

Marquette County Transit Authority
1325 Commerce Drive Marquette, MI 49855
Board Meeting Minutes June 19, 2025

Call to Order:

At 6pm by Chairman Sean Hobbins

Present:

Ed Anderson, Kevin Flohe, Jamie Glenn, Sean Hobbins, 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:

Matt Barnhart, Taylor Klipp. Motion made by Anderson supported by Schuhknecht to excuse Klipp (who had notified ED prior to meeting), motion passed

Minutes from May Marq-tran Board Meeting:

Motion by Schuhknecht supported Yeadon to approve minutes from May meeting with corrections, motion passed.

Consent Agenda approval;

- A. Approve accounts payable for May 2025 in the amount of \$376,759.76 and Payroll in the amount of \$154,148.72
- B. Monthly Operating Report
- C. Monthly Fleet Incident Report
- D. Budget Report April 2025

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

Agenda approval:

Motion made by Overmyer, supported by Schuhknecht to approve agenda, motion passed

Opportunity for Citizens to Address the Authority:

Katelyn Jensen read a letter from "Jessica", a citizen representing the organization, "We the People." Jessica cited difficulty accessing Marq-tran information on the current website, as well as limited route availability from more remote locations. She also noted that route timelines are not conducive to working hours, and reports limited access for purchasing bus passes. Katelyn echoed many of these concerns and offers partnership with this organization to combine goals in making Marq-tran more accessible and easier to use.

Ian Watson, reports they have a direct line to the public and feels they can offer feedback and hopes to provide this information to Marq-tran in the hopes of improved communication and service.

Chairman Hobbins encouraged communicating with the Executive Director to gain information around current operations and plans.

Action Items:

1. Finance Committee Report: Given by Schuhknecht, who reports the report was approved.
2. Operations Committee Report: Given by Anderson who reported that members generally felt that partnership with Siren would be worthwhile for a year. Still waiting for references from Taylor Klipp to make a final decision. There was some discussion regarding goals of the organization vs funding restrictions and size of the county. Richer pointed out that fares pay a very small amount of the overall budget. Overmyer states he'd like to see ridership

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increased in the rural areas, Nankervis states that door to door services has been taking care of people in the outlying district and he hasn't heard any complaints. Richer reports that Door to Door is a compliment service and fills quickly d/t a very large ADA population ("probably 5000 ADA") who get to reserve in advance. He states the new software (Q-Ride) will allow them to stack routes more efficiently. Richer states he hears the most complaints about access when he's at a board meeting, and wondering why the dispatches aren't getting calls from the public. Owdziej pointed out that she thinks most people use a website as a primary source for information as opposed to calling in to the office. Yeadon states she thinks there are many seniors who don't use websites. Richer states he hopes the PR firm can help with educating the public around utilizing the service. He offers to take board members or members from the public on routes, to explain the rationale around route choice. He points out that Marq-tran will stop anywhere along the route to pick up customers as long as the bus can stop safely. He also states that single routes can't be extended individually, as all routes would need to be extended into later hours. Nankervis asking about obtaining bids if the board chooses to hire a PR company. Hobbins motioned to direct the ED to put out an RFP for PR services, supported by Glenn with motion passing.

3. Strategic Plan: Hobbins states he is still working on the document.

Executive Directors Report:

Bill Geller states Marq-tran will sponsor a bus in the July 4th parade, they will reach out to an organization, possibly SAIL, to ride in a smaller vehicle. He states they are still testing the Mobility wallet, going "ok", but it doesn't work with the dispatch program, and probably not going to use this long term. Q-Ride has a program the allows purchasing of passes, but "it is expensive". Dispatcher training has been started and they will be starting the door to door testing. The boiler project is progressing, should have this finalized next week. Peninsula solar is in the process of getting a quote. He states the roof has been "scanned", 50 % is "bad" and might need to hire an architectural company, the roof needs insulation and the initial roof job was done incorrectly. Anderson asks if the county has an architectural firm which they have used. Bill states Marq-tran will be represented at the Resource Fair on June 26th.

Board Member Comments:

Hobbins asking that the County be reminded that Marq-tran millage is up next year, to ensure this is not forgotten.

Owdziej appreciates the comments for the visitors and hopes to include their offer to partner with the Authority.

Opportunity for Citizens to address the Authority:

Ian Watson passed put contact information to the Board. He asks if the Authority would be willing to share any concerns around using Siren. Katelyn expressed some appreciation around the information shared and the offer to narrate routes.

Adjournment:

At 6:58 PM by Hobbins