

Marquette County Transit Authority
1325 Commerce Drive Marquette, MI 49855

Board Meeting Minutes September 26, 2024

Call to Order: 6:03 pm by Chairman Bill De Groot

Roll Call:

Present: Bill De Groot-Chair, Pete LaRue-Co-chair, Karen Kasper, Taylor Klipp, Tim Overmyer, Kevin Flohe, Sean Hobbins, Dawn Schuhknecht, Ed Anderson, Scott Krah, Barb Owdziej-Secretary. Others Present: Bill Geller-Executive Director, Kristine McDonnell-Finance Officer, Kevin Hodges-Operations Manager, Rod Young (employee).

Minutes: Motion from Kasper, 2nd from Overmyer to approve corrected minutes from August 15, 2024 meeting, motion passed.

Consent Agenda; Motion by LaRue, 2nd by Schuhknecht to approve Consent Agenda, motion passed.

Opportunity for citizens to address the Authority: None.

Agenda: Motion by Owdziej, 2nd by LaRue to approve agenda, motion passed

Action Items:

1. Report from Building Committee: Report given by Anderson who states that overall the building seems to be in good shape without any issues reported by Rod Young (employee present). Overhead door jams are noted to be rusty, possible replacement. Anderson suggested pricing out an automated dial out for fire or unauthorized entry. Motion made by Schuhknecht 2nd by Hobbins to accept report, motion passed.

2. Announcement made by Bill De Groot that he has accepted a job in Utah and November will be his last Marq-tran meeting. DeGroot recommends that the Board continues to develop policies and a process that guides and directs the Board in planning and decision making within the Organization. He plans to "check in with the board" as he will be returning often and offers support through phone calls or text messaging. Specifically, DeGroot suggests gathering end statement materials from various committees, reviewing these at the November meeting then devising a plan for "next steps". De Groot reports he is using the Carver model for policy management for boards.

Owdziej and Hobbins ask if it would be possible to get materials before the next meeting, DeGroot cautioned that sending materials might be a conflict of the open meetings act, but if possible will get the materials to board members in advance.

Schuhknecht reports that she will remain on the board in spite of a previous announcement that she might have to resign d/t location.

Kasper asked about new buses having a step that is accessible without a curb. Hodges states that anyone who can't safely navigate the steps should be using the lift.

Hobbins asks about health care for employees, as there was an increase in cost and an additional plan had been discussed at the last board meeting. Geller states the majority of the employees selected the PPO plan (the more expensive, but allows people to select out of state providers).

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Overmyer asks if the executive report can be given before board comments in order for members to receive this information before commenting.

Executive Director Report:

Geller states auditing services have been contracted for a three-year contract.

DeGroot reminded the Board that in the future, the Board, not Management is the entity that hires (or approves) the hiring of the auditor. He also suggested board directed guidelines regarding cost.

Geller states the audit is mandatory and though Marq-tran had put a bid request, this company was the only one that responded.

Hobbins echoed DeGroot's concern and questioned policies. DeGroot remarked that the audit was looking at the financial records from monies already received for that year's budget.

Geller scheduled a finance committee for October 8 at 3pm.

Geller states that the Michigan Mobility Wallet should be ready in late October, will last from 3-5 years and technically starts when the program is on line.

Geller states he has ordered 2 more transit vans and 2 medium duty buses, with air brakes. He states they train drivers for their CDL's on buses with air brakes. He would like to get a total of 5 vehicles. They will auction off the New Flyers (old buses, beyond reasonable service). Wasn't sure if these buses would be 2024 or 2025 models.

Geller reports that equipment inside the bus wash had to be reorganized and relocated due to corroding. There is now a dehumidifier in the bus wash. The AC unit in the server room failed and leaked, disabling the server. Server moved and everything is working. Floor was painted in front of the bus wash with a non-slip coating. Berger & King (HVAC company in Escanaba) evaluated the boilers and report that due to aging, they recommended replacement of boilers. Geller reports this will be funded by grants.

Hodges states they have been working on outreach with Marquette RESA and another social support agency to orient them about Marq-tran. He states they have made multiple attempts to contact and offer service education to both senior centers (phone calls, emails) but they were unresponsive. Kasper expressed disappointment in a "missed opportunity" at a "vaccine and wellness fair". Hodges states he arranged a session at NMU with students in the "FirstGen" program, October 10th, at Hedgcock with these First-Generation participants. There will be a bus available and students will be shuttled to different stops to maximize their understanding of Marq-tran services.

Motion made to adjourned by Overmyer/De Groot at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Owdziej
Secretary