assistance (Marine Program) for Fiscal Year 2010. EUPTA has applied for \$1,289,810 in State operating assistance and \$151,500 in Capital, of which \$136,350 state funds and \$15,150 will be our local match. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Robinson; **SUPPORTED** by Director Richards to approve said resolution. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

BUSSING

Gordon reported fares for the month of January increased 8% with passengers up 5% for the month and 8% YTD. Total revenue has increased 7.13% YTD with expenses increasing 14.81%.

FERRIES

Gordon reported total vehicle and passenger traffic on the ferries continued to decrease for the 3rd month in a row. YTD there has been a decrease of 4,816 vehicles and 6,370 passengers. Drummond had a small increase in traffic of 684 vehicles and 94 passengers for January. Sugar's vehicle traffic for January decreased 488, with a decrease of 110 passengers. Neebish experienced a decrease of 350 vehicles and 512 passengers for the same month.

As of February 8th the Neebish Island Ferry was shut down until further notice. 2005 was the last year the Neebish Ferry had been closed down for a couple of months. 2006, 2007 and 2008 the ferry ran all year.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Moser presented and recommended approval of Resolution Project No. 2007-0204/Z13 FY 2009 Section 5311 Operating required by MDOT in order to record agreement of utilization of funds in the amount of \$44,518 provided by the Federal Transit Administration, United States Department of Transportation and MDOT. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble to approve said resolution. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

Moser reported the MPTA's Legislative Conference was last month in Lansing. Northern Michigan Transit Systems did a great job in getting our legislators to attend. We had 100% attendance. Southeast Michigan had only one or two attending.

Notwithstanding the problem for rural systems in terms of sufficient funding (in large part due to the growth in small urban & urban systems), MPTA has done a great job in at least keeping the total "operating funding" from going backwards. We are in this year's budget for 165 million which is equivalent to the current year's appropriation.

Jackie Shinn attended the conference as well as her administrative staff. Jackie understands our financial problems, but really did not have any good news for us. She does believe that the Governor is supportive to the idea of restructuring how funds for transportation are generated, and also feels that more legislators are beginning to take a realistic look at transportation's future. She expressed the hope that something in regards to meaningful legislation to shore up transportation funding will happen this year.

In regards to so called "Stimulus" funding coming to Michigan, Moser tried to stress the point that it is not prudent to spend a lot of money on capital projects at the risk of not having enough operating funds to use things like larger facilities, new buses, or equipment. Everything should be done that can be to allow agencies the flexibility to use any new funds in a manner that it is the most efficient.

It does appear that there are some disagreements as to allocating and spending any stimulus money.

In closing, Moser suggested a committee of two board members be appointed to discuss the current job and wage of Lyn Rairigh. Rodney Richards and Jack Kibble were the board members selected. They will meet at 2:30 before the next regularly scheduled board meeting on April 6, 2009.

VIII. ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Dunn gave a brief explanation of Act 51.

Chairman Sasso asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to give an update on current lawsuit. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Robinson; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble that this Board go into Executive Session. A Roll Call Vote was taken at 4:40PM...

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

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

IT WAS MOVED by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble that this Board return to General Session. A Roll Call Vote was taken at 4:50PM...

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

UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

At 4:50pm Chairman Sasso called the meeting back to order in "General Session".

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to come before the Board, **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Robinson to adjourn. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:51pm. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2009, at 4:00p.m

Ted Postula, Sec. /Treas.

Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder