

Emmet County
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Controller's Office Conference Room, Emmet County Building
Tuesday, September 11, 2007

Present: Les Atchison, Tom Foltz, Lyn Johnson, Kelley Atkins,

Recording Secretary: Vickie Carpentier

Absent: Chairperson Tom Shier

Guest: None

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m. by Commissioners Atchison and Foltz.

Minutes:

Minutes of the April 10, 2007 and May 23, 2007 meetings were reviewed.

Motion by Commissioner Atchison to accept the April 10, 2007 and May 23, 2007 minutes as presented.

Supported by Commissioner Foltz

AYES: 2 NAY: 0

Old Business:

Kelley Atkins, Director for Transportation and Economic Development, reported he had sent letters to all Emmet County Township Supervisors as requested by the Committee. The responses he received from the Township Supervisors indicate there are a number of issues concerning transportation that they have various opinions on. Mr. Atkins advised the Township Supervisors requested a meeting be scheduled with a very defined agenda, to talk about what the perceived needs in their Townships and proposed a September 25, 2007 meeting date. Bill Dohm, Little Traverse Township Supervisor, offered to round up all the supervisors. Mr. Atkins stated that he and Bill would put the meeting agenda together and that would be what would be discussed. He advised that some of the concerns expressed to him had to do with the road mileage.

Controller Lyn Johnson stated he believed the County Board, this winter or early spring, has to vote to put the road mileage back on the ballot.

By the end of the week Mr. Atkins will let the Committee members know the meeting location and time.

Mr. Atkins stated another issue is rural transportation. While preparing the study he found this was a huge problem and will take a lot of money to fix. He also

understands that the County is not interested in putting a lot of money into this. He asked the Committee, what does the County want to do and what are they willing to do. He had searched nationwide, but he did not find anything like a voucher system. He stated that anything that he found is heavily subsidized.

Commissioner Atchison reviewed the background and discussions by the Committee concerning transportation issues in Emmet County for County residences.

Controller Johnson suggested going back to the basic concept that there are certain locations that people need assistance, such as the Women's Resource Center and Nehemiah House. He suggested talking directly to them, and let them find the providers of the service. He also said suggested meeting with the big providers for that service and ask them how the County can assist them in providing transportation services to those in need of them, such as a small donation on a trial basis and see how it goes. Then work with them to create a pilot project. After three months reassess the pilot project and if it is working well it could be continued or broaden to include more service providers. It would not be economically feasible to address everyone's need, but this type of program would help to fill the void in our system that needs to be filled.

Commissioner Atchison suggested for consideration as possible candidates the Women's Resource Center (Jamie Winters), Department of Human Services (Shirley Gillespie), Harbor Hall (Terry Newton) and the Nehemiah House (Mike Walker).

Controller Johnson suggested starting out with two to four test pilot projects and see how it develops. If it goes well, then they can look at doing a second round. For the initial pilot project they need to look at areas that should be successful, and if they are not, then would need to look at them to see why they are not. The subsidy could go to an individual or an organization. If the subsidy is given to an individual it would be necessary to have them go through some type of screening process and evaluation, then based on their level of ability to participate they would be subsidized on a sliding scale.

The Committee directed Kelley Atkins to contact representatives from the Women's Resource Center and Nehemiah House to discuss when their peak times are and the volume of service that may be need, and schedule a meeting with them prior to the meeting with the Township Supervisors.

Commissioner Atchinson noted and read to the Committee a "Letter to the Editor" by Jackie (Rohe) about the school privatizing the cafeteria. He stated that she had spoke at the transportation meeting hosted by The Corradion Group.

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