

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Social and Environmental Committee

CHAIRPERSON: Dianne Allendorf, Chairperson

DATE/TIME: January 19, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

☒ Dianne Allendorf

☒ Tina Brandel

☒ Lynn Gallagher

☒ Joseph Heitkamp

☒ Bob Heuerman

☒ LaDon Trost

A quorum was established.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sandra Schleicher, Scott Toot, Nicole Hermesen and Merri Berlage.

1. Minutes Approval:

- a) Minutes of the November 17, 2022 Social & Environmental Committee Meeting – Tina Brandel made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2022 Social & Environmental Committee meeting. Seconded by Bob Heuerman and motion carried following a voice vote resulting in all ayes.

2. Citizens' Comments: None.

3. Unfinished Business:

- a) FY22 Strategic Goals and Plans – The committee reviewed their FY22 strategic goals and plans.

4. New Business:

- a) Discussion and possible action on establishing meeting dates and start time for the FY2023 Social and Environmental Committee meetings – Joseph Heitkamp made a motion to approve the meeting dates and start time for the FY2023 Social and Environmental Committee meetings as presented. Seconded by Lynn Gallagher and motion passed following a voice vote resulting in all ayes.
- b) Discussion and possible action on a proposed code change to Title 5, Chapter 5, Section 5 (5-5-5): Noisy Dogs – This item has been postponed until the February meeting.
- c) Discussion and possible action on a Contract with Jo Daviess County Transit and Galena Strauss Senior Care – Nicole Hermesen, Transit Director, said that they're transporting a considerable amount of individuals from Galena Strauss as of late. Lynn Gallagher made a motion to approve a Contract with Jo Daviess County Transit and Galena Strauss Senior Care. Seconded by Tina Brandel and motion passed following a voice vote resulting in all ayes.
- d) Discussion and possible action on a request from Transit for additional drivers – Hermesen explained transit originally had been staffed at 20 full-time employees, which consisted of 15 drivers in addition to office personnel. With a significant increase in ridership, miles and passenger hours, they're having to deny rides while even fully staffed. She is requesting more drivers. By adding additional people, it's also going to relieve the workload of the current full-time drivers. She went on to explain the benefit of adding more employees. LaDon Trost made a motion to approve a request from Transit to increase the employees in the Transit system by 2 full time and 3 part time drivers, increasing the total employee count to 25. Seconded by Bob Heuerman and motion passed following a voice vote resulting in all ayes.

- e) Discussion and possible action on a Resolution to amend and Add Certain Environmental Health Fees Charged by the Jo Daviess County Health Department –Sandra Schleicher, Public Health Administrator, explained the changes that are being requested. The first is Farmers’ Market and cottage food fees. The Farmers’ Market fee allows meat, dairy, poultry and eggs to be sold. The original permit was \$50 for an in County resident and \$100 for an out of County resident. The new State guidelines do not distinguish by being in or out of County anymore and base it on being an Illinois farmer. The State act allows for up to \$75 for an egg permit and \$175 for the full permit including the other goods like meat and dairy. The Jo Daviess County Health Department decided \$25 for the egg permit, and \$75 for the full permit would be fair. Cottage Foods include homemade goods, canned goods, etc. An inspection is required of Cottage Food vendors, only if they receive a complaint which warrants an investigation, which also brings a fee of \$325. **Dianne Allendorf made a motion to approve a Resolution to amend and Add Certain Environmental Health Fees Charged by the Jo Daviess County Health Department. The following Environmental Health Food Program fees charged by the Jo Daviess County Health Department shall be amended and added as follows: The license fee for a Farmers’ Market in County and out of County shall be removed, the license fee for a limited egg Farmers’ Market shall be \$25 per year, the license fee for a Farmers’ Market permit shall be \$75 per year, the registration fee for a Cottage Food operation shall be increased from \$25 to \$50, and the inspection fee shall be \$325 per occurrence for a Cottage Food operator complaint. Seconded by Tina Brandel and motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes. Ayes - 6. Nays - 0. Absent - 0.** Schleicher went on to explain shared kitchens. Last summer, the Board of Health was approached by a County resident in regards to operating a shared kitchen. The resident would license a facility, and then small businesses and entrepreneurs looking to establish some sort of food business would be able to use the shared kitchen instead of building out their own commercial kitchen. This proposal will reduce the fees for people using the shared kitchen. It would be then an approved space initially, and then each operator using the kitchen would be licensed and inspected individually. **Tina Brandel made a motion to approve a Resolution to amend and add certain Environmental Health Fees Charged by the Jo Daviess County Health Department. The following Environmental Health Food Program fees charged by the Jo Daviess County Health Department shall be added to the Environmental Health Fee Schedule as follows: The license fee for High Risk shared kitchen users shall be \$200 per year, the license fee for Medium Risk shared kitchen users shall be \$125 per year, and the license fee for Low Risk shared kitchen users shall be \$75 per year. Seconded by Lynn Gallagher and motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes. Ayes - 6. Nays - 0. Absent – 0.** Schleicher spoke of the final request. In 2017, Fiscal Choice Consulting conducted a cost/fee study for Jo Daviess County. The difference in what the Health Department was charging for Food Establishment license fees versus what was recommended was over \$600. Instead of making an increase so large at one time, the Board of Health proposed raising the fee 50% per year over the next 3 years. They were raised in 2018 and 2019. It went to the Board of Health in 2020, but due to the pandemic, they voted not to raise the fees that year. This is the proposal for the third and final increase due to the fee/cost study. **Lynn Gallagher made a motion to approve a Resolution to amend and add certain Environmental Health Fees Charged by the Jo Daviess County Health Department. The following Environmental Health Food Program fees charged by the Jo Daviess County Health Department shall be amended as follows: The license fee for a high risk food establishment shall be increased from \$450 to \$675, the license fee for a medium risk food establishment shall be increased from \$225 to \$325, the license fee for a low risk food establishment shall be increased from \$225 to \$325, the license fee for a medium risk seasonal establishment shall be increased from \$125 to \$190, and the**

license fee for a low risk seasonal establishment shall be increased from \$125 to \$190, to take effect December 2023. Seconded by Tina Brandel and motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes. Ayes – 6. Nays – 0. Absent – 0.

5. Staff Reports

- a) Jo Daviess County Transit Director/PCOM – Nicole Hermesen, Transit Director, reported on the Transit department and the contracts and negotiations they are currently working through. She went on to explain when the service area was expanded last year to a general 100 mile radius. This has worked out well so far. She also spoke of other projects that have been going on in Transit with the facility, the grants that Transit receives, and the goals for the upcoming year. LaDon Trost commented that Hermesen has really turned Transit around, and that everyone is really proud to have her. He mentioned the incident that happened recently and Hermesen went on to explain that there was a passenger that had a heart attack, and a driver performed lifesaving efforts to save the passenger.
- b) Public Health – Sandra Schleicher, Jo Daviess County Public Health Administrator, reported that the license renewals have been done. The clinical staff's lab draw program is taking off. Covid boosters are still in the Health Department office, and they are also changing over the animal control software from Pet Data.
- c) Mental Health Board – No report at this time.

6. Citizens' Comments: None.

7. Board Member Concerns: None.

8. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn was made at 7:58 p.m. by Bob Heuerman and seconded by Joseph Heitkamp. Motion passed following a voice vote resulting in all ayes.

Next regular meeting will be on Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.