

Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, September 9, 2015

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ted Postula Frank Sasso Jack Kibble

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ron Ford Ken Gill

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

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF ABSENT: None absent

OTHERS PRESENT: See attached sheet

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I. - II. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 4:06p.m. by Chairman Sasso. All directors were present with the exception of Director Ford and Director Gill. A question was raised with regard to the bylaws and required attendance at the board meetings. Chairman Sasso asked Director Moser to get in touch with the Luce County Directors as to their absenteeism.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –August 3, 2015

With regard to Minutes for August 3, 2015; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Kibble; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT-P.E.-July 31, 2015.

GENERAL

Finance Director Akemi Gordon presented and went over MERS officer delegate nomination for annual meeting October 8th and 9th. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble that Gordon attend this meeting on behalf of EUPTA. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried. All expenses will be covered by RTAP.

Gordon recommended approval of draft budgets that were handed out at last month's meeting. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Kibble; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve FYE 2016 budgets as presented. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

Gordon went over and recommended 457 approvals of MERS and Lord Abbett with Edward Jones (Josh MacDonald) **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to accept. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

BUSING

Gordon reported passenger counts in Chippewa County are down 9% from last year, fares are down 8% but our expenses are also down 6.25% from a year ago.

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Luce County has an YTD increase in fares of 11% or \$2,124 and a 10% or 591 increase in passengers. Expenses are down 3.85% for the year.

FERRIES

Gordon reported all three islands had a really good July. Overall there was a 7.25% increase in fares for the month of July and we have a 9% increase YTD. Vehicles crossing were up 3% or 1,546 for the month. The increase in revenue for July has crossed the ferry system over from a deficit to a surplus of just over \$3,000. A year ago at this same time we still had a deficit of \$141,000. If we end up with a decent surplus this year, we will be able to replenish the retained earnings we have been using to cover the past couple years of deficits.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Moser reported Dennis Robinson passed away on August 28th at Helen Newberry Joy Hospital. He was 66 years old. Dennis served in the Army during the Vietnam War. In addition to serving on our board for many years, Dennis was very involved in Luce County having served a number of terms as an elected county commissioner, the Luce County EDC and was on the McMillan Township Board of Review. Moser was able to get over to the funeral services and a very nice arrangement of cut flowers was sent on behalf of the EUPTA Board.

Moser gave an update on Fogcutter best use project - on August 13th EUPTA held a stakeholder meeting at the Drummond Township Hall. The meeting was moderated by AECOM the consulting firm selected to help determine what may be the best use of the Fogcutter property. Attending the meeting were Frank Sasso, Director Moser, Akemi Gordon, Brad Kuusinen representing EUPTA, Chris DeGood and Brad Boyer; AECOM and from DeTour Village was Murry Fountain; Village President, Rob Block; Chairman of the DeTour EDC, and Dane Kuusinen; Village Trustee and chair of the village planning committee. Ellen Benoit from EUP Regional Planning was present as well. Moser is expecting AECOM's preliminary report any time now and should have the final work product for our October meeting.

Moser reported after we already had AECOM onboard doing the feasibility work we were given the go-ahead by MDOT to issue an RFQ for the purposes of having some environmental work done. We are currently working with another consulting firm from Marquette, "Tri-Media" so that if in the future we utilize FHWA or FTA grant funds to do anything with the property the environmental requirements will be satisfied. Both of the above projects are being funded primarily with the original grant funds that we used to purchase the property.

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VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Following a short discussion **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Kibble; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula that the officers remain the same. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

VIII. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Dunn reported there is some discussion in the Governor's office with regard to the Power Plant issue.

Also of concern is that the shortfall for Medicaid will be taken from the General Fund which is where Transportation funds come from.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to come before the Board, **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble to adjourn. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2015 at 4PM.

Ted Postula, Sec. /Treas.

Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder