

Emmet County
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Controller's Office Conference Room, Emmet County Building
Tuesday, March 18, 2008

Present: Les Atchison; Tom Foltz; Lyn Johnson; Marty Krupa; Kelley Atkins,
Transportation and Economic Development Director

Absent: Tom Shier, Chairperson; Vickie Carpentier, Recording Secretary

Guest: Mike Walker, Nehemiah Project; Evertt Dielman, Chippewa Cab Company of
Petoskey; Fred Gray, Communication Director

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:0 p.m. by Commissioners Atchison and Foltz.

Minutes:

Minutes of the September 11, 2007 and September 25, 2007 meetings were reviewed. No action taken at this time.

Purpose of Meeting:

To discuss and take action on a proposal for a six-month trial transportation pilot program, to be known as the Community Transportation Outreach Program. It would target persons residing in the Nehemiah House (for men) and the adjacent Mary Margaret House (for women and children), who need transportation but can't afford it.

Motion by Commissioner Foltz to recommend to the County Board of Commissioners that they fund the project for an initial six months with \$2,400.00. Supported by Commissioner Atchison.

No further discussion.

AYES: 2 NAYS: 0

Program as presented by Atkins:

The pilot program would involve the County, the Nehemiah Project (for homeless persons), the Chippewa Cab Company and area churches. Ridership would come from Nehemiah Project participants. It would be administered by Walker and Atkins.

Chippewa Cab would provide transportation for \$2.50 per mile on a 24-hour, 7-day a week availability. It would waive an in-the-door fee of \$2.00 per first person / \$1.00 each additional person, and charge only \$2.50 per mile per vehicle regardless of the number of passengers.

Mr. Walker would provide daily management of the program, determining rider eligibility and coordinating rides. Eligibility would be defined by Nehemiah Project

participant needs, such as transportation for job training, job interviews, and health related issues.

Walker would issue vouchers to Chippewa Cab Company. Each voucher would be numbered and have a recorded destination as well as a number of miles per trip. The voucher would not be valid without Walker's signature. Copies of each voucher would be retained by both Walker and the cab company.

At the end of 30 days an invoice with copies of all vouchers would be submitted to the County for payment. On the County's receipt of the invoice, Atkins would verify the invoices with Walker, and upon verification the invoice would be submitted for payment.

Walker and Atkins estimated that the program would initially require 160 miles of transportation per month, for a total of \$400.00 at \$2.50/mile.

Funding for the program would come equally from three sources - the County, the Nehemiah Project, and area churches, with the Chippewa Cab Company participating with discounted fares.

Funds would be placed in an account at the County, with payments issued to the cab company from the account after verification and approval of the invoice on a 30-day basis.

A review of the program would be made after six (6) months from the initial start date. Upon review of the pilot program by Atkins and Walker, a status report with recommendations would be provided to the Emmet County Transportation Committee and the Emmet County Board of Commissioners for their review as the future of the program.

Notes:

- 1) Chippewa Cab Company has three drivers and three vehicles in Petoskey.
- 2) Walker said a number of area churches, including the St. Francis Catholic Church, have expressed a high level of interest in the program, which he called a "loc-cost, High-impact" project.
- 3) Johnson noted that it could take 45 days from the day of the first ride to payment, which was acceptable to Dielman.
- 4) Atchison said the project could be expanded to include Harbor Hall and other facilities for people with unmet transportation needs. He said the program would be far more efficient than a millage for similar purposes.
- 5) Dielman said he and other drivers will be able to determine whether riders are abusing the program, and so advise Walker.
- 6) Johnson recommended that the Committee ask the County Board to underwrite the first 6 months of the program with an allocation of \$2,00.00, which the Committee agreed to do. Funding would ultimately be divided into three equal parts, as initially proposed.

7) The Committee agreed that travel would be limited to employment opportunities at the Department of Human Services, Michigan Works!, Lockwood and similar agencies, and to physicians and pharmacies.

8) Walker said about 250 people pass through the Nehemiah Project homes each year for about 3,000 bed nights. He said participants are assigned chores, and may be asked to contribute to the cost of fares if they are able.

9) Walker said project directors (he and his wife Gale Walker) are prohibited from providing transportation for project participants by liability issues.

10) Walker estimated each ride at about 4 to 5 miles round trip.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Minutes approved: 06 / 10/ 2008