

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Social & Environmental
CHAIRPERSON: Lynn Gallagher
DATE/TIME: June 18, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Lynn Gallagher, Joseph Heitkamp, Peggy Bastian, and LaDon Trost. A quorum was established.

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Angela Kaiser and Nicole Hermsen.

1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Lynn Gallagher called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. **Minutes Approval:**

- a) Minutes of the May 15, 2025 Social & Environmental Committee meeting – **Heitkamp/Bastian motioned to approve the minutes of the May 15, 2025 Social & Environmental Committee meeting. The motion carried by voice vote.**

3. **Citizens' Comments:** None

4. **New Business:**

- a) Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of a contract between West Galena Township and Jo Daviess County Transit – Hermsen presented the contract to the committee and gave a brief explanation on how it is executed. **Bastian/Heitkamp motioned to recommend the approval of a contract between West Galena Township and Jo Daviess County Transit at an annual cost of \$4,000.00. The motion carried by voice vote.**
- b) Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of a contract between The Workshop and Jo Daviess County Transit – The draft contract was presented and the rationale for the increase was explained. There was much discussion that included the comprehensive cost analysis study that determined the total allocated cost to provide service to The Workshop was \$575,639.49, with the actual invoiced total being \$34,611.76. Board members discussed further the sustainability of a transit service that continually absorbs such high loss and determined that without increased rates, transportation would continue to suffer and ultimately end. **Heitkamp/Bastian motioned to recommend the approval of a contract between The Workshop and Jo Daviess County Transit with the fare schedule as presented. The motion carried by voice vote.**
- c) Discussion regarding contracts with Elizabeth Food Basket, The Mop Shop, The Galena Food Pantry, and Jo Daviess County Transit – Nicole Hermsen started the discussion with committee members regarding contracts with the above-mentioned parties including the new rate schedule. These contracts do not currently generate enough to cover the local match component.
- d) Discussion regarding parking lot repairs with The Workshop – There was discussion regarding a recent request from The Workshop to the Transit Director/PCOM asking the county to fund \$37,900.00 of their parking lot resurfacing project. Nicole Hermsen explained to the committee how projects using federal and state grant funds have restrictions regarding the bidding process and procurement in general. This property does not belong to the County, therefore it presents a problem to think we could use federal/state grant funds for it, even if the bidding process did meet the requirements, which it does not.

5. **Reports:**

- a) Public Health – None.

- b) Mental Health Board – There was not a report provided, however it was noted the next meeting in July would see four new members seated on the Mental Health Board and FY26 contracts would be discussed.
- c) Jo Daviess County Transit/PCOM – Nicole Hermesen gave her financial report from April and continued to report on the current financials to date: April 2025 expense was \$145,284.19, reimbursements total \$127,765.77, local match was \$11,762.65, leaving a \$5,755.77 deficit.

6. Citizens' Comments: None.

7. Committee Member Concerns: Peggy Bastian invited committee members to attend Hanover Days on July 3rd.

8. Adjourn: Heuerman/Ambrosia motioned to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. The motion carried by voice vote.

Next regular meeting is Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.