

Marquette County Transit Authority
1560 Washington Street
Ishpeming, MI
Board Meeting Minutes September 24, 2026

Call to Order:

6:02pm by Chairperson Sean Hobbins

Roll Call:

Present: Ed Anderson, Kevin Flohe, Jamie Glenn, Sean Hobbins, Taylor Klipp, Tim Overmyer, Barb Owdziej, Dawn Schuhnecht, Linda Winslow, Jo Ellen Yeadon, Bill Geller- Executive Director, Mike Richer- Operations Manager
Excused or Absent: Jim Nankervis

Motion by Anderson, supported by Yeadon to excuse Nankervis, motion carried.

Minutes From August 20, 2026 Meeting:

Motion to accept proposed by Schuhnecht, supported by Glenn, motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Owdziej, supported by Flohe to approve Consent Agenda which included:

1. Approval of Accounts Payable for August 2026 in the amount of \$252,921.32 and Payroll in the amount of \$107,415.09
2. Monthly Operating Report
3. Monthly Fleet Incident Report
4. Budget Report for July 2026

Motion carried.

Opportunity for Citizens to Address the Authority:

Rose McBride from Michigamme said that she had a problem with "Marq-Tran not providing services that they pay for" (through the millage). She notes that there is no route on the website, and specifically cited 2 residents who were denied services, one who is disabled and another who needed medical services but did not drive. She states these residents live too far out, and door to door is not available. She also states there is no representation on the Board. She is asking for a solution.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Owdziej and supported by Klipp to add approval of Labor Agreement to Action Items on tonight's agenda, and to approve agenda. Motion carried.

Action Items:

1. Building committee report given by Anderson, reporting no major issues and few minor issues including lighting, cement repair and painting. He cited some concerns previously noted around security at entrance points and recommended evaluating costs as well as potential effectiveness.
2. Negotiation and Committee report given by Hobbins who presented a summary of changes to the contract. He said that changes, which include a significant wage increase, help the Authority remain a competitive employer in the County.
3. Labor Contract: Motion made by Anderson, supported by Schuhnecht to approve Labor Contract, motion passed

Any Old or New Business from a member or ED:

Hobbins recommended the Board review the long term goals of the Strategic Plan for the next meeting.

Executive Directors Report:

Motion made to adopt resolution by Klipp and supported by Anderson to accept the State Master Agreement, motion passed and signed by secretary Owdziej.

Geller reports the Michigan Mobility Wallet (name changed to "ZIG", and no longer operated by the State of Michigan) doesn't work with current software. Geller has met with them and they are working on this.

Geller states QRyde reports are unreliable for reporting. Process has been frustrating, and states they won't get paid until the system is functional. Ideally "Zig" (for riders) and QRyde (for dispatch) work together.

Geller reports a bus accident on 9/23 which will required some repair to the damaged bus, utilizing parts from a bus targeted for replacement.

Geller has applied for grants to replace 19 buses and roof repairs. He expects they will know by April whether grant funding is approved.

Geller reports he has looked into using propane buses due to cost of diesel fuel, but states they won't work due to size.

Geller has met with website developer, who has made some recommendations for the Authority's website including WCAG compliance. States cost should be between fifteen hundred and 2 grand.

Geller reports an increase of summer ridership by 5,000 compared to last summer, and though can't specifically track students (free riders), it's noted that this is a significant increase from last summer before the free rides were offered.

Geller addressed McBride's concerns, stating that the hours are not available to go to Michigamme, noting county size and distance that a route to Michigamme requires. He specifically states that a single door to door service requires 2 hours of driver time. McBride notes that there are several residents who have no other resources,(do not qualify) and that the community is paying through their millage. Lengthy discussion among the board followed, around time and resources, and clarification of "Door to Door" vs "Taxi Service". Geller defined radius of service for door to door as 3/4 of a mile from a fixed route, which is designed to complement the fixed route. These door to door services are designed connect riders to that route. He states this is a Federal regulation. The possibility of volunteer drivers, conflict with union, liability, distance were discussed and Geller agreed to explore options, including partnership with "RSVP"

Board Member Comments:

Hobbins states there are three expiring Board positions, and that he would be reapplying for the Marquette City position, and inquired if other expiring terms would be reapplying. He asked Geller to thank the Union for their cooperation during negotiations and complemented him on his leadership

Glenn asked for time to review website upgrades and to provide feedback to Geller.

Yeadon complemented to Ishpeming shopping route drivers.

Schuhnecht asks Geller where he received ADA compliance guidelines for the website.

Anderson reported that recent bus accident fortunately caused no injury but asks that the Marq-Tran maintenance truck be labeled (which arrived to the accident sight).

Klipp complemented the staff and Board members work during the contract negotiations.

Owdziej reminded Geller to add information on the website that informs riders that the fixed routes are flagged.

Winslow introduced herself as a Marquette Township resident who had previously served on this Board and is also currently serving on the Township Board. She states she's excited to serve, citing the importance of services for the aging population.

Meeting adjourned:

By Chairperson Hobbins at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Owdziej Secretary