

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: Monday, February 1, 2010

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

ADMINISTRATIVE None absent
STAFF 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 4:03p.m. by Chairman Sasso. All directors were present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alex Shrobehm introduced himself. Alex is running for State Representative.

Don McLean (representing Neebish Island residents) had questions concerning the Neebish Island ferry with regard to crossing during ice conditions.

Jesse Knoll spoke with regard to communication with the Neebish Island ferry.

Chairman Sasso gave an explanation of EUPTA's policy and reported that the ferry will run if it is possible.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –January 4, 2010

With regard to Regular Board Meeting Minutes for January 4, 2010; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Richards; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT-P.E.-December 31, 2009

BUSSING

Finance Director Gordon reported the 2011 annual application for operating and capital assistance has been completed and was submitted via PTMS. EUPTA has applied for \$78,224 in federal operating assistance and \$191,263 in state operating assistance. We also applied for capital grant money totaling \$368,500 for 5 Med-duty cutaway buses, 2 computer systems, office furniture replacement, training equipment and various tool replacement and overhead lube system replacement. Gordon presented and recommended approval of Resolution of Intent. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble to approve said resolution. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

Gordon reported passenger counts for Chippewa County decreased by 1,934 for the month of December and we are down 6,109 for the year. Luce County had a decrease of 659 passengers for December and is down 2,696 for the year.

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FERRIES

The 2011 application for the ferry system is due March 1st. Gordon will have a separate resolution at next month's meeting for that application.

Total vehicle traffic is up 3,056 for the three months ended December 2009 and passengers are up 7,638. Drummond vehicle traffic was up 648 for December and down YTD 202, passengers were up 952 in December and down 1,396 for the year. Sugar's vehicle traffic was up 1,902 for December and is ahead by 3,466 compared to a year ago. Neebish's vehicle traffic went up by 22 and is down 208 for the year.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Moser reported that this year has been extremely difficult with regard to ice conditions at Neebish Island. There have been a lot of steamships getting stuck and needing assistance which prevented a reliable ice bridge to set up. Then when ship traffic ceased after the locks closed down, we had a warm spell and rain. Meanwhile our crossing was clogged with flow ice for an extended period of time. On Monday the 25th the winds turned more northerly and cleared enough space for us to resume operating. Right now conditions are pretty stable as far as operating conditions and Rich is operating accordingly. There are two ice bridges south of the rock cut, however, the usual ice bridge to the north has not set up yet (mainly as the shore ice was broken up earlier on when the steam ships were having so much trouble).

Moser gave an update on Sugar Islander's Head Captain, Dan Cairns. Dan had to go back in the hospital due to blood clots. He is in ICU @ War Memorial Hospital with blood clots in both lungs and one in his leg. Saturday a fundraiser was held @ the Sugar Island Community Center to help raise money for all of the out-of-pocket expenses associated with his lengthy stay at the Mayo Clinic. There seemed to be a really good turnout. Moser spoke with Kathy today and she reported that Dan was scheduled for a CT scan this afternoon and will probably be released by the coming weekend if all goes well. Right now they are treating him with a blood thinner trying to dissolve the clots while at the same time trying to make the clots stay where they are at.

Moser reported he and Chairman Sasso met with the Chippewa County Road Commission in regards to the fare agreement for county trucks and equipment. Currently the CCRC is paying fares at the rate of 25% of the full cash fare. The tentative agreement we reached in our recent meeting would call for CCRC to pay 37.5% of full fares commencing (retroactive) on 1/1/10 and continue for one year. On 1/1/11 and for the following four years CCRC would pay the rate of 50% of full fare (calculated without surcharge). The payment would be based on the average number of CCRC vehicles traveled with the average being established using the 06,07, 08 and 2010 (EUPTA fiscal years) recorded trips. Moser has forwarded a "draft" copy of an agreement to this effect to Rob

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Laitinen and followed up with a phone call last week. He said that he would get back to Moser after his next board meeting so that we can execute the agreement.

Moser gave an update on environmental issues and timeline in regards to the ARRA project.

Moser spoke briefly on the proposed gas tax which was recently introduced in the House of Representatives and the effect on EUPTA if more transportation revenues are not forthcoming.

VII. ATTORNEY REPORT

Dunn reported with regard to Act 51; EUPTA has a not less than 50% provision for the ferry system.

Dunn reported there will be a big turnover in the state legislature this year

Dunn spoke briefly about the Detroit and Sault Ste. Marie Ports.

In closing, with regard to the current lawsuit; Attorney Dunn reported there is nothing new to report. There should be something to report soon.

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 4:50 pm. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 1, 2010 at 4:00p.m.

Ted Postula, Sec. /Treas.

Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder