

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: Monday, June 6, 2011

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ted Postula Jack Kibble Michael Herbst

MEMBERS ABSENT: Frank Sasso Dennis Robinson

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

**ADMINISTRATIVE
STAFF ABSENT:** None 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 4:05p.m. by Director Kibble. All Directors were present with the exception of Chairman Frank Sasso and Director Dennis Robinson.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bud Willis asked when work was going to start on the cell project. Director Moser will address this in his report.

Jesse Knoll had some questions with regard to the ramps, cables, throttles, etc. at Sugar Island. Director Moser gave a brief explanation to these questions.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –May 2, 2011

With regard to Regular Board Meeting Minutes for May 2, 2011; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Herbst to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT-P.E.-April 30, 2011

Finance Director Gordon presented and recommended approval of Maritime Escort invoice. (\$12,923.68) **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Herbst; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve said payment. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

BUSSING

Finance Director Akemi Gordon reported overall revenue is up 3.4% with expenses increasing 3.92%.

Passengers have increased 4% or 1,235. Chippewa County has an increase of 842 and Luce County an increase of 393.

FERRIES

Gordon reported fares are down 5% or \$30,680, vehicles are down 10,784 or 5% and passengers are down 28,090 or 7%. These numbers are all through the end of April. Our YTD loss for the ferry

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system is \$230,036 which is \$93,584 more than a year ago. It's a combination of less traffic and higher fuel and other expenses.

IT WAS MOVED by Director Herbst; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to accept Financial Report as presented. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Moser gave a Transportation Budget Update; thanks to Governor Snyder, we now have a state transportation budget that MPTA supported. There were efforts on the senate and house sides to pass a budget that would have taken somewhere between \$15-20 million in capital and/or operating funds from the Comprehensive Transportation Fund and either put it into roads (which was not supported by the Roadbuilders) or put into the General Fund. MPTA members are also being commended for an "all out" effort in contacting their respective elected officials to voice concerns.

Moser gave an update on Dry-docking project; we have evaluated the proposals for the Dry-dock project and have determined that MCM is the best deal in terms of cost and is much more practical. We have forwarded our findings and recommendation to MDOT and are awaiting final go ahead to enter into a third party contractual agreement. We have a budget of about \$180,000 to do both vessels, and I think it should cover us pretty good in terms of all the major items we hope to accomplish. If we could have approval from the Board to move forward once we have final MDOT approval, it would help us so that we can get the vessels scheduled and really help us meet our USCG deadlines and give us the best chance to get the work done during warmer weather (lots of painting to get done) **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Herbst to give said approval. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion approved.

Moser gave an update on St. Mary's River dock upgrade project; waiting on go ahead from MDOT and we have all the DNRE permits (for each project, and the Army Corp permit for Sugar Island work, but having trouble getting the current status of the Neebish Island, Drummond Island permits (USACE). If we can get MDOT approval within the next couple of days, we could send out the bid package immediately, schedule the pre-bid conference, in the third week of this month. Moser noted that we may want to consider a special meeting sometime in July, as it looks doubtful that we can expect to have the bids back before our next EUPTAB meeting which is scheduled for July 6th.

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Moser reported we have a new fuel supplier at Drummond. We took our first shipment of fuel from Johnson Oil, out of Gaylord. Moser has been tracking their prices lately and they are consistently lower than what we have been getting. Also, in that they are supplying retailers on the island, we are expecting lower transportation costs which will be split three ways.

Moser reported Indian Trails has had an ad campaign going.

VIII. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Dunn reported with regard to Handicap Policy; this will be tabled until the next meeting when Chairman Sasso will be present.

Dunn spoke briefly with regard to EUPTA and the awarding of contracts.

Lynda presented and recommended approval of amendment to EUPTA's Service Animal Policy. On March 11, 2011 revised regulations were finalized by the Department of Justice regarding the definition of a service animal. (28 CFR Part 35) Under the revised regulations, a service animal is defined as, "Any dog that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained are not service animals for the purpose of this definition...the crime deterrent effects of an animal's presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship do not constitute work or tasks for the purpose of this definition. Policy has been amended to read "dog" in place of "animal". **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Herbst to approve said amendment. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to come before the Board, **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Herbst to adjourn. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 6, 2011 at 4PM.

Ted Postula, Sec. /Treas.

Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder