

Marquette County Transit Authority  
1325 Commerce Dr  
Marquette, MI 49855

**Board Meeting Minutes for April 18, 2024**

**Call to order: 6pm by Bill DeGroot, Chairman**

**Present:** Bill DeGroot, Karen Kasper, Ed Anderson, Jason Wallner, Pete LaRue, Tim Overmyer,  
Sean Hobbins, Taylor Klipp and Barb Owdziej

**Excused or absent:** Schuknecht, and Krah

**Other's present:** Bill Geller-ED, Kevin Hodges-Operations Manager, Mike Richer-Operations Manager, Kristine McDonnell-Finance Officer and Janet Cobb-Administrative Assistant

**Minutes from Board meeting of 3/21/2024:**

Motion made by Wallner, supported by Overmyer to approve and accept minutes from board meeting of 3/21/2024. Unanimously approved and carried.

**Consent Agenda:**

Motion by Kasper and supported by LaRue to accept consent agenda. Unanimously supported and carried.

**Agenda for April 18 2024 meeting:**

Motion made by Anderson, supported by Overmyer to accept today's meeting agenda. Unanimously approved and carried.

**Opportunity for Citizens to Address the Authority:**

None

**Action Items:**

1. Finance committee meeting scheduled April 30 at 2:30 pm
2. Strategic Plan: Chairman DeGroot discussed the direction for developing a strategic plan. He described his process utilizing methods taken from John Carver's book "Boards that make a Difference" DeGroot acknowledged that the organization's mission statement and bylaws are from the early 1980's and should be updated to reflect the values of the current board and owners of the organization. He noted the first step, establishing a mission statement then linking that to how decisions are made, and policies that reflect the values identified in the statement. There were no objections to Chairman DeGroot leading this process and after discussions around descriptive value words, a statement was chosen for the board to consider and discuss at next month's meeting. Both Hobbs and Wallner pointed out the importance of a personalized mission statement as it gives an organization credibility and a documented purpose. Chairperson DeGroot will email the written words and statement to the board for consideration this upcoming month.

The "Value Words" chosen were dependable, community, professionally delivered, affordable and dedication. The statement chosen by the board to consider roughly states "Marq-tran strives/or is committed to deliver and improve professional and dependable connections between each person's unique mobility needs /desires across Michigan's largest rural county."

3. Resolution of Appreciation for Jason Wallner: Motion was made by Overmyer, supported by LaRue to recognize and award Jason Wallner for his contribution to the organization. Motion carried, with one abstention (Wallner). Wallner awarded with a plaque.

**Old or New Business:** None

**Board Member Comments:**

Overmyer, noting he is a member of the Building Committee, requests involvement in decisions that pertain to the building, citing last month's discussion around the HVAC system. Bill Geller will schedule a building committee meeting.

Wallner acknowledges his time on the Board, indicating the many changes and challenges during his tenure. He states it was a great opportunity and appreciated being part of the organization as well as his appreciation for other board members.

Owdziej indicated she is pleased with the current direction and asking if public comments, directed to the ED and Chair will be made available to the board. (Assured by DeGroot that this public feedback will be given to the current board).

Klipp thanked DeGroot for the "background work"

Hobbs stated he appreciated today's exercise and wished Wallner luck in his new venture.

LaRue indicated Wallner would be missed and stated he had done a "great job". He stated he finds this current planning exercise interesting and believes that the board is on a "good path"

DeGroot acknowledged Wallner's contribution

Executive Directors Report: Geller attended the Rural Transit Managers workshop in Mt Pleasant, which he states was well attended with many from rural transit. States there was "a lot of training" and will be attending a Legislative Day on May 9th. States he will be ordering another all-wheel drive transit van. Believes these will be more useful than the larger busses. States though the current fleet has some older busses, no current routes are affected. DeGroot asked that Geller requests that the 10% designated for transit not be affected in any upcoming legislation. Geller noted that a "transit caucus" has been formed which he believes will be beneficial for transit funding.

**Opportunity for Public Comment:**

None

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Made by Wallner, supported by DeGroot.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:08 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Owdziej Secretary