

**Emmet County
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, June 13, 2013**

Present: Commissioner Les Atchison; Commissioner Charles MacInnis; Commissioner Bert Notestine.

Staff: Controller Lyn Johnson; Recording Secretary Vickie Carpentier.

Absent: None.

Guest: Kelley Atkins, Director Transportation and Development; Jack Jones.

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Atchison in the Controller's Office Conference Room.

Agenda:

It was the consensus of the Committee to accept the Agenda as presented.

Communications:

Johnson shared the April 26, 2013-letter from Friends Enhancing Emmet Transit. Atchison shared copies of prior correspondence concerning public transportation.

Minutes:

The proposed minutes of the March 22, 2011 meeting were presented and reviewed.

Motion by Atchison to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2011 meeting as a matter of record. Supported by Notestine.

Motion carried in a unanimous voice vote.

Transportation and Development Director's Report:

Atkins advised he has received inquiries regarding participation in the transportation program. He recently met with key people from Harbor Hall and described to them how the program works. The way the program is setup, it would not work for Harbor Hall.

Atchison provided a historical perspective of the prior Transportation Committees. He then asked the Committee and Staff for comments.

MacInnis stated he always looks for data. Some antidotal information had been offered, with the most recent research provided done a number of years ago and questioned if anything has been done since then that would be useful.

Johnson shared comments received concerning transportation services.

Jack Jones shared information on the Straits Regional Ride system and its cost. He stated that data from the State shows that ridership has **not** increased.

Discussion held on transportation services and the variety of individual needs.

Notestine commented that he felt that everyone in the room was for public transportation, but did not feel that society was ready to do what it would take to lose the least. He stated that less money is lost with a scheduled route program. A dial-a-ride system is the most inefficient and more costly. The County is doing what it is required to do, taking care of the handicapped and Senior Citizens. He can appreciate the difficulties with running the Friendship Center, Straits Regional Ride and other systems. He expressed concern with the possible expense and if it would be worth the expense to create a program. He also questioned rather or not it was the County's role.

Atchison indicated it was his opinion that the Committee's role was to make a report to the full Board whether this should or should not go on the ballot for a new millage.

Discussed State funding and subsidies, and meeting known transportation needs.

Atchison recommended the Committee member review the history and check with their constituents and the community. If it would be helpful, the Committee could meet with Straits Regional Ride and others.

MacInnis stated he had read the material and it was his feeling they were very articulate and he respected their advocacy of it. The issue he still had is he is more comfortable when staff says they have researched the issue and have determined, based on independent, objective, professional study, here is the level of need, here is the cost and this is what is recommended.

Discussed the information received and the need for more hard data and needing specific need(s) to be articulated.

Johnson stated he did not believe that anything had been missed, but Staff could meet with F.E.E.T. again.

Notestine suggested the Committee meet in September. This would allow time to review materials and get some feed back from constituents.

Other Business:

None.

Public Comment:

None.

Announcement:

The next meeting of the Committee has been scheduled for Monday, September 30, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. F.E.E.T. to be invited to the meeting.

Adjournment:

Motion by MacInnis to adjourn. Supported by Notestine.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes approved: 09-30-2011