

Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority
9/13/2022

1. Call to Order:

Board Chair, John Waltman, called the September 13, 2022 meeting of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority Board to order at 10:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call was taken:

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Waltman, Joe Henne, Phyllis French and Lynda Garlitz

MEMBERS ABSENT:

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: Phyllis French SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	Approve the agenda as presented
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4. Public Comment:

- Ben Wittum: Commented on non-transferable tickets, transparency of board, grant of new building
- Tom Gibbons: Commented on EUPTA ferry system and how giving up D-IV will have an impact on travel to Drummond Island. How are we going to attract employees to be able to have enough crew to run two ferries.
- David Brunett: Sugar Island Ferry engine problems

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

MOTION: Joe Henne SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	Approve the August 2, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.
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6. Finance Director Report:

- Finance Director Gordon reviewed July 2022 Financials. There were no questions from the board regarding EFT or A/P checks that was provided in the packets.
- Bussing: July was a great month, partly due to the EUP ISD summer work program. EUPTA provided transportation for 1.5 months to student participants

to and from work sites. There was an increase in passengers and Rides to Wellness. Luce County had a 60% increase in ridership in July.

- Ferry: There was an 11% decrease in vehicle and passengers and 7% decrease YTD. There was a 15% increase in expenses. Year-to-date we have paid an additional \$261,000.00 in fuel and that is 100% increase from last year.
- The MPTA conference provided information for next year's budget. There will be ARPA funds (American Rescue Plan Act) available in lieu of CRRSSA Funding. The funding will be 36% for busing and ferries will receive 18% of eligible expenses for FYE23.

7. Adopt 2023 Budget: Discussion. Ms. Gordon explained this is a tool the state uses to determine advance needs of budgets.

MOTION: Joe Henne SECOND: Phyllis French	Approve the FY2023 Budget as presented.
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8. Director's Report: Presented a power point of current EUPTA projects. Director Paramski also provided a Power point to the local Sault Ste. Marie Rotary on Monday, per their request.

- Facility Update: The facility project is going well. Footings are poured and facility will be shelled so inside work can be completed in the winter months. The sewer will be tied in soon. Road work is on schedule. The project is currently on or ahead of schedule.
- Cashless Update: Currently working towards an October 1, soft roll out but this is doubtful due to issues with the devices. We are currently testing and conducting mock purchases. There are adjustments that need to be made by Bytemark to accommodate our needs. We have a lot of products. We will continue to accept cash and credit as well as utilizing the mobile app.
- Neebish III Update: The new ferry project could not be going any better. There are tentative dates for the launch. The USCG needs to sign off after sea trials and stability tests and the delivery date could be mid-October. Trustee French asked why behind and Director Paramski explained they are waiting for the hydraulic pumps and some other materials that are part of the post pandemic supply-line problems many industries are experiencing. Therefore, delivery date is lagging.
- Sugar II Update: We are 98% confident all is fixed with proper props installed. We left the DIII at the dry-dock in case of issues that may come up. The Sugar Islander had to be pulled out due to engines stalling and the USCG must reinspect. The DIV will go into dry-dock this week, with the DIII traveling to Drummond today to service Drummond Island while DIV is at MCM Marine for

required dry-dock and five-year USCG inspection. This project should be completed before the onset of winter.

- **Stolen Vehicle Update:** The vehicle has not been recovered, as of today. EUPTA's insurance paid for the assessed value. Director Paramski explained to purchase a new replacement vehicle we will need a motion from the board. Finance Director Gordon explained the money needed for the new purchase over and beyond the insurance reimbursement would come out of local funds and would be eligible for reimbursement over the 4 years. The insurance payment was for a \$19,165.72.

9. Purchase replacement vehicle for stolen equinox: Discussion. It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Phyllis French	Approve the purchase of a new SUV vehicle to replace the stolen Equinox, utilizing local funds to cover the amount over insurance payment received.
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10. Review Signature Card Policy: Reviewed and was recommended to change Signature Card policy as presented by Finance Director Gordon. Discussed the many changes and steps to go through to add and take off signers at the financial institutions, when a board member leaves service. Recommended the Director and two other administrative employees, not including Finance Director, to sign checks for EUPTA (signers). Discussion. It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Joe Henne SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	Approve the Signature Card Policy as presented with adding Kathryn A. Neubert and Bonita A. Kaunisto as signers, along with current signer, Peter J. Paramski. Remove signers Lynda Garlitz, John Waltman, and James German.
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11. New Business:

- Request change date of October board meeting.

12. Change October Board Meeting Date: Discussion. It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Phyllis French	Approve of changing the October board meeting from October 4 to October 12, 2022.
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13. Board Comment:

- Trustee Henne inquired about a PR budget line item to keep track of expenses and incorporate more public relations for EUPTA.
- Trustee Garlitz suggested a quarterly newsletter be implemented, in conjunction with public relations. She also wanted to commend the Sugar Island crew on their hard work and patience while working with DIII at Sugar Island.
- Trustee French suggested making Facebook pages more visible and inquired about Neebish Island. Director Paramski stated at this time we don't have anyone to administer the page to make it real time and useful for customers.

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

MOTION: Joe Henne SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	Adjourn the meeting at 11:13 AM
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Lynda Garlitz, Secretary


Bonnie Kaunisto, Recording Secretary

Board Approved: