

Emmet County
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
February 23, 2015

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

Staff: Chief Deputy County Clerk Amanda Arthur

Absent: None.

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Atchison in the Law Library of the Emmet County Building

Approval of Agenda

MacInnis motioned to approve the agenda as presented.

Notestine seconded the motion. Motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Public Comment:

None

Minutes:

The draft minutes of the January 29, 2015 were not presented. Minutes will be approved at the March meeting.

Goals of the Committee

Atchison shared a report from F.E.E.T. from years prior. MacInnis noted that at some point the committee would likely partner with stakeholders, whether it was in conjunction with F.E.E.T. or independently. Notestine referenced concerns about assessing needs adequately. MacInnis suggested starting with contacts at Straits Regional Ride and Jill Drury of the Charlevoix County Transportation program. He also noted that the needs are going to be different in the Northern part of the county versus in the Petoskey/Harbor Springs area. Atchison added that nights and weekends will be more challenging to accommodate. He noted that some programs offer both bus and van services depending on routes and needs. Notestine went on to discuss fixed routes versus options for the rural areas. He suggested meeting with Tom Menzel, from BETA transportation system in Grand Traverse County to discuss ideas. MacInnis suggested visiting Charlevoix County and Grand Traverse County programs to see how they are designed and how they run. He also shared that in Munising, the public transportation system, UP Tran, offers tours of Grand Island in the summer, suggesting that those tours might help subsidize their program. Atchison commented that no matter how good and comprehensive the program is, not everyone will be able to be serviced. He also shared that Grand Traverse County had been

searching for volunteers to offer their services to assist people in running errands, appointments, etc. He continued in saying that he had spoke with Naomi DeWinter at North Central Michigan College regarding transportation challenges of students enrolled there. He pointed out that NCMC has students from five counties, three of which are serviced by Straits Regional Ride. Atchison also suggested that members of the committee meet with reps from the Human Services Coordinating Body to gather more information and ideas. Notestine suggested that they also meet with some of the larger employers in the area. Atchison stated that he will attend the Human Services Coordinating Body meeting and will report on behalf of the Transportation Committee and start to set up meetings. He also expressed interest in scheduling a meeting with John Drury in Charlevoix County. Atchison also shared a letter from the Friendship Center showing past and current costs of their transportation program.

Public Comment

None

Committee Member Comments

Atchison will report to the Human Services Coordinating Body tomorrow and begin to set up meetings. MacInnis will contact two market research companies regarding the surveys, contact Rachel Smolinski at Harbor Inc. and inform her of the committee's progress and time line, and contact John Drury to set up a meeting March 16 at 9:30. Notestine will contact Tim Menzel in Grand Traverse County to inquire about a meeting.

Adjournment:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.