

Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority
Board Meeting Minutes
7/2/2024

I. Call to Order:

Board Chair, John Waltman, called the July 2, 2024 meeting of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority Board to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call was taken:

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Waltman, , Joe Henne, Nick Huyck, and Lynda Garlitz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brandon Wheeler (excused)

III. Pledge of Allegiance:

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

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

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| MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Nick Huyck | Approve the July 2, 2024 add DeTour Reef Light Fundraiser information to the agenda under new business. |
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V. Public Comment:

- None

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

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| MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Joe Henne | Approve the June 4, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. |
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VII. Closed Meeting Minutes: It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

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| MOTION: Joe Henne SECOND: Lynda Garlitz | Approve the June 4, 2024 Closed Meeting Minutes as presented. |
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VIII. Finance Director Report:

- Ms. Gordon discussed the A/P and EFT transfers. Fielded questions from the board regarding Roy Electric. The work was for the Neebish Dock Repair for the high/low water situation
- Bussing- There is no COVID funding for busing this year, we are reverting back to the normal federal bus reimbursement. We continue to increase revenue from NEMT. There was a 49% increase in fare revenue from May and 24% for the year. Due to a grant we will be able to purchase another NEMT SUV in the near future. EUPTA surpasses NEMT for entire UP and probably most of Northern Lower Michigan.

- Ferries – For May, there was an overall 9% increase in fares and less than 1% increase in expenses. Wages increased due to the addition of 4 employees at Neebish. There was a decrease in “operation management” because of the terminated contract at Neebish with Pringle Maritime. Fuel fluctuates from 2.79-2.87 last couple of weeks. Combined vehicle and passenger counts are up 5% for the year.

IX. Director’s Report:

- Another big project commencing with the authorization for the funding for D5.

Drummond Islander V Project: It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

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| MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Joe Henne | Approve the D5 project as proposed. |
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- Testimony of administrative work done. Intent is to be a swing boat that will work at all three locations. We are currently discussing type of boat that will be built; double vs. single ender.
- This past month MDOT and MPTA put on workshop for mechanics at Higgins Lake. Scott Pins attended on behalf of EUPTA. There were various vendors, training, and networking.
- We are currently bidding out a replacement truck for mechanics. This is a low bid situation with specs sent out and with a bid due date of July 12, 2024. The purchase of the truck is 100% covered by a contract grant.
- Last Thursday was the facility final walk through. This is not a final acceptance, as there are a few things to finish. We are waiting on drain oil tank, and this has been on order for months.
- There was a fire inspection earlier this week. This was the first one at the new facility. We had two items identified that needed correction as there was the wrong type of extinguisher in the IT room and needed one in the kitchen.
- The annual USCG inspections for the ferries are scheduled. There are two in July and two in August.
- The Neebish dock project is finished.
- The MPTA annual conference is in August and Director Paramski and Finance Director Gordon will attend. The new MPTA executive director will be introduced at the conference. There was a selection made but, no announcement at this time. Discussion. Joe Henne would like to attend next year.
- Malfunction with ticketing occurred at Drummond last weekend. AT&T was down on Drummond and we could not use WIFI. The crew had to improvise and go back to cash fares only, for a period of time. One of the crew members brought down their personal Starlink antenna and the crew was able to utilize. We purchased two Star Link systems for the boats at Drummond. We will evaluate using at the other ferries in the future. Star Link is \$120 per month plus the initial purchase of equipment which is about \$600.

X. New Business

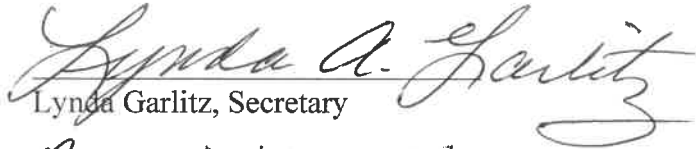
- Joe Henne told the board about Evening Under the Stars. This is a fund raiser for the DeTour Reef Lighthouse. He would love to see a connection with the ferry and bringing people to the platform of the lighthouse


XI. Board Comment:

- John Waltman – Kudos on securing boat with budget of 15 million.
- Joe Henne
- Nick Huyck

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

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| MOTION: Nick Huyck SECOND: Lynda Garlitz | Adjourn the meeting at 10:38 AM |
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Lynda Garlitz, Secretary


Bonnie Kaunisto, Recording Secretary
Board Approved: