

Emmet County
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Board of Commissioners' Room, Emmet County Building
Tuesday, April 10, 2007

Present: Chairperson Tom Shier, Les Atchison, Tom Foltz, Lyn Johnson, Kelley Atkins, Vickie Carpentier

Absent: None

Guest: None

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.m. by Chairperson Tom Shier

Minutes:

Minutes of the November 29, 2007 meeting were reviewed.

Motion by Tom Foltz to accept the November 29, 2007 minutes as presented.
Supported by Les Atchison

AYES: 3 NAY: 0

Minutes of the February 2 and February 23, 2007 meetings were reviewed.

Motion by Les Atchison to accept the February 2 and February 23, 2007 minutes as presented.

Supported by Tom Foltz

AYES: 3 NAY: 0

Plan of Action:

Develop a plan of action to provide transportation services, and to have a Staff Support Person to work with the Committee to provide them with direction, information and development recommendations.

Information has been received from the State of Michigan Department of Transportation, stating that the State is making cuts to public transportation systems. This would include cuts to both the current Dial-a-Ride systems and the replacement systems. Such cuts could have an impact on the various programs the Committee is looking at, as well as the expansion, inclusion, and continuation of public transportation in the State of Michigan. The Committee went on to discuss these issues.

The Committee feels that current State programs do not fit the direction that the Committee is working toward. They feel that they would want the Staff person to look at

other forms and ways to address and meet public transportation needs. They went on to discuss funding, cost and services that could be provided.

In an effort to determine what the program should look like, the Committee felt that if it is successful, it was easier to start with what they felt the program should not look like. No program should look like the County is merely shifting the expenses from the Health Department, DHS, or other agencies to the County without providing any benefit.

It was felt the best place to start would be to use a specific approach, and to look at creating partnerships with different entities to create a program that will help with transportation needs. We would need to determine what we can do, as well as what service providers are in the area that would be interested in this type of voucher system. It was suggested the two (2) shuttle services currently operating in Emmet County be contacted to determine if the program being studied could also be setup to benefit the shuttle services as well.

It was also felt that they need to look at the target population (the people who cannot afford transportation), and then to address how to provide the services to them. Any plan developed will need to address the element of the population that cannot afford private sector transportation. It would also need to utilize the private sector to provide, not compete with, that service. Kelley Atkins will research the issues, talk to the Department of Transportation, talk to other communities and see how they are addressing these needs. Kelly will also talk to the shuttle services and see if they had an interest in participating in such a proposal. U.S. Census material could provide some useful data for this study.

Discussion on sending a letter to the Townships to see if they would be interested in discussing the concept of such a program; what they think about it; do they see a need for it in their Township; and would they be willing to attend a meeting. The Committee acknowledged that Cities, Townships and Counties are losing State discretionary monies which will financially strap these units for a period of time. How soon there will be a rebound, and things turn around, is not known. This issue would need to be looked at in order to address what can be done today. Then, look at what can be accomplished in the future. Any system created should not be directed toward just Petoskey, but should be set up to service all areas of the County. The program should also include a cooperative agreement/program that has a blend of governmental units, industries and the businesses that would benefit from such a program, work in a cooperative method to provide for the ability of workers to get into their jobs, get into the shopping districts, and to get to the service areas.

Les Atchison invited Kelley Atkins to attend the May 23, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. meeting of the Department of Human Services Coordinating Body, which would allow Kelley to be introduced to and meet with them

Discussion regarding the issues, limitations, and number of busses that would be involved with a fixed bus schedule. It was felt that this type of program would not be feasible for Emmet County.

The Committee also discussed meeting with services providers in the area, but before any meeting is scheduled the Committee determined that they need to have additional information on what services are needed, how many people need service, where are the people that need transportation located at, and where do they want/need to go.

Kelley Atkins will put together a letter to the Township Supervisors, and then follow up with a telephone call to them. He will schedule a meeting with the Townships to discuss transportation issues and possible solutions. Kelley will also contact local transportation service providers to discuss the same with them.

The committee acknowledges that there are some transportation needs in the County, and that any program that might be implemented would not be 100% successful, and should the County implement a transportation program, they want it to be something that will work.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.