

Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: Monday April 7, 2014

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ted Postula Michael Herbst Frank Sasso
Dennis Robinson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jack Kibble

**ADMINISTRATIVE
STAFF PRESENT:** Chuck Moser Akemi Gordon
Lynda Schexnayder

**ADMINISTRATIVE
STAFF ABSENT:** Christopher Ricotta for James Dunn, Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT: See attached sign in sheet.

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I. - II. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 4:00p.m. by Chairman Sasso. All Directors were present with the exception of Director Kibble. Attorney Dunn was absent. Attorney Christopher Ricotta was present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was some discussion from Jesse Knoll, Sugar Island resident, regarding the ability of the Sugar Islander pushing ice. Director Moser explained the possible problems with that and noted that he trusts the captains to make the right call.

Lori Miller, Neebish Island resident, reported she appreciates the service they get to Neebish Island.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –March 3, 2014

With regard to Minutes for March 3, 2014; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Herbst; **SUPPORTED** by Director Postula to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT-P.E.-February 28, 2014

BUSSING

Finance Director Gordon reported YTD passengers are down 5% and fares are down 9%. We are just barely operating with a surplus of almost \$1,900 YTD. The biggest difference is the decrease in our fare revenue. Expenses are less than 1% more than a year ago. Again, the loss in contract passengers has had the biggest effect on our revenue.

FERRIES

The ferries have a 6% decrease in fares, 4% decrease in vehicles and a 2% decrease in passengers. Our YTD loss is almost \$199,000 compared to \$169,000 a year ago.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Lynda Schexnayder presented resolution for updated Title VI Plan. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Herbst; **SUPPORTED** by Director Robinson to approve and amend updated Title VI Plan. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

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BUSING

Director Moser reported Pathways in Luce County has stopped using our van for transportation. Altran is seeing less use as well. Rochelle is looking into getting more information on this.

Moser reported MPTA has set up a non-profit and is planning on getting a demonstration project started to provide "Non-emergency medical" transportation.

Moser reported Jase Bolger, the Speaker of the House, is leading an effort to generate \$500M in new transportation revenue and the new revenue would leave transit out. If this legislation should pass, the revenue would not be distributed through the formula. MPTA is working on the issue and Moser should be able to learn more later this week. Although it would be a last option, MPTA would focus all of its efforts on (and may have enough influence) killing this legislation if it comes down to transit not being included in the distribution of new revenue.

Moser reported he recently met with Tim McKee in regard to signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for transporting residents of Freightview Assisted Living during events such as fire, flooding, power outages or other events. We would recover reasonable costs for providing transportation. The MOU would stay in effect until voided by either party in thirty days with written notice. Also we currently have a verbal understanding with War Memorial Hospital to transport dialysis patients should an event occur where treatment could not be performed at WMH. Moser would like to offer the same type of MOU to WMH. Mr. Sasso stated that the board will need more information in regard to a more comprehensive plan before the matter should be brought back to the board for approval.

FERRIES

Director Moser reported we do have an operator ready to start at Neebish. Jamie Pringle who worked the past three years with Steve Kildal has brought forth a proposal that Moser feels is reasonable. His proposal is for year around service if weather permits and he plans to utilize crewmembers that are very well qualified in regard to credentials. Although the amount of the contract seems a bit high when you first look at it, over the course of the contract it will be less costly to EUPTA and costs will be much more predictable. Following a short discussion; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Robinson to accept the new carrier. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

Moser reported we are still likely a few days away from getting the Neebish II back in operation due to being iced in. Hopefully the weather will continue to cooperate and we will be able to get the boat broken free soon.

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Moser reported having a lot of ice problems here with the Sugar operation to date, but in talking with Mark Gill this morning we may not have the extreme conditions to contend with as we have been preparing for. We have been running fairly smoothly. Today a big field interrupted us for awhile, but a lot of the heavy ice is moving downstream from us.

Moser reported a week ago last Friday; we developed a leak in the Sugar Islander. The leak was due to scaling from the inside. Brandon put together a plan and presented it to the USCG for approval. They approved the plan, Brandon implemented the plan and had the USCG inspect and approve the repairs and we were back in operation later the same day.

Moser recommended setting a date for a Public Hearing for the purpose of rate changes on all three ferries. Finance Director Akemi Gordon distributed and went over three possible scenarios. There was a short discussion and **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Robinson to hold a Public Hearing May 1, 2014 at 4PM; place to be determined. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

VII. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Christopher Ricotta noted there is nothing new to report. Reported the Neebish Contract is in order.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to come before the Board, **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Herbst; **SUPPORTED** by Director Robinson to adjourn. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 5:22pm. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 5, 2014 at 4PM.

Ted Postula, Sec. /Treas.

Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder