

Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority
Board Meeting Minutes
1/9/2024

1. Call to Order:

Board Chair, John Waltman, called the January 9, 2024 meeting of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority Board to order at 10:31 a.m.

2. Roll Call was taken:

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Waltman, Brandon Wheeler, Joe Henne, and Lynda Garlitz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Nick Huyck (excused)

Those in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

3. Agenda: It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Joe Henne SECOND: Brandon Wheeler	It was approved to accept the January 9, 2024 agenda as presented.
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4. Public Comment:

- Bob Malpass
- Phyllis Reed
- Brad Sommers
- Cele Malpass

5. Minutes: It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Brandon Wheeler SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	Approve the December 5, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.
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6. Closed Session Minutes: It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Brandon Wheeler SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	Approve the December 5, 2023 Closed Meeting Minutes as presented.
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7. Finance Director Report:

- Ms. Gordon discussed the A/P and EFT transfers and fielded questions from the Board. Hoekstra transportation EFT was for a new bus. This is 100% covered with grant money.

- The three applications for State, Federal, and Capital funding for ferries, busing, and JARC are due to the State on February 1, 2024. As part of the process the board has to approve a Resolution of Intent to apply for Federal and State operating assistance. We will be applying for \$159,852.00 in Federal funding and \$2,670,920.00 in State Funding. Annual application to state of Michigan for operating for funding. JARC, Bussing and Ferry System.

Resolution of Intent: It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Joe Henne	Approve the Resolution of Intent for 2025 for funding application for JARC, Bussing and Ferry System
SECOND: Brandon Wheeler	

- Bussing –We received transfer of minivan last month. We also took possession of a 2015 bus transfer at no cost to EUPTA. This was a bus from Gogebic County and has less miles and in great condition. We were just notified a bus will be delivered in a couple of weeks that has been on order for over a year. The two older busses in our fleet will go for disposal and have over 300,000 miles on them. Busing numbers for November had an increase in fares for bussing and a slight decrease in passenger traffic. The fares increase is from the non-emergent medical runs that are being provided.
- Ferries –. Traffic slowing down on all three islands. Drummond had a good November. There was an increase in fares and vehicle traffic for Drummond and Sugar Island.

8. Director’s Report:

- Facility update – They continue to make good progress. The final electrical inspection was completed yesterday. There are two small issues to fix and it will be complete. Plumbing and mechanical inspections are currently in the process of scheduling. They cannot finalize due to plumbing work that needs to be finalized. We are hoping to schedule in the next week or so. There should not be a lag in the inspection scheduling time. We are currently waiting for water sample testing. Samples will be sent out sometime in the next couple of weeks and we are expecting lag time on this testing. The epoxy floors will be started next Monday in the automotive and machine shop. The pretreatment on the floor was completed over last weekend. Epoxy will take a full week to put on. The furniture contractor will be here next week to fix any corrections that were identified on the punch list. OHM made a punch list and the contractor is currently working on this. IT work is well underway with the computers and server in place. Phones have been installed but not activated yet.
- Cashless Fare Update- The myEUPTA APP is officially live, as of December 11, 2023. Downloads of the app have almost doubled since the live date. There is a link on EUPTA website for information. The Drummond app sales have increased 4x from November to December. Sugar sales are up \$600.00. Neebish has had their first app use in December.
- Great Lakes Industry Days in Traverse City this week. We have some of our captains there and the USCG is there. This is a great conference that provides education and networking for our crew.

9. New Business

- Closed Session – Employee Issues

Closed Session: It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Joe Henne	Go into closed session discuss two employee issues at 11:15 a.m. with a five minute for a break.
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10. Open Session: It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Brandon Wheeler SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	Move into Open Session at 11:57 a.m.
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11. Neebish Island Employment: It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Brandon Wheeler SECOND: Joe Henne	Move to approve the hiring of four new full-time employees at Neebish Island. This will be effective when onboarding employees is completed. The Pringle Maritime contract will be terminated at the same time as onboarding of the four new full-time employees at the Neebish ferry operation. Communication of termination of contract will be provided to Pringle Maritime, accordingly.
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12. Board Comment:

- John Waltman
- Joe Henne
- Lynda Garlitz

13. Adjourn: It was moved and carried by roll call vote to:

MOTION: Joe Henne SECOND: Brandon Wheeler	Adjourn the meeting at 12:12 PM
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Lynda Garlitz, Secretary


Bonnie Kaunisto, Recording Secretary

Board Approved: