

Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority  
7/12/2022

1. Call to Order:

Board Chair, John Waltman, called the July 12, 2022 meeting of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority Board to order at 10:40 a.m.

2. Roll Call was taken:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Phyllis French (excused), Jim German (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: Lynda Garlitz	Approve the agenda with addition of Discussion of Sale of Neebish Islander II under New Business.
--	---

4. Public Comment: David Brunet: Sugar Islander II update

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

MOTION: John Waltman SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	Approve the June 7, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.
---	--

6. Finance Director Report:

- Finance Director Gordon reviewed May 2022 Financials
- Bussing: Ms. Gordon included the EFT and check payments for May in the board packet. May EFT payments consist of payroll and fuel and MERS pension payment. Ms. Gordon reviewed the amounts of checks and payments. EUPTA has recently solicited bids for a second Rides to Wellness vehicle and the quotes are due today. This vehicle will be 100% grant funded. It is for a compact SUV. Passenger counts are up 24%, probably due to current fuel prices. Year to date passengers are up 18%. May be approaching pre-covid passenger counts, except for contract fares, which has been replaced by Rides to Wellness riders.

- Ferry: Traffic is down on all three ferries. Vehicles counts are down 4%, and passenger counts are down 2%. Fare revenue is down \$78,000, year to date. Ms. Gordon is currently working on fiscal year 2023 budgets. She is planning on bringing them to the August or September meeting. We currently are not sure if there will be CRRSA funding for 2023. This federal funding subsidized both ferry and bus. Inflation is hitting not only the individuals but businesses as well, including EUPTA. The fuel price increase effects all facets. For example, the fuel for bussing and ferries the end of May as \$220,000 more than this time last year.

## 7. Director's Report:

- Facility Update: Ground has been broken at the new site on Mackinaw Trail, with the "bad" soil being removed and backfilled with sand. July 25, 2022, they plan on pouring the footings. This project is going well.
- Cashless Update: This project is status quo at the moment. We continue with weekly meetings. Continue to test software. We do not have the physical devices yet. There have been a variety of issues, we continue to work on with the developer. Our project manager from IBI assures us this is a normal timeframe for this type of product. Keep in mind we have many products, and most companies have just a few.
- Neebish II Update: July 18 and 19, 2022 there will be another walkthrough. The christening is on target for August 13, 2022 in Manitowac, WI. There will be sea trials and inspections before it is able to come to its home port of Barbeau, Michigan and Neebish Island. Reviewed updated progress photos from Burger.
- Sugar II Update: Reviewed update progress photos of the Dry Dock project from the project manager. Painting of the hull is currently being completed. We are hoping for a July 20, 2022 Sea trial to commence.
- Side Note: Also reviewed photo from the Drummond Island Dock project, where concrete header replaced rotting wood timbers. MDOT was there paving M-134 and were able to have the dock and parking lot paved during this project to improve the dock area even more. This is a great improvement for the Drummond Island dock.
- Juneteenth Federal Holiday: A heads up to the board that this new holiday may be coming up with Union Negotiations as another paid holiday. Many local entities have adopted this holiday and it is both State and Federally recognized.

8. Review Contracts Dispute Policy: Reviewed and was recommended by Director Paramski to possibly omit this policy. It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Joe Henne SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	Table the Contracts Dispute Policy until August meeting
--	---

9. New Business:

- **Bus Driver Wages.** Discussion regarding the current driver wage is regarding the fact it is not competitive with the current market. Director Paramski provided a schematic of what area drivers are being paid and it quite a bit higher than EUPTA drivers. EUPTA drivers have the responsibility of providing safe transportation to the public. They are responsible for people's lives and need to have credentials to drive. They must have at the least a chauffeur's license. Employees at local fast-food establishments earn a higher starting wage than EUPTA drivers.

10. Increase Bus Driver Wages: Discussion It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Joe Henne SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	Approve Bus Driver <b>starting</b> wage from \$14.21 to \$16.00 per hour, and reassessing the wage in six months.
--	---

11. Sale of Neebish Islander II: Director Paramski would like EUPTA to sell the Neebish Islander II. It would go out for bidding. The inspection was okay for this year, but if it is kept will be need extensive repair. This ferry is only able to service Neebish Island as it cannot provide service to Drummond or Sugar Island. It will not fit at either of these islands' docks. It would be costly to keep the insurance, complete the extensive repairs, rent slip space to store it, etc. Director Paramski has obtained a sample Purchase Agreement and hopes to submit to legal sometime this month. We are hoping to obtain bids in one month and provide walk throughs for potential bidders. Hope to sell ferry and keep until the Neebish Islander III is in place and all set.

It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Joe Henne	Begin the process of selling the Neebish Islander II and identify the highest bidder to complete the sale.
--	--

12. Board Comment:

None

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

MOTION: Joe Henne SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	Adjourn the meeting at 11:25 AM
--	---------------------------------

  
Lynda Garlitz, Secretary

  
Bonnie Kaunisto, Recording Secretary

Board Approved: