

Marquette Transit Authority
1325 Commerce Dr
Marquette, MI 49855

Board Meeting Minutes

5-16-2024

Call to Order: 6pm
by Bill DeGroot

Present:

Bill DeGroot, Tim Overmyer, Karen Kasper, Dawn Schuhknecht, Barb Owdziej, Taylor Klipp
and
Pete LaRue

Excused or Absent:

Sean Hobbins, Scott Krah, and Ed Anderson

Other's present:

Bill Geller Executive Director, Kevin Hodges-Operations Manager, Mike Richer Operations
Manager, Kristine McDonnell Finance Officer, Janet Cobb Administrative Assistant

Minutes from Board Meeting of 4/18/24:

Motion by Klipp, supported by LaRue to accept minutes, motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Klipp and supported by Kasper to accept consent agenda, motion carried

Agenda for May 16:

Motion by Overmyer supported by LaRue to amend agenda to include update on GPS (item #3)
and Michigan Shared Streets Grant (#5) to the action items on today's agenda. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

None, no public was present

Action Items:

1. Finance Committee Report:

Given by Schuhknecht, with a copy included in this month's board packet for review.
Motion to accept the finance committee report made by LaRue, supported by Overmyer.
Motion carried.

2. Building Committee Report:

Given by Overmyer suggested that Board gives direction around building repairs be made to the
Executive Director. Geller states currently, the assessment on viability of the boiler is pending
(repair or replace). There are blacktop projects in Ishpeming as well as Marquette both waiting
for companies to initiate.

Motion to accept the building report was made by Schuhknecht, supported by Klipp, and carried.

3.Update on GPS:

Geller reports project is proceeding slowly, and "Marquette is next". Boxes are installed and he has a plan to trial before opening it up to the public. The GPS aspect is still to be determined, based on cost and reliability. This trial period allows this Authority a chance try the software, with Richer stating that Marq-tran has been exploring tech systems for 10 years. DeGroot remarks that state budgets do not currently support transit. Geller reports the State would prefer a system that is consistent throughout the state, but this is has been a recommendation for a long time.

4.Strategic Plan:

There was a discussion around wording but agreed on "Marq-tran delivers and improves professional and dependable connections for people and places across Michigan's largest rural county"

Further discussion was initiated by DeGroot to describe the use of "ownership" and "end statements". Ownership represents the population being served, while end statements provide guidance for board members when making decisions that affect the Authority. Further discussions around end statements and ownership will be held at future meetings.

5.Michigan Shared Streets and Spaces Grant Program:

Geller had been approached by Marquette County for assistance in applying for this grant which includes an additional bus shelter on an existing route. This is expected to increase ridership. Motion to accept made by Overmyer and supported by Schuhknecht, to provide grant assistance, motion passes.

Public Comment: None

Board Member Comments:

Schuknecht: none

Owdziej: challenges all board members to ride the bus

Klipp: none

Kasper: States she takes Marq-tran to this board meeting and leaves her home at 330 to make the 6pm start time for this board meeting.

Overmyer: none

LaRue: none

Executive Director Report:

Geller met with representatives on May 9 "Michigan Transportation Association Breakfast", states all the representatives were present; Dave Preston, Jenn Hill, Gregory Markkanen and briefly with Senator Ed McBroom. States there is currently a tax on motor vehicle parts and supplies, intended for transit, which is currently collected at auto parts stores. Those same supplies sold "big box" stores, do not capture those taxes, instead is assigned to the State's General Fund. Geller reports there is currently a bill (written but not submitted) proposing these vehicle specific taxes incurred at those big box stores be directed into the transportation fund. Geller also mentioned that insurance cost through the Michigan Transit Pool is expected to be reduced next year.

Adjournment:

Motion by Schuhknecht and supported by Klipp to adjourn, motion passed and meeting adjourned at 7pm.