

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Social and Environmental Committee

CHAIRPERSON: Don Hill, Chairman

DATE/TIME: November 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

☒ Don Hill

☐ Bill Bingham

☒ Robert O'Connor

☒ Bob Heuerman

☒ Hendrica Regez

☒ Scott Toot

☒ Janet Checker (6:35 p.m)

A quorum was established.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Scott Toot and Nicole Hermesen

1. Minutes Approval:

- a) Minutes of the March 9, 2021 Social & Environmental Committee Meeting – **Bob O'Connor made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 Social & Environmental Committee meeting. Seconded by Bob Heuerman and motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.**
- b) Minutes of the March 18, 2021 Social & Environmental Committee Meeting – **Bob O'Connor made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2021 Social & Environmental Committee meeting. Seconded by Bob Heuerman 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.
- b) Update on Jo Daviess County Health Department – Sandra Schleicher, JDC Public Health Administrator updated on COVID. Currently there are 20 plus cases a day. The schools are currently experiencing outbreaks. There is an immunization clinic coming up for booster shots. Sandra updated that Gwen is doing a great job in Animal Control.
- c) Passenger Rail Feasibility Study Update – Hendrica Regez reported on the Passenger Rail feasibility study. The studies consultants have experienced some delay with compiling data for the Chicago-Rockford rail study which is adding delay to the Rockford-Dubuque rail study. Once the data is compiled there will be an update given at a December meeting. The service decided on would be the 75 mph service operation with stops in Freeport and Galena. No stops in Lena, Warren or East Dubuque. The passenger rail group is requesting local area representatives along the route to send a letters of support to their federal and state representatives, the Federal Railroad Administration, and Illinois Department of Transportation. **Hendrica Regez made a motion to make a recommendation to the County Board to send a letter of support of the passenger rail on behalf of the County. Seconded by Dianne Allendorf and motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.**
- d) Update on the Jo Daviess County Transit Service Area Plan – Nicole Hermesen advised she has currently been working with IDOT on a Jo Daviess County Transit Service Area Plan. They are in the process of having consultants come to our area to complete surveys, to survey

current passengers and to survey the surrounding communities. Nicole stated that she will update the committee when she receives the information back from IDOT regarding funding and consultants.

- e) Review, discussion and possible action on fares/fees charged by JDC Transit – Nicole Hermesen 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.
- f) Update on survey of property lines for Jo Daviess County Transit – Nicole Hermesen advised that MSA did a complete survey. Four permanent markers are on the property at this time.

4. New Business

- a) Discussion and possible action on establishing meeting dates and start time for the FY2022 Social and Environmental Committee meetings. – Hendrica Regez suggested starting earlier at 6:00 p.m. rather than 6:30 p.m. **Janet Checker made a motion to establish meeting dates as the third Thursday of the month with a 6:00 p.m. start time for the FY2022. Seconded by Bob Heurman and motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.**
- b) Discussion and possible action to pass a resolution authorizing the County Administrator to sign on the behalf of the County for the contracts of the Jo Daviess County Transit. – Nothing to report on this item at this time.
- c) Discussion and possible action to approve sole/single source procurement of new software for Transit Platform. – Nicole Hermesen discussed the Modeshift software program. The software has many benefits; app-ride request and payment, online payment options, web based ride requests, comprehensive platform, on screen driver portal, advanced scheduling options, no need to rely solely on excel document for scheduling, enhanced customer support, customized and tailored to our specific needs and requirements, real time updates and ability to access software from any mobile device or computer. The cost savings would be; no need to hire a Saturday dispatcher, no need to pay \$585.25 per month for US Cellular service for tablets, and a flat rate per month – no additional charges. Scott Toot explained the process of single source procurement. The Modeshift software is a unique software. Bob O'Connor suggested that perhaps the County's IT Director, Joe Kratcha, look through this contract and software before making a motion. No action on this item until a cost analysis can be completed and IT has the opportunity to look through the information provided by Modeshift.

5. Staff Reports

- a) Jo Daviess County PCOM – Nicole Hermesen, Jo Daviess County Program Compliance Oversight Monitor (PCOM) reported that the Transit department has been very busy. She has been able to hire a few new part time drivers. The moral in the Transit department has never been higher. Everyone has a very positive attitude. Nicole reported that the new office manager is doing very well learning all the ins and outs of the department. The delivery of four new busses and two new vans, which were purchased for Transit using grant funds, are being held up due to supply chain issues.
- b) Public Health – Sandra Schleicher, Jo Daviess County Public Health Administrator, had nothing more to add than the COVID report.
- c) Mental Health Board – Hendrica Regez reported that the provider applications have been submitted and approved for 2022. Next meeting will be held in December.

6. **Citizens' Comments:** None.
7. **Board Member Concerns:** Diane Gallagher thanked the committee for having the meeting available on zoom.
8. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn was made at 7:36 p.m. by Bob Heuerman, seconded by Janet Checker. Motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

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