

**Marquette County Transit Authority  
1325 Commerce Drive Marquette, MI 49855**

**Board Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2023**

**Call to Order:** 6:00 PM by Chairman James Nankervis.

**Roll Call:**

Present: Tony Tollefson, Jason Wallner (via phone), Pete LaRue, Dawn Schuhknecht, Karen Kasper, Barb Owdziej, Ed Anderson, James Nankervis, Taylor Klipp, Bill DeGroot.

Others Present: Bill Geller-Executive Director, Kristine McDonnell-Finance Officer, Kevin Hodges- Operations Manager, Janet Cobb-Administrative Assistant.

Excused or Absent: Scott Krah, Mike Richer-Operations Manager.

**Minutes:**

Motion was made by Dawn Schuhknecht to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2023 meeting. Supported by Bill DeGroot. Unanimously approved. Motion carried.

**Consent Agenda:**

Motion was made to accept Agenda items A-D by Tony Tollefson. Supported by Ed Anderson. Unanimously approved. Motion carried.

**Agenda:**

Motion was made by Taylor Klipp to approve agenda. Supported by Karen Kasper. Unanimously approved. Motion carried.

**Opportunity for Citizens to Address the Authority:** Brooke Tharp, Medical Social Worker, would like to conduct a survey for community needs. Janelle Peters, South Shore Place Director, thanked us for the provided services in the community. She also stated that the drivers and dispatchers are wonderful. She would like to discuss extending the bus route to the clubhouse. They are considered a medical appointment and would like to be able to reserve rides three days in advance. Clark Roberts a member of the South Shore Place feels that the Clubhouse is a medical necessity in the community. He invited us to come there and check them out. We would receive gratitude from the members that appreciate our services.

**Action Items:**

1. The Finance Committee Report was presented by Treasurer Tony Tollefson. The third Quarter of FYE 2023 financial reports were reviewed. Interest income is up this year.

2. Barb Owdziej would like the Board to collaborate a list of goals or a strategic plan to guide in future decision making.
3. Bill Geller presented the health plan. There is an increase of 3.6%.  
Motion was made by Tony Tollefson to approve the insurance. Supported by Taylor Klipp. Unanimously approved. Motion carried.

#### **Any Old or New Business:**

1. Bill Geller presented the Executive Director's report. WZMQ is creating a new commercial at the end of this month. He will be attending the MPTA annual conference August 21-23. Marq-tran will be one of the transits in Michigan participating in the Michigan Mobility Wallet Challenge. This is a grant funded pilot program that will last for one year. Ten of our buses will collect fares via an electronic device that will allow riders to pay by using a smart phone or a smart card. A discussion was held on this. Bill will learn more about this at the MPTA annual conference. A quote has been received from Ecolane for new dispatch software.

#### **Upcoming meetings:**

Negotiations meeting August 29, 2023 at 5:30 PM.

Board meeting at the Ishpeming Facility September 28, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

#### **Board Member Comments:**

*Taylor Klipp* said the he has been involved in organizational planning and master plans. They have not been good experiences for him. Regarding the mission statement, we do have a list of goals that the Executive Director is held to. We are all serving the County and we all are a stakeholder in this organization. Our goal should be to get as many people easily where the need to go at a reasonable price.

*Tony Tollefson* indicated that a survey should be discussed with the Executive Director on what questions need to be asked. We have been victims of some previous surveys. We should schedule an afternoon tour of the South Shore Clubhouse. Follow through with the Michigan Mobility Wallet. We may find some good benefits with it. Regarding the mission statement keep the buses running. That is what we do.

*Jason Wallner* said regarding the mission statement we should concentrate more on strategic planning as it is more important.

*Dawn Schuhknecht* stated that she has worked with many planning commissions. This board runs very tight. She is not worried about a mission statement. She will not be at the next board meeting.

*Bill Geller* indicated a review is included with everyone's paper work. They need to be filled out and returned to James Nankervis.

**Opportunity for Citizens to address the Authority:** Brook Tharp said she has potential to do grant writing for rural healthcare. She has grant writing abilities.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by Taylor Klipp to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Bill DeGroot. Unanimously approved. Motion carried.

Chairman James Nankervis adjourned the meeting at 6:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kristine McDonnell

Finance Officer