

Marquette County Transit Authority  
1325 Commerce Drive Marquette, MI 49855

Board Meeting Minutes December 19, 2024

**Call to Order:**

6 pm by Jim Nankervis

**Present:**

Kevin Flohe, Sean Hobbins, Karen Kasper, Taylor Klipp, Scott Krah, Pete LaRue, Barb Owdziej, Tim Overmyer.

Dawn Schuhknecht Bill Geller-Executive Director, Kristine McDonnell-Finance Officer, Janet Cobb- Administrative Assistant, Mike Richer-Operations Manager.

**Excused or Absent:**

Ed Anderson.

**Minutes from November 2024 Meeting:**

Motion made by LaRue, supported by Hobbins to approve November meeting with spelling corrections.

**Consent Agenda:**

Motion made by Klipp, supported by Owdziej to approve consent agenda, motion carried.

**Agenda for today:**

Motion by Flohe, supported by LaRue to approve today's agenda, motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

None.

**New Business:**

1. Board Calendar: Motion made by Hobbins, and supported by Schuhknecht to approve Board Calendar for 2025. Motion passed.
2. Report from Operations Committee: Given by Taylor Klipp who reported that End Goal planning was discussed at meeting but not presented to Board today. They discussed new software and the affects on the future as well as marketing. Klipp has approached NMU, LSCP and Invent/Innovate NMU with good response for assistance with social media marketing. Klipp states these organizations meet in January and he expects to get some feedback in February, ideally in conjunction with the institution of the Michigan Mobility Wallet. Dawn Schuhknecht remarked that she has some connections through SAIL and Queen City Dance for social media exposure and is hopeful that "we can get something going". She hopes to engage the employees of Marq-tran as well. Krah motioned to approved report, supported by Kasper with unanimous acceptance from the Board.
3. Report from Finance Committee: Given by Dawn Schuhknecht. Committee met to discuss 2026 budget and the notification that the LBO (Local Bus Operations) has been reduced by approximately a hundred and forty thousand dollars. Geller reports that budget amounts change (and this latest total may also change) but is responsible now for submitting a new budget within the latest parameters. Geller was able to make some changes in revenue estimates, meeting the budget guidelines. It was also noted that Marq-tran millage will be on the ballot in 2026. Motion to approve Finance Report made by Owdziej, supported by LaRue which carried.
4. Motion then made to approved the FY 2026 budget by Flohe, supported by Owdziej, motion carried.
5. Strategic Planning: Hobbins asked the Board how they would like to proceed in light of losing DeGroot who had been leading this process. He suggested possibly asking for

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some outside assistance though he also offered to “take an intensive look at it “as he is familiar with strategic planning and master planning on a government scale (though not the method that DeGroot was using). Schuhknecht reminded the group that DeGroot had offered assistance remotely, though his availability is unclear. Owdziej verbalized concern that the Board is utilizing a process that is essentially new for everyone on the board and might it make sense to adopt a process familiar to someone on the current board. Hobbins echoed that he is willing to work on the process, with help from Klipp, then will approach the Board with the result for their approval. Motion made Schuhknecht that Hobbins and Klipp work on finishing the Strategic Plan and present it to the Board for approval. Motion supported by Overmyer and passed with a majority vote.

**ED Report:**

Geller reporting that he has a report from the attorneys Mika/Meyers on the contract with Q. Ride and presented it to the Board. States Q Ride would like to get started in January. Geller is also recommending using a local attorney, as Mika Meyers are located in Grand Rapids. Hobbins suggested Kendricks, Bordeau, who have an office in Marquette for local access. It was noted that they also have two labor attorneys on staff. Geller will contact this firm. He reports there hasn't been too much demand for legal services. Geller also reports that Michigan Mobility Wallet is “getting close”. He's scheduled to meet them to correct some mapping errors. He has submitted the proposal for boiler replacement to the State. Geller thanked the board for their service this year as well as acknowledging Krah, Kasper and LaRue as they will be exiting the board at the end of this year.

**Board Member comments**

**Krah:** Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and thanked the Board for keeping his third Thursdays interesting. Complimented management.

**Schuhknecht:** Thanked the departing Board members and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Kasper:** Stated she needed a statement from Marq-tran indicating she was no longer on the Board. She states that she has served because her father had been on the Marq-tran Board.

**Overmyer:** Thanks, LaRue and wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.

**Flohe:** Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and thanks everyone for showing him the ropes. States he's looking forward to next year.

**Owdziej:** States looking forward to next year and wished the departing members good luck.

**Klipp:** wished everyone a Happy Holiday, and thanked the departing members.

**Hobbins:** Thanked departing members and asked if employees had received the bonus

**LaRue:** Thanked everyone and wished a good holiday to everyone.

**Nankervis:** Thanked departing members, wished everyone a Merry Christmas and offers to serve as chair for 2026 (he will miss January meeting).

**Motion to adjourn:**

Made by Hobbins, supported by Krah and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted  
Barbara Owdziej  
Secretary