

Marquette County Transit Authority
1325 Commerce Drive
Marquette, MI 49855
Board Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2025

Call to Order:

At 6:02 by Chairman Sean Hobbins

Present:

Ed Anderson, Matt Barnhart, Kevin Flohe, Jamie Glenn, Sean Hobbins, Taylor Klipp, Barb Owdziej, Dawn Schuhknecht, Bill Geller- Executive Director, Kristine McDonnell-Finance Officer, Janet Cobb-Administrative Assistant, Mike Richer Operations

Absent or Excused:

Jim Nankervis, Jo Ellen Yeadon

Minutes from February 20,2025 Meeting

Motion to approve by Klipp, supported by Schuhknecht, motion passed

Consent Agenda:

- a. Approve accounts payable for February, 2025 in the amount of \$137,738.99, Payroll of \$107,522.33
- b. Monthly operating report
- c. Monthly fleet incident report
- d. Budget report January 2025

Motion by Anderson, supported by Owdziej to approve consent agenda, motion carried

Agenda for today's meeting:

Motion made by Klipp to amend agenda to include discussion around leveraging an intern and marketing options as Action Item #3, supported by Schuhknecht, motion supported

Public Comment: None

Action Items:

1. Finance Committee Report:

Delivered by Schuhknecht, reports that future finance meetings will be held via Zoom, otherwise, "everything was good".

2. Strategic Plan:

Delivered by Hobbins, who referenced handout distributed at today's meeting. Reports he and Klipp decided to combine the work already done, but thought they'd use a different approach, one they are more comfortable with, using positive goals as opposed to end statements (which was the method the previous chair had adopted). Hobbins suggests taking the next month to review, return next month with short- and long-term goals for the building committee. He'd like the Board to work through each committee's previously defined end statements, recaptured as goals and get through the entire plan by this summer.

3. Intern and Marketing Options:

Delivered by Klipp who contacted Adela Piper from SIREN (public relations business that works with "a lot of municipalities"). They offer different public outreach packages as well identifying target audiences. Klipp reports this is a paid package (6-10 grand). He suggests listening to a presentation by this business to consider the options. The board agreed, Klipp will arrange.

Executive Director Report:

Geller attended Michigan Legislative Day on March 12, 2025 in Lansing. States became acquainted with a lobbying group TRU (Transit Riders United) whose focus is to lobby for more transit funding. He spoke to Greg Markkanen (110 district), Karl Bohnak (109) and Ed McBroom (Senate). Geller reporting that McBroom spent considerable time and attention to the concerns around transit funding. McBroom promised to investigate receiving the due monies legislated from big box stores. Currently the State is collecting them, but they are not being allocated to transit. Geller also points out that funding for roads is increasing, but the tax money for transit is not, and funding percentage has also been reduced by almost 26% since 2000. Geller reports funding is the same regardless of services. He points out that there is millage coming up next year. Geller will draft a letter indicating this Boards support of legislative action around increasing funding. The letter will be presented at next month's Board meeting.

Geller reports QRide has started their process getting Marq-tran on board. They anticipate a 2-month timeline.

The Michigan Wallet Challenge has started, and he reports users "don't want to use them", in spite of them being offered at no cost. He reports the State is working on a campaign to market this service.

Marq-tran will be participating in the Marquette County Community Resource Fair in June. This fair aims to educate the public around available services.

Geller reports the boiler RFP has been approved and hopes to have bids by April. States this is funded by a grant. He has spoken to a roofing company from Iron Mountain and expects them to access the leak. He notes that the roof is 21 years old and always had issues, though the roof may need total replacement.

Board Member Comments:

Barnhart thanks everyone for the welcome and looking forward to learning more about Marq-tran

Owdziej asks if changing the Board Meeting time was still being consider, discussed among board and agree to continue current day/time

Klipp welcomes all new members

Hobbins: Thanks everyone around strategic plan discussion, voiced optimism around the process and hopes to get this wrapped up by June

Public Comment:

Student observer thanks the board for an insightful experience

Adjournment:

Motion by Klipp, supported by Schuhknecht, carried. Meeting adjourned at 637PM

Respectfully Submitted

Barb Owdziej
Secretary