

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Social and Environmental Committee

CHAIRPERSON: Don Hill, Chairman

DATE/TIME: February 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

☒ Don Hill

☒ Bill Bingham

☒ Robert O'Connor

☐ Bob Heuerman

☒ Hendrica Regez

☒ Diane Allendorf

☒ Janet Checker

A quorum was established.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Gallagher

OTHERS PRESENT: Nicole Hermsen, Sandra Schleicher and Scott Toot

1. Minutes Approval:

- a) Minutes of the August 19, 2021 Social & Environmental Committee Meeting – **Hendrica Regez made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2021 Social & Environmental Committee meeting. Seconded by Bill Bingham and motion passed following a voice vote resulting in all ayes.**
- b) Minutes of the November 18, 2021 Social & Environmental Committee Meeting – **Hendrica Regez made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2021 Social & Environmental Committee meeting. Seconded by Bill Bingham and motion passed following a voice vote resulting in all ayes.**
- c) Minutes of the January 20, 2022 Social & Environmental Committee Meeting – The minutes for the January 20, 2022 will be added to next month's meeting agenda and packet for approval.

2. Citizens' Comments: None.

3. Unfinished Business

- a) FY22 Strategic Goals and Plans – The FY2021/FY2022 strategic goals and plans will be reviewed again next month.
- b) Update on Jo Daviess County Health Department – Sandra Schleicher, JDC Public Health Administrator will update below.
- c) Passenger Rail Feasibility Study Update – Hendrica Regez reported on the Passenger Rail feasibility study. The Rockford-Dubuque ridership numbers have been revised from 4,800 to 11,900 per year which includes 267-326 one way trips per day. Regez went over the impact on the job market: 450 direct jobs are created during design and construction and 40 permanent jobs are created in the Dubuque-Rockford region. Ongoing annual regional job wages benefit is \$2 million. Estimated 9 vehicle accidents avoided annually.
- d) Review, discussion and possible action on fares/fees charged by JDC Transit – Nicole Hermsen stated that she is looking at changing the fares/fees charged by the JDC Transit by next summer. The fees have not been changed in 30 years. Hermsen advised she will be applying for a grant.

4. New Business

- a) Discussion and possible action regarding an annual Ordinance authorizing the County to operate a Public Transit Service in Jo Daviess County – Nicole Hermsen advised that this is something that is completed every year. **Hendrica Regez made a motion to approve the**

annual Ordinance authorizing the County to operate a Public Transit Service in Jo Daviess County. Seconded by Janet Checker and motion passed.

- b) Discussion and possible action regarding a Resolution authorizing application for a Public Transportation Financial Assistance Grant-DOAP FY23– Nicole Hermesen stated this process has changed this year. This is essentially an agreement. **Bill Bingham made a motion to approve a Resolution authorizing an application for a Public Transportation Financial Assistance Grant-DOAP FY23. Seconded by Janet Checker and motion passed.**
- c) Discussion and possible action regarding a Resolution authorizing application for a Public Transportation Financial Assistance Grant-5311 FY23 – **Bill Bingham made a motion to approve a Resolution authorizing an application for Public Transportation Financial Assistance Grant-5311 FY23. Seconded by Janet Checker and motion passed.**
- d) Discussion and possible action to approve a recommendation to the County Board that it pass a resolution authorizing the County Board Chairperson or Vice Chairperson is authorized and directed to execute and file on behalf of the County such application and to furnish such additional information as may be required by the Department and FTA in connection with such application for said grant, and amend such Agreement, if necessary, in order to obtain grant assistance under the provisions of Section 5311 – **Bill Bingham made a motion to approved a resolution authorizing the County Board Chairperson or Vice Chairperson is authorized and directed to execute and file on behalf of the County such application and to furnish such additional information as may be required by the Department and FTA in connection with such application for said grant, and amend such Agreement, if necessary, in order to obtain grant assistance under the provisions of Section 5311. Seconded by Hendrica Regez and motion passed.**
- e) Discussion and possible action regarding a resolution authorizing the updates to the service area plan of Jo Daviess County Transit for State FY23 Grant Applications – Nicole Hermesen explained the need to expand the service area plan. The map provided shows a 100 mile radius of the Jo Daviess County Transit building. This would increase the service area, ridership and revenue. **Bill Bingham made a motion to approve a resolution authorizing the updates to the service area plan of Jo Daviess County Transit for State FY23 Grant Applications. Seconded by Bob O'Connor and motion passed.**
- f) Discussion and possible action regarding a Resolution authorizing application for a Transit Statewide/Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning - Federal Sec 5305(e); (Transit Federal Technical Studies) Grant – Nicole Hermesen explained that this is a new grant to Jo Daviess County. This grant would essentially provide a comprehensive analysis of the needs of the transit service. This analysis would be completed by a third party and the grant amount would cover the entire cost. **Hendrica Regez made a motion to approve a resolution authorizing application for a Transit Statewide/Non-Metropolitan Transportation Planning – Federal Sec 5305(e); (Transit Federal Technical Studies) Grant. Seconded by Bob O'Connor and motion passed.**

5. Staff Reports

- a) Jo Daviess County PCOM – Nicole Hermesen, Jo Daviess County Program Compliance Oversight Monitor (PCOM) thanked the committee for approving the grant application resolutions. She is working on completing them at this time. Hermesen advised that they were awarded the Rebuild Illinois round 2 grant. There is currently \$400,000 left from the Rebuild Illinois round 1 grant that they were awarded. This money will be used to purchase much needed items for Transit: 2 mini vans and 4 transit buses. Also to help with much needed repairs on the building: broken windows, roof, and security cameras. Hermesen also advised she may be looking to add some temporary seasonal summer drivers to help with their busy

season. Exciting news that there will be a two sided flyer going out to every Jo Daviess County resident detailing the transit services provided.

- b) Public Health – Sandra Schleicher, Jo Daviess County Public Health Administrator, added that COVID has slowed down a lot. She advised that testing will be available at the Health Department on Tuesday and Thursday. There is currently a part time nurse working to help with testing and other clinical services.
- c) Mental Health Board – Hendrica Regez reported there was no meeting.

6. **Citizens' Comments:** None.

7. **Board Member Concerns:** Bob O'Connor complimented Nicole Hermesen on the work she has been doing with tracking down any grant opportunities that may have not been utilized in the past. Diane Gallagher commented the effect transit has on the local economic development. Janet Checker would like to talk at a later date regarding an art initiative that would allow statues at the scenic tower or along the river.

8. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn was made at 6:59 p.m. by Bill Bingham, seconded by Hendrica Regez. Motion passed following a voice vote resulting in all ayes.

Next regular meeting will be on Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.