



SAULT STE. MARIE BRIDGE AUTHORITY

SAULT STE. MARIE, MICHIGAN

THOMAS BUCKINGHAM SR., CHAIR
LINDA HOATH, MEMBER
SCOTT SHACKLETON, MEMBER
NICHOLAS WHITE, MEMBER

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO

MICHELINE DUBÉ, VICE CHAIR
NATALIE KINLOCH, MEMBER
ANTHONY PICKETT, MEMBER
ANDRÉ GIRARD, MEMBER

**Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Authority
Minutes
August 16, 2018
James McIntyre Board Room
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan**

Present: Thomas Buckingham, Sr., Chair
Micheline Dubé – Vice Chair
Linda Hoath, Member
Scott Shackleton, Member
Nicholas White, Member
André Girard - Member
Natalie Kinloch, Member (via teleconference)
Anthony Pickett, Member

Also Present: Laura Mester, Chief Administrative Officer, MDOT
Michael Dittenber – Attorney General's Office, MDOT
Peter Petäinen – General Manager, IBA
Crystal Knutsen – Chief Financial Officer, IBA
Karl Hansen – Bridge Engineer, IBA
Marcus Eidenier – Facilities & Asset Manager, IBA
Fiore Cappelli – Operations Manager, IBA
Cheryn Sanford – Departmental Analyst, IBA
Dan Weingarten – MDOT Communications Representative
Miles Munro – Student Assistant, IBA
Lonny Bourque – Veteran Intern Janitor, IBA
Jeremy Sprague – Steeplejack, IBA
Luc Piche – Bridge Worker, IBA
Jason Rizzo – Steeplejack, IBA
Brad Rouse – Steeplejack, IBA
Sheldon Salvalaggio – Steeplejack, IBA
John Lane – Steeplejack, IBA
Ed Hubbard – Steeplejack, IBA
Aaron Mayer – Steeplejack, IBA
Troy Raffaele – Electrician, IBA

Chair Buckingham called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

REPLY TO: PETER M. PETAINEN, GENERAL MANAGER

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I. **Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Member Hoath to approve the May 17, 2018 Sault Ste. Marie Bridge Authority regular meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Member Kinloch. Motion carried unanimously.

II. **Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) Plaza Redevelopment Project Update**

Vice Chair Dubé reported the remaining items of the project such as paving stones, sodding, flag pole installation, and IT infrastructure upgrades are in the process of being completed; once complete it will mark the end of the project. CBSA held a celebration yesterday to mark the completion of this nine-year journey. A final project report will be given at the November SSMBA meeting.

III. **Capital Project Updates**

A. Bridge Abutment Epoxy Injection Project

Bridge Engineer Karl Hansen reported the epoxy injection of the bridge abutments is complete. Total costs came in under budget and the project took much less time than originally anticipated with only minimal traffic disruptions. Karl stated maintenance staff will be monitoring the product very close over the next few years to ensure its effectiveness.

B. 2018 Annual and Fracture Critical Inspection

Karl reported inspectors were on site July 31st for two weeks to complete the hands-on portion of the inspections with no significant findings. A final presentation of the inspections will be given at the November SSMBA meeting.

IV. **Maintenance Activity and Project Tracking Report**

A. Activity and Project Tracking Report

Current maintenance activity and project tracking reports were included in the packet for review. Facilities and Asset Manager, Marcus Eidenier, stated the reports reflect a very large increase in emergency calls in 2018 as compared to 2017; Marcus stated this increase is due to late winter storms which produced heavy wet snow in April causing several semitrucks to get stuck. The reports also indicate a large increase in landscaping/mowing; this increase is due to the fact that during 2017, the Canadian arch paint project was ongoing and didn't allow time for landscaping projects.

Karl reported the Blue Water Bridge (BWB) is purchasing a new Reach-All truck and will be disposing of their current 20-year old Reach-All. The IBA is working with MDOT to find funding to refurbish the BWB's old truck with refurbishing costs estimated at \$280k. If we are successful in getting the funding, it would be stationed at the IBA and would be available to other MDOT staff in the Superior Region for their use.

B. Maintenance Projects for 2018

- The maintenance crew continues to work on cleaning and coating of the ivory curb rail with 2,360 feet being completed to date; this represent 12.4% of the entire rail.
- Maintenance staff are currently blasting and coating the tail span of the U.S. arch.

- Maintenance staff will be working on blasting and cleaning the lower half of the Canadian arch in order to get it on the same paint cycle as the upper half which was completed last summer.
- Flood coating of the bridge deck between piers 29 through 40 was completed last week. MDOT supplied the materials which were estimated at \$30,000 and IBA maintenance staff provided the labor; this resulted in a savings of over \$78,000 if the project was contracted out.
- Maintenance staff completed the five remaining sliding plate bearings this summer.
- Maintenance staff have restarted their efforts to report the uprights on the green rail.

MDOT CAO Laura Mester presented “*Excellence Coins*” to each of the maintenance staff. Excellence coins are issued from the Governor’s office and are a token of appreciation to recognize teamwork, leadership, and excellence all of which are qualities our maintenance staff exhibit daily. Laura stated she often uses the IBA as an example when meeting with legislator’s and other government officials to highlight how staff continue to come up with ideas on ways to get projects done cheaper while maintaining a high level of safety. Well done IBA maintenance crew!

C. Disposal Request

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Dubé to dispose of the 2005 Ford SRW Super Duty Pick-up, VIN #1FTNF20505EC97664. The motion was seconded by member White. Motion carried unanimously.

V. **Financial Operations**

A. Traffic, Revenue, and Operations

Chief Financial Officer Crystal Knutsen reported total traffic as of July 31st showed an increase of .3%; with the continued increase in traffic we are improving our financial position with each passing month.

B. Second Quarter Financial Activity

Crystal reported all departments were at or under budget for the second quarter. Staff remain very diligent in keeping expenditures to a minimum. A couple new polies/procedures have also been put in place to allow better spending control. By continuing all these cost saving measures, Crystal reported the fund balance has recovered and is no longer in the negative.

C. Draft 2019-2023 Business Plan

A draft of the 2019-2023 business plan was e-mailed to board members yesterday. Please take time to review the draft plan and get any comments/questions back to the IBA by the end of September. A final plan will be presented to the board for their action at the November meeting.

VI. **General Manager’s Comments**

- Peter briefly reviewed his comments that were included in the letter to the board dated 8/6/18.
- Peter reported the annual bridge walk held on June 23rd was a complete success; he even received positive feedback from both CBP and CBSA.

VII. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

VIII. **Adjournment**

Member White made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Member Pickett. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
International Bridge Administration



Peter M. Petäinen
General Manager

PP:cs