

# Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority

## Regular Board Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** Monday, January 5, 2009

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rodney Richards      Frank Sasso      Jack Kibble  
Ted Postula

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dennis Robinson

**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 Dennis Robinson.

Chairman Sasso introduced and welcomed new board member, Jack Kibble who will be taking Aaron Hopper's place on the board.

### III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Willis asked if the \$25,000 agreement with the County is in effect. The response was; yes it is. Willis asked if Emergency vehicles were included in the agreement. The response was; no they are not.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –December 1, 2008**

With regard to Regular Board Meeting Minutes for December 1, 2008; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

With regard to Special Session Minutes for December 17, 2008; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Richards to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

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

Finance Director Akemi Gordon went over November financial statements.

##### **BUSSING**

Finance Director Gordon reported the 2009 State operating assistance rate for this fiscal year has decreased from 36.15% to 35.61% or .54% decrease. As long as we continue to sustain our local revenue above \$143,298, we will receive no less than the amount we received in 1997 of \$191,268.

Rider ship in Chippewa County so far for the year is up 218 passengers or 6% and has decreased in Luce County by 209.

Gordon reported the biggest change on the income statement for the bussing is the Transit Pool Insurance line item. A year ago EUPTA received a refund on the retrospective adjustment and this year we had to pay into the fund.

##### **FERRIES**

Gordon reported both vehicles and passengers are down YTD for the ferries combined. Drummond Island has experienced a decrease of 402 vehicles and 2,014 passengers for the two months into this fiscal year. Sugar Island is down 208 vehicles with passengers increasing 1,498 and Neebish's vehicles are down 1,022 with passengers down 988.

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

Director Moser reported accepting nominations to replace Aaron Hopper as Secretary/Treasurer. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble to nominate Ted Postula as

Secretary/Treasurer. **UNANIMOUS.**

It was brought to the attention of the board that Jack Kibble will need to be added on a signature card with the bank so he will be able to sign checks. Aaron Hopper's name will be removed.

Director Moser presented and recommended approval of Project Authorization FY 2009 Marine Capital; Agreement No. 2007-0204/Z14 in order to record agreement of utilization of funds in the amount of \$180,000; \$162,000 being State and \$18,000 being Local Match. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Richards to approve said resolution. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

At this time Director Moser introduced Rich Hill, Neebish Island Ferry, who gave his Year End Report for 2008. His report is attached. Moser thanked Hill for the good job he is doing.

Moser reported near the end of this Transportation Funding Legislation there was a very concerted effort by transit and the highway folks to get a package of bills passed and in front of the Governor that would significantly increase funding for transportation in Michigan. Under current funding levels transit systems are struggling to make ends meet and there is a large consensus of opinion that funding for roads and bridges is getting to a critical state because of inadequate funding. About a week before the legislature adjourned for the year, the House passed a number of "shell" bills over to the Senate for possible action on the last day of session. Legislative rules require that a piece of legislation must "lay over" for a period of five days when passing from one legislative body to the other before the next action can be taken. Although the shell bills passed by the House had very little

content, as far as detailed amounts of revenue increases, it at least served to meet the five day lay over rule. On December 18<sup>th</sup> which was the last day that the legislature convened for the year, negotiations between the Governor, Senate Majority Leader, House Majority Leader and MDOT Director broke down. The Governor "pulled the plug" on the effort, citing her reasons that the Senate Majority Leader wanted too many concessions that would result in enough of a reduced amount of new revenue that she felt was necessary to adequately fund transportation. Keep in mind that the report released by the Transportation Funding Task Force recommended a minimum of \$1.5Billion in new money. When negotiations broke down the amount of new revenue being discussed was reported to be down to around \$750 million. We will continue to work on getting new legislation ready for the new session as no one in the transportation sector feels that there are any other options.

### **BUS SYSTEM**

Moser reported the bid opening for a new van in Newberry will be January 9<sup>th</sup> at 2PM.

Moser reported because Thunder Bay Transit in Alpena will not be utilizing federal funds previously appropriated for a facility project, he had re-calculated the distributions for the rest of the transit systems in the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District. For EUPTA this will mean that we will be eligible for an additional \$50,000.00 (approximately after the 20% state match is factored in).

Moser reported the Local Express gas station and convenience store burned down recently. Local

Express is one of our stops on our Kincheloe runs. We are using an alternate pick up location near there.

Moser reported we are in the process of purchasing a service vehicle to replace the tool van and are trying to remain patient while waiting for MDOT to get a new contract in place so that we can replace 2 cut-away buses.

Moser is also waiting for the “go-ahead” on doing some renovations here at the offices, which hopefully will result in bringing down some of our heating and cooling costs.

### **FERRY SYSTEM**

Moser reported 50 plus mph winds resulted in some service interruptions on two different occasions at Drummond over the holiday season.

Moser reported repairs have been scheduled for Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> from midnight to approximately 4am for Sugar Islander II and Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup> from midnight to approximately 4am for Drummond Islander IV.

Board Meeting dates for the Year 2009 were presented and recommended approval. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve as presented. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

### **VII. ATTORNEY REPORT**

Attorney Dunn reiterated Director Moser’s report on bills introduced to the Transportation Funding Legislation resulted in no change in the formula for our funding.

Chairman Sasso asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to give an update on current lawsuit and Union Negotiations. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Richards that this Board go into Executive Session. A Roll Call Vote was taken at 4:45PM...

**Director Richards; yes      Director Postula; yes**  
**Director Kibble; yes      Chairman Sasso; yes**

### **UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE**

**IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Richards that this Board return to General Session. A Roll Call Vote was taken at 5:40PM...

**Director Richards; yes      Director Postula; yes**  
**Director Kibble; yes      Chairman Sasso; yes**

### **UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE**

At 5:40pm 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 Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble to adjourn. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 5:42pm. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 2, 2009, at 4:00p.m

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Ted Postula, Sec. /Treas.

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Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder