

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Social and Environmental Committee

CHAIRPERSON: Don Hill, Chairman

DATE/TIME: August 19, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

☒ Don Hill

☒ Bill Bingham

☒ Robert O'Connor

☐ Bob Heuerman

☒ Hendrica Regez

☒ Scott Toot

☐ Janet Checker

A quorum was established.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Diane Gallagher

OTHERS PRESENT: Scott Toot, Melisa Hammer, Sandra Schleicher and Nicole Hermsen

1. Minutes Approval:

- a) Minutes of the March 9, 2021 Special Social & Environmental Committee Meeting – **Hendrica Regez made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 Special Social & Environmental Committee meeting. Seconded by Bob O'Connor and motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.**

2. Citizens' Comments: None.

3. Unfinished Business

- a) FY2021/FY2022 Strategic Goals and Plans – The FY2021/FY2022 strategic goals and plans were reviewed. The list includes 6 items. First is to establish a good mental health plan. Hendrica Regez advised that she and Diane Gallagher are working together with local agencies to see how they can help with mental health issues. When they have a plan they will bring it back to the committee to discuss. Second was to develop additional substance abuse programs for county residents/strengthen current programs. Third was to annex the Health Department building to city water & sewer. This is being worked on currently with the Health Department. Hendrica Regez suggested to find out the cost of fixing the current issues versus annexing to the city water and sewer. Scott Toot advised that the current system is not working as it should. Fourth would be to explore funding sources to attract quality candidates for Health Department. Fifth would be to work to bring WIC back to the County. This is something that is continuing being worked on. Sixth would be to place an electric automobile charging station at Courthouse.
- 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 updated on the passenger rail feasibility study. The consultants provided four basic service options with different speeds and station numbers. The service would run from Chicago to Dubuque. She will update further at the next meeting.
- 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 solar- Don Hill explained his personal experience with solar installation and assumed purchasing for the County would be a different process. Scott Toot explained that an RFP for bids would need to go out. The solar bids would need to include solar installation for the Transit building in Galena and the Highway Department in Hanover. **Hendrica Regez made a motion to recommend the RFP for solar panel bids for the Transit building in Galena and the Highway Department in Hanover. Seconded by Bob O'Connor and motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.**
- b) Discussion and possible action on FY2021 Transit Fuel Bidding Methodology. – Scott Toot explained the process the Highway Department currently does regarding fuel purchases. Saving money by purchasing on an as needed basis from the vendor with the lowest pricing. **Dianne Allendorf made a motion to allow Transit Department to not bid fuel and purchase fuel on an as needed basis. Seconded by Bill Bingham and motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.**
- c) Discussion and possible action on Contract with Jo Daviess County Transit and Galena ARC – Galena ARC reached out to the Transit department regarding transportation on early release days and for art clubs, etc. This would be from the Galena primary and middle schools to the Galena ARC. The yellow bus company was contacted and they cannot provide this service due to COVID related concerns. Nicole added that this would be a very quick route from the schools to the ARC and a source of income for the Transit department. **Dianne Allendorf made a motion to approve the contract between the Jo Daviess County Transit and the Galena ARC. Seconded by Bill Bingham and motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.**
- d) Discussion and possible action on County paying the Workshop \$14,491.09 for previously reviewed expenses from 2019- Nicole Hermsen reviewed the handouts provided explaining the expense amount totals from 2019. Melisa Hammer, County Treasurer, reviewed the handouts and provided her explanation of the documents provided. Scott Toot advised that Nicole and Melisa worked together and came up with a figured owed as \$10,362.39. Don Hill advised that any expenses, if approved, should be paid for out of the Contingency Fund. **Bob O'Connor made a motion to approve paying the Workshop \$10,362.39, for previously reviewed expenses from 2019, to be paid out of the Contingency Fund. Seconded by Bill Bingham and motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.**
- e) Discussion and possible action on survey of property lines for Jo Daviess County Transit- Scott Toot advised that Nicole Hermsen has reached out to have a survey completed for the Jo Daviess County Transit. The original price quoted was over \$1,000. The same company that completed the original survey has quoted a much lower price of under \$500 since they still have the original survey on file and would only need to do one on site visit to complete an updated version. No further action needed on this item.

5. Staff Reports

- a) Jo Daviess County PCOM – Nicole Hermsen, Jo Daviess County Program Compliance Oversight Monitor (PCOM), reported that the Transit Department is currently in about 20 days of County operations. The building is in the process of being completely rewired in order to get on the County network. Nicole thanked Joe Kratcha, IT/GIS Director, and his team for the work they have been doing. Nicole advised that she has been working on grant paperwork. She stated that the employees are eager and excited to better serve Jo Daviess County. Scott Toot complimented Nicole on the great job she has done. Don Hill also complimented Nicole on her continued work.

- b) Public Health – Sandra Schleicher, Jo Daviess County Public Health Administrator, advised that she now has two people working in the Environmental Health division. This will help with inspections and evaluations. She also stated that there is currently an Animal Control position open. In COVID news, the case numbers are going up. Yesterday there were 25 cases and today there were 37 cases. She is working on getting a couple more contact tracers as she anticipates the numbers going up. The third vaccines are currently available to eligible participants and should become available to everyone by October.
- c) Mental Health Board – Colleen Farrell, 708 Mental Health Board President, nothing reported.

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

7. **Board Member Concerns:** Bob O'Connor expressed his concerns over the relationship with the previous operator of the Jo Daviess County Transit.

8. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn was made at 7:25 p.m. by Hendrica Regez, seconded by Bill Bingham. Motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

Next regular meeting will be on Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.