

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Social and Environmental Committee
CHAIRPERSON: Don Hill, Chairman
DATE/TIME: March 18, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

☒ Don Hill	☒ Bob Heuerman	☒ Janet Checker
☒ Bill Bingham	☒ Hendrica Regez	
☒ Robert O'Connor	☒ Scott Toot	

A quorum was established.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Gallagher

OTHERS PRESENT: Colleen Farrell, Kathy Gable, Don Gereau, Melisa Hammer, Nicole Hermsen, Dan Reimer and Sandra Schleicher

1. Minutes Approval:

- a) Minutes of the February 18, 2021 Social & Environmental Committee Meeting – **Hendrica Regez made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2021 Social & Environmental Committee meeting. Seconded by Bill Bingham and motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.**

2. Citizens' Comments: None.

3. Unfinished Business

- a) Update on Jo Daviess County Health Department – Sandra Schleicher, JDC Public Health Administrator reported that we just finished our biggest COVID vaccination clinic yet to date. They did 660 doses today. Our allocation has gone up to 400 doses the last couple of weeks. Our call list is slowing down. There are 155 people on the waiting list. We were at almost 400 this morning. Lots of people are getting vaccine elsewhere, so that is helpful to get everybody done quicker. There are more opportunities not far away. The Governor announced today that April 12th everyone will be eligible for vaccine. We are hoping that our allocation reflects that so that we won't have people waiting still. Otherwise, it is business as usual.
- b) Passenger Rail Feasibility Study Update – Hendrica Regez reported that we just had the first meeting with the consultant and learned that the route through Freeport along the Wisconsin border is the preferred route. The route will connect to the Rockford to Chicago station. Discussed were the operating costs, maintenance costs and the economic benefits to the communities. They are planning on an engine with three or four cars. They will make three or four runs a day. The cars have already been purchased and are very spacious and comfortable cars. Canadian National is willing to work with them on this. They will be looking for station locations. An estimated 300 – 400 people per day are expected to utilize this train. This should help with highway safety and some of the congestion. Further funding is always the biggest hurdle. The next step is stakeholder meetings, focus groups and consultant recommendations for people to take part in.
- c) Discussion and possible action regarding Animal Control Ordinance Violations – Don Hill commented that we haven't talked about this yet. Sandra Schleicher added that Chad Olsen has started working on a draft in house.

- d) Update on the Jo Daviess County Transit Service Area Plan – Nothing new to report at this time.
- e) Review, discussion and possible action on fares/fees charged by JDC Transit – Nothing new to report at this time.

4. New Business

- a) Discussion and possible action on potential IDOT's CVP pilot for deployment of zero emission cutaway paratransit vehicles – Nicole Hermesen commented that the IDOT Bureau Chief reached out to a few select counties and we were one of those chosen for this pilot test for zero emissions. I short synopsis was included in the informational packet. The intent is that this is supposed to be risk free as an opportunity but a long term goal for IDOT is to replace all of the vehicles with these vehicles if this pilot test goes well. Hermesen expressed interest and feels this would be a really good showcase for Jo Daviess County within IDOT. This would replace two of the diesel vehicles that we currently have and that would make Transit diesel free. It supports the County's resolution on a climate change action plan. A letter of intent is also included in the packet this evening. This would go to the FTA and states that Jo Daviess County wants to participate in the program.
- b) Discussion and possible action to submit letter of commitment for IDOT's Lo/No Emissions project – **Scott Toot made a motion to submit a letter of commitment for IDOT's Lo/No Emissions project. Seconded by Bob O'Connor and motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.**
- c) Discussion and possible action on a request to again partner with The HOPE Foundation on the printing and mailing of the Second Edition of the Community Resources Directory for Jo Daviess County Residents – The County partnered with The HOPE Foundation four years ago on this directory. It is a very worthwhile endeavor for Jo Daviess County. Don Gereau provided additional background on the directory. Gereau requested a \$3,000 donation from the County to assist with the printing and mailing of this updated directory. The County provided \$2,800 in assistance in 2017. **Scott Toot made a motion to forward to the Finance, Tax & Budgets Committee a Resolution to again partner with The HOPE Foundation on the printing and mailing of the Second Edition of the Community Resources Directory for Jo Daviess County Residents from Contingency Fund (016). Seconded by Bill Bingham and motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.**

5. Staff Reports

- a) Jo Daviess County PCOM – Nicole Hermesen, Jo Daviess County Program Compliance Oversight Monitor (PCOM) reported that the letter of intent and the grants will all be submitted on April 1st. The reporting for July 2020 through November 2020 for IDOT, the FTA and NTD is all caught up. We are working on December and moving forward.
- b) Jo Daviess County Transit – Kathy Gable, Jo Daviess County Transit Director, reported that the numbers are down as a whole but we are keeping our hopes high and are hoping that the Kreider houses will be coming back soon especially after the announcement from the governor today. We have had an uptick in donations which we are really happy about.
- c) Public Health – Sandra Schleicher, Jo Daviess County Public Health Administrator, had nothing more to add than the COVID report.
- d) Mental Health Board – Colleen Farrell, 708 Mental Health Board President, reported the Mental Health Board held their first quarter meeting. We have seven providers this year. Their next meeting is June 9th.

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

7. **Board Member Concerns:** None.

8. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn was made at 7:12 p.m. by Hendrica Regez, seconded by Bob Heuerman. Motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

Next regular meeting will be on Thursday, April 15, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m.