

Marquette County Transit Authority
1325 Commerce Dr Marquette, MI 4855
Board Meeting Minutes May 21,2026

Call to Order:

6 pm by Chairperson Sean Hobbins

Present: Ed Anderson, Kevin Flohe, Sean Hobbins, Taylor Klipp, Jim Nankervis, Tim Overmyer, Barb Owdziej, Dawn Schuhknecht, Bill Geller- Executive Director, Kristine McDonnell-Finance Officer, Janet Cobb- Administrative Assistant

Excused or Absent: Matt Barnhart, Jamie Glenn, Jo Ellen Yeadon

Minutes from April 16th meeting:

Motion by Klipp, supported by Schuhknecht to approve minutes from 4/16/26 meeting. Motion carried

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Nankervis, supported by Klipp to approved consent agenda which contained,

1. Approved accounts payable for April in the amount of \$132,458.69 and payroll of \$107,027.93
2. Monthly Operating Report
3. Monthly Fleet Incident Report
4. Budget Report April 2025

Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Owdziej, supported by Klipp to approve tonight's agenda, motion carried

Opportunity for Citizens to address the Authority:

No citizens present

Action Items:

1. Finance Committee meeting scheduled for June 1st at 12 noon by Zoom

Executive Director's Report:

Geller presented a handout with "Millage Facts" as an informational tool to highlight the Authority's impact on the county and the need for millage approval to maintain services. Suggestions were made to specifically highlight the large numbers of ADA riders and to emphasis the need for door to door services. This poster will be displayed and will be posted to social media.

Geller reports QRyde is still working on the reporting portion of the system before it can go live, but the Authority is "basically using it".

Marq-tran will be attending the community resource fair in Marquette on June 12 and will participate at the Little Trout Lake Grand Opening at KI Sawyer on June 14th.

Board Member Comments:

Ed Anderson asks about re instituting the students ride free for the summer

***During the course of this discussion, motion made by Klipp and supported by Owdziej to offer these free rides this summer, motion carried. Geller will implement this program and will also note this additional service in "Millage Facts" informational handout.

Jim Nankervis thanked the Authority for providing a bus to transport the Marquette County Township Association to Big Bay for a recent event

Tim Overmyer reports that he has been approached by members of the community with complaints and asks that the Board receive a report of customer complaints. **Geller** explained that most complaints are rather trivial and managed by the dispatch team, otherwise they are elevated to an operations manager or himself. Discussion followed, **Geller** agreed to present

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pertinent information to Board. **Geller** and also invited the Board to notify him whenever they become aware of customer complaints. **Overmyer** states that he had spoken to a County Commissioner (Bill Nordeen) recently about the excess of funds available to the County inquiring about Marq-tran receiving some of these funds. Nordeen explained that the County Commissioners don't receive any information about Marq-tran. Discussion followed with this Board and the ED agreeing that the commission should minimally receive the Board's monthly packet, as well as accepting Commissioner Nordeen's invitation to meet for a lunch.

Taylor Klipp reports he went to a meeting of "We the People", which included a brainstorming session between several social service organizations. He reports that Marq-tran was cited as being a "big part of all the systems", that Marq-tran was "at the center of all these social services".

Geller additionally reported that he met with Sail, who was requesting a variance to install a bus shelter. He reports that shelters are difficult as Marq-tran stops anywhere along a route, and shelters aren't necessary (as well as presenting other logistical barriers). They discussed marking bus routes with "bands" (posting on permanent structures) in the attempt to make routes more visible to riders.

Geller states that he sent in a proposal to the State for cement work and cameras and will be submitting a request for funding for new computers.

He reports that the request for funding to upgrade security by using badges for entry has been "put on the back burner", but admits he needs to bring this up again, noting some funding opportunities.

Adjournment:

6:37pm by Hobbins

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Owdziej, Secretary