

Marquette County Transit Authority  
1325 Commerce Drive Marquette, MI 49855

Board Meeting Minutes November 21,2024

**Call to Order:**

6:00 pm by Dawn Schuhknecht.

**Present:**

Dawn Schuhknecht, Karen Kasper, Tim Overmyer, Scott Krah, Barb Owdziej, Taylor Klipp, Sean Hobbins, Ed Anderson, Jim Nankervis, Bill Geller-Executive Director, Kristine McDonnell-Finance Officer, Janet Cobb-Administrative Assistant, Mike Richer-Operations Manager

**Absent or Excused:**

Kevin Flohe, Pete LaRue

**Minutes from October meeting:**

Motion by Overmyer, second by Klipp to approve minutes from October 17 2024 meeting, motion passed.

**Consent Agenda:**

Motion by Anderson, second by Kasper to approve consent agenda, motion carried.

**Agenda for today:**

Motion by Overmyer, second by Klipp to approve today's meeting, motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

No public present.

**New Business:**

1. Motion was made to approve finance committee report from October Klipp/Krah, passed
2. Discussion re: General funds for dispatch software:  
Geller reported on software update for buses, using Q Ride. reviewed costs with Board  
One-time fee of 30 thousand (to purchase)  
7,500 on site (one time) support (orient, get the system up and running).  
2,995 a month (ongoing) with a credit of 350.  
Plus, internet fees.  
Plus, tablets.  
Plus, mounting hardware.  
Discussion followed regarding Internet requirements. Unlimited vs 50 gig. Geller was assured that Marq-tran would not need unlimited coverage saving Marq-tran 11 thousand dollars/year. Richer comments that compared to previous software, this system is far superior.  
Motion made by Hobbs to approve purchase Q Ride software (pending attorney review of contract), not to exceed \$90,000.00, supported by Overmyer, and passed.
3. Executive Director's evaluation: Evaluations reviewed, Geller notes his salary is below 80 % compared to other directors across the UP (in size and budget).

**Closed Session:**

Started at 6:22 pm to discuss salary.

**Meeting resumed:**

6:32 pm. Hobbins motioned to authorize a 6 % raise to the Executive Director, supported by Krah, and motion passed unanimously.

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4. Strategic Planning: Geller notes that end statements are still needed from the Operations Committee, meeting scheduled and will address next month.

**ED Report:**

Geller reports that Mobile Wallet challenge is almost ready, hopefully after Thanksgiving. Geller suggests initiating with customers who buy monthly passes, to test the system. Geller also asked if employees could get a gift card, Hobbs pointed out that government employees could not receive gift cards, but could receive a bonus. He proposed a \$100.00 tax adjusted bonus for each employee, seconded by Klipp and motion carried by Board.

Geller reports audit will be started by the first of December Annual application training was held at Marq-tran. Boiler estimates have been received and grants will pay for these replacements. Geller will check on replacing air handlers with excess money, and plans on putting out a bid for both. Three transit Vans are on order and expecting one van soon. Medium duty buses will take considerably longer, as assembly is at least 7 months out. Geller states shouldn't impact current service.

**Misc. Motion:**

Schuhknecht motioned to nominate Nankervis as chair for the remainder of the year, supported by Anderson, motion passed.

**Board Member Comments:**

Klipp stated he was excited about getting the new software for the organization.

Owdziej suggested that Marq-tran utilize social media more vigorously. Possibly a social media staff position.

Overmyer agreed that social media is popular among younger users.

Hobbs echoed the need for social media to address a large group of potential customers, suggested possibly tapping into NMU for assisting with setting this up on various platforms.

Nankervis reports that the County Board had asked him to step in as Bill DeGroot has vacated the board.

Schuhknecht thanked Hobbs for correctly requesting a closed session for salary discussion and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm