

## COMMITTEE REPORT

**COMMITTEE:** Social and Environmental Committee  
**CHAIRPERSON:** Don Hill, Chairman  
**DATE/TIME:** July 16, 2020, 6:30p.m.

**PRESENT:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Don Hill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bob Heurman
<input type="checkbox"/> Bill Bingham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hendrica Regez
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Robert O'Connor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scott Toot
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lucas Bourquin	

A quorum was established.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Brandon Behlke, Lynn Berning, Kathy Gabel, Rich Machala, Jen O'Rourke, Dan Reimer and Sandra Schleicher

**1. Minutes Approval**

- a) Minutes of the February 20, 2020 Social & Environmental Committee meeting - **Hendrica Regez made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2020 Social & Environmental Committee meeting. Seconded by Bob O'Connor and motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.**

**2. Citizens' Comments:** None.

**3. Unfinished Business**

- a) FY2019/FY2020 Strategic Goals & Plans – Don Hill reported that most of the Social & Environmental Committee goals have to do with the Health Department. He believes that all of the open staff positions at the Health Department are filled except for one. They are getting things going but aren't quite there yet. The committee reviewed their goals and plans.
- b) Update on Jo Daviess County Health Department – Public Health Administrator, Sandra Schleicher, reported they are in the process of having the Elizabeth property appraised and will be moving forward with the sale of the property.
- c) Discussion and possible action on a Resolution to Support the Development of a Jo Daviess County Climate Change Action Plan – Hendrica Regez feels we should place this item on hold or talk about it more before taking it to the County Board. Bill Bingham was planning to review the resolution, but Regez has not heard back from him to date. Regez will follow up with Bingham before the next meeting.
- d) Passenger Rail Feasibility Study Update – Hendrica Regez informed the committee that there was a federal grant awarded for the study in the amount of \$345,000. IDOT is going to administer the grant. They are waiting for a contract from IDOT before starting the process of selecting a consultant to do the study and all that it entails.
- e) Discussion and possible action regarding Animal Control Ordinance Violations – Don Hill suggested putting this item on hold until we can get back in the full swing of things. Bob O'Connor expressed his feelings about subcontracting the collection of dog tag fees. Dan Reimer explained that revenue from Animal Control ordinance violations currently goes to the General Fund as the Animal Control budget used to be a budget in the General Fund. Reimer recommended that now that the Health Department has taken over the Animal Control Department the revenue should go to the Public Health Fund; this would require an amendment to the Ordinance. Hill added that the Board of Health was going to take a look at

this but with COVID is hasn't been addressed. Hill will request that this be put on the next Board of Health meeting agenda.

#### 4. New Business

- a) Report from the Jo Daviess County Workshop – Lynn Berning, Executive Director of the Workshop, provided an overview of the operations of The Workshop and their mission. They are committed to following the Grant Accountability Transparency Act (GATA). Berning welcomed the Social & Environmental committee to come visit their campus and take a ride on one of the Transit buses. Jen O'Rourke, Accounting and Medicaid Director for the Workshop and Jo Daviess County Transit added they have a wonderful and supportive team in both buildings; The Workshop and the Transit Building and they work together at all costs. Kathy Gable, Transit Director, discussed a little about her background and stated that she is really excited about moving forward. Gable informed the committee that there is going to be an article in the newspaper and they truly feel that the Grant Administration Oversight Committee was given some false information. They will remain positive and move forward. Scott Toot added that the County does value its working relationship with the Workshop. Don Hill and Hendrica Regez commented that they fully support the Jo Daviess County Transit. Rich Machala added that the problem had nothing to do with the way the Transit system is operating. They do a fantastic job. The issue was in regards to late reporting. Jen O'Rourke explained that the problem began to occur when they implemented a new accounting system seven months ago. It took several months to work everything out. The Committee discussed the FY2020 5311 Operating Assistance Grant agreement and the associated Notice of State Award (NOSA). There may have been some confusion that the Transit is high risk, when it is actually the County that is medium to high risk with GATA, this is due in part to delays in receiving information from the Transit and late reporting. Don Hill commented that the communication has improved. We are working to get caught up and complete all the requisitions and grant applications by the end of the month. Everyone agreed that we are on the right track. We have discussed what to do to stay on track and everyone knows what they have to do from here on out. Hill thanked everyone for their input and feels we came a long way tonight in understanding what is going on and to move forward.
- b) Discussion and possible action on a Resolution regarding the IDOT CARES Act and documents pertaining to the Jo Daviess County CARES Act Application – Melisa Hammer explained that the CARES Act grant is one of the grant applications that we are working on. The County Board is required to approve a resolution for the grant and a public hearing needs to be held. Hammer will contact IDOT tomorrow but she believes that we will have to publish a separate public notice in the newspapers stating that we are applying for the CARES Act and giving everyone the opportunity to review the application before submittal. **Scott Toot made a motion to approve and move forward a Resolution regarding the IDOT CARES Act Application. Seconded by Lucas Bourquin and motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.** A Special Social & Environmental Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. and a Special County Board meeting was scheduled to follow on Thursday, July 23, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

#### 5. Staff Reports

- a) Jo Daviess County PCOM – Rich Machala, Interim Jo Daviess County Program Compliance Oversight Monitor (PCOM), reported that he started on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. He has been concentrating on researching the status of reimbursements and quarterly requisitions and has spent a lot of time trying to find all of the needed information. Angie Kaiser and Melisa Hammer have stepped forward and are assisting Machala in this task. Kathy Gable has offered to assist with the Capital Grant. We should be close to meeting the grant application deadlines.

- b) Jo Daviess County Transit – Kathy Gable, Jo Daviess County Transit Director, had nothing more to report at this time. The Transit report was included in the informational packet.
- c) Public Health – Sandra Schleicher, Interim Jo Daviess County Public Health Administrator, reported that COVID-19 related duties have been a priority at the Health Department. Her contact tracing grant application was returned for a couple of revisions which she will have finished up tomorrow. They are looking to get the funding out next week. The Health Department is looking to fill some vacant positions. With the surge in positive cases we are definitely having a surge in contact tracing. The Environmental Health office is swamped with real estate inspections for septic and wells.
- d) Mental Health Board – Nothing new to report.

6. **Citizens' Comments:** None.

7. **Board Member Concerns:** Scott Toot asked committee members to email the Administration Office requesting a Special County Board meeting. Per Board rules we need six members to make this request. Hendrica Regez commented that she thought it was really good to have all of the department heads attend the meeting for discussion and we should do that more often.

8. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn was made at 7:47 p.m. by Scott Toot, seconded by Bob Heurman. Motion passed following a roll call vote resulting in all ayes.

Next regular meeting will be on Thursday, March 19, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m.