

Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority
Board Meeting Minutes
6/2/2026

I. Call to Order:

Board Chair, John Waltman, called the June 2, 2026 meeting of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Transportation Authority Board to order at 10:34 a.m.

II. Roll Call was taken:

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Waltman, Lynda Garlitz, Jeff Middlestead, Joe Henne,

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: Discussion. It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Joe Henne	Approve agenda as presented.
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V. Public Comment:

- None

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

MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Joe Henne	Approve the May 5, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.
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VII. Minutes: Discussion; It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Joe Henne SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	Approve the May 5, 2026 Closed Meeting Minutes as presented.
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VIII. Finance Director Report:

- Ms. Gordon fielded questions regarding the A/P and EFT transfers for April 2026. She also reviewed the graphs
- Bussing – Revenue was down for the month, due to a number of cancellations for NEMT. Year to date fares are up 39%, overall revenue is up 20% which include an increase in expenses of 11%. When expenses increase, so does the reimbursement amount. We will be receiving a new NEMT vehicle in the near future. Fox Motors, out of Marquette had the lowest bid. Discussed the number of vehicles in the fleet. We currently have 7 busses, 4 mini vans, 2 transit vans and 8 SUVs.

- Ferries – The revenue for the month is down and expenses are up 7%. There was a disruption in service at Neebish in the beginning of April due to heavy ice.
- Finance Director's Report: Discussion; It was moved and carried by unanimous vote:

MOTION: Lynda Garlitz SECOND: Jeff Middlestead	Approve April A/P and EFT Transfers, Financial statements, and Finance Director's Report as presented
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IX. Director's Report

- Drummond Islander V Design: Director Paramski stated the Drummond Islander V revised plans have been received and the board and attendees were provided visuals of the plans on the monitor. Director Paramski discussed the hatches and that there is a new review of a boat without as many hatches to avoid the corrosion issues that arise. He has been discussing this with the architect and the USCG to implement this on the D-V. The revised plans have 3 hatches vs. 5. This is a positive advancement and will save money and time down the road. Mr. Paramski discussed the exemption process, has spoken with the local sector, and feels it is likely it will be approved, as there has been a precedence set.
- Drummond Islander III Drydock: Drydock is completed and the DIII was brought down to Drummond to help bring traffic across for a paving project. This helped immensely. The ferry was then brought back up to Sault Ste. Marie, and Captain Kuusinen provided training to the Sugar Crew on the nuances of the DIII. The DIII is now in service at Sugar Island and the Sugar Islander is in drydock at MCM.
- Sugar Ferry Drydock: They will be completing the 5-year maintenance on the Sugar Islander including repowering and rebuild of the twin discs. Mr. Paramski explained the process with the drydock and the USCG inspection process during the drydock.
- Neebish Island Ferry: Director Paramski the schedule and plan are now in place and we are receiving positive feedback. Discussed logging trucks coming across that are overloaded and the need for them to lighten their loads due to capacity and lower water levels.
- Facility Update: There were some funds left over from the building grant, that were use or lose. MDOT highly encourages to use the funds. Funds were used for paving the gravel portion of the back lot and epoxy the floors of the NEMT and bus garages. Both of the projects enhance the building and lessen likelihood of needed maintenance in the future.
- Misc.: MPTA UP Meeting: Director Paramski and Finance Director Gordon will be attending this meeting next week in Escanaba.

X. Old Business

- None

XI. New Business:

- Resolution #101 – Director Paramski reported that Brian Plowman, Captain at Drummond Island retired on May 31, 2026. Director Plowman read the Resolution for the Board

MOTION: Joe Henne SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	Approve Resolution #101 Brian Plowman Retirement and thank him for 39 years of service to EUPTA and let this be of public record.
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XII. Board Comment:

- Garlitz
- Henne
- Waltman
- Middlestead

XIII. Adjourn: It was moved and carried by unanimous vote to:

MOTION: Joe Henne SECOND: Lynda Garlitz	Adjourn the meeting at 11:49 AM
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Lynda Garlitz, Board Secretary


Bonnie Kaunisto, Recording Secretary
Board Approved: 8.04.2024