

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

April 17, 2025

Call to Order:

At 6:00 pm by Chairman Sean Hobbins

Present:

Ed Anderson, Matt Barnhart, Jamie Glenn, Sean Hobbins, Taylor Klipp, Jim Nankervis, Tim Overmyer, Barb Owdziej, Dawn Schuhknecht, Jo Ellen Yeadon, Bill Geller-Executive Director, Kristine McDonnell-Finance Officer, Janet Cobb-Administrative Assistant, Mike Richer Operations

Excused or Absent:

Kevin Flohe

Guests:

Sara Carlson-Manager of Planning for Marquette County, Adela Piper CEO Siren

Minutes from March 20, 2025 meeting:

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

Consent Agenda:

- A. Accounts Payable for March 2025 in the amount of \$225,655.44 and Payroll of \$104,815.63.
- B. Monthly Operating Report
- C. Monthly Fleet Incident Report
- D. Budget Report February 2025

Motion to approve this Consent Agenda proposed by Overmyer and supported by Schuhknecht, motion passed

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to Approve today's agenda with addition of Strategic Planning discussion as item #1 proposed by Overmyer, supported by Taylor, motion passed

Opportunity for Citizens to Address the Authority:

Thyra Karlstrom introduced herself and explained she was here to provide information about the Trout Lake Project.

Action Items:

1. *Hobbins discussed the Strategic Planning worksheets that he distributed for the Board to complete for May's meeting. Hobbins will consolidate the goals he received for the Building Committee and get them out to the Board before the next meeting.*
2. *Adela Piper from Siren (a public relations firm) made a presentation to the Board to describe the types of services their firm can offer. She explained that services are based on the goals and plan of the organization. She acknowledged the adaption of new technology on the buses and suggested that this was an ideal time to increase community awareness and reach target audiences. Klipp made a motion that Geller engages with Siren to put together*

a proposal for a strategic communications plan and present it at next month (or two's) board meeting, supported by Schuhknecht, motion passed.

3. *Letter of Support*: Geller composed a letter to be sent to Michigan Legislators encouraging financial support for transit which will be signed by Chairman Hobbins. Motion made by Overmyer, supported by Yeadon, motion passed.
4. *Memorandum of Understanding*: Sara Carlson explained that as a transit, Marq-tran (and not the county) was eligible and will be a fiduciary to receive this "Shared Spaces and Streets" grant to construct a non-motorized pathway and bus shelter on Ki Sawyer which connects the elementary school and Trout Lake Park. County Planning will be responsible for the grant and project. She reports this is an ADA accessible structure and route.
5. *Resolution for Little Trout Lake Project*: Hobbins motioned that the Board accept the Memorandum of Understanding, and the Resolution for the Little Lake Project, supported by Anderson, motion passed.

Board Member Comments:

Anderson stated that he is concerned that the Board might be "getting ahead of ourselves, setting goals might "look good on paper", but long term "something pops up", citing the unpredictability of funding.

Klipp stated he was happy that the Board was moving forward

Owdziej asked if a more energy efficient heating system might be considered as the main building needs a new boiler as well as a new roof. Geller agreed to explore options.

Hobbins states he's excited to see a planning going forward and clarified that his building goals are geared toward cataloging and long-term planning

Executive Director's Report:

Geller attended the Rural Transit Managers workshop. This is an annual meetup. Reports "we're at the lowest level of funding". He states changes to drug testing and websites are coming. The RFP's for the boiler has been submitted and plans on accepting a bid by the end of April. States a mechanic is down in Grand Rapids inspecting the new buses before they are delivered. This cost is included and helps ensure the buses are mechanically sound when delivered. States these vehicles are All-Wheel drive and handle well in snow. Michigan Mobility Wallet is still "chugging along", but he's expecting to receive the software to evaluate the usage of this technology. Q-Ride is working to transfer information into their servers. Geller reporting issues with blacktop by the filling tanks, has Rural Transit grant money to fund this as well as replacing chinking on the building that is failing.

Opportunity for citizens to address the Authority:

Thyra Karlstrom mention she had seen an electric bus being transported and "it was a beautiful site to see".

Geller reported that there had been a plan to bring an electric bus to Escanaba but it couldn't be charged enough to make the trip from downstate and needed to be transported, and points out that "it's the state of our electricity"

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Barb Owdziej
Secretary