

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting
January 4, 2011
Kenosha County Administration Building

Committee Members Present: Terry Rose, Jeff Gentz, Mike Goebel, David Celebre, David Arrington, Megan Jekot and Ryan Joseph (YIG)

Staff Present: John Jansen, LaVerne Jaros, Carolyn Feldt

Others Present: Joe Potente-Kenosha News, June Sinkfield, Ruth Fangmeier, Co. Bd. Chair Mark Molinaro, Supr. Fred Ekornaas

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Terry Rose.

2. Citizen's Comments - None

3. Approval of Minutes: 12/7/10

MOTION to approve minutes by Jeff Gentz, seconded by David Arrington. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Resolution to Approve the following County Executive Appointments:
To the Aging & Disability Resource Center Board: June Sinkfield,
Paulette Kissee, Gary Preston, Richard Lenz, Jaymie Laurent

MOTION to approve the new appointment of June Sinkfield by David Arrington, seconded by Mike Goebel. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION to approve the re-appointments of Paulette Kissee, Gary Preston, Richard Lenz, and Jaymie Laurent by Jeff Gentz, seconded by David Arrington. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

To the Commission on Aging: Ruth Fangmeier, Julie Friedman

MOTION to approve the new appointment of Ruth Fangmeier by David Arrington, seconded by Jeff Gentz. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION to approve the re-appointment of Julie Friedman by Jeff Gentz, seconded by David Arrington. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Discussion of Cancellation of Kenosha Transit Service to LakeView Corporate Park

Terry Rose stated that he had invited Frank Pacetti, the City Administrator, to attend this meeting, but he couldn't make it. Mr. Rose also requested that Carolyn Feldt attend.

Carolyn Feldt said that transportation services are for older individuals or persons with disabilities. To be eligible to receive funding for the Western Transit system, Kenosha County must match it with 20% of County money. This money supports the Western County with 80% federal rural transportation funding. This funding cannot be used for the

bus route. We are not able to divert money to run primarily for a workforce run. At Mr. Rose's request, Ms. Feldt has sent an e-mail to the State asking if there were any other funding sources to fund the bus route.

Mr. Rose said he talked with Todd Battle from KABA today to see if they would make some contribution to this. He said he would get back to him. Mr. Rose also spoke with Rep. Peter Barca who said he would have his staff look into transportation type of money that might be available, adding that it will take a little time for a response. His suggestion to Mr. Rose was to do some stop-gap funding instead of funding for the whole year. Mr. Rose said maybe we could do 6 months or 3 months to give Rep. Barca some time to find some funding.

Mike Goebel asked if the City or Pleasant Prairie businesses made any statements about contributing. Mr. Rose said the City cannot; they have no more money - they are at their limit.

Jeff Gentz asked how the cost went from \$14,000 to \$70,000. Mr. Rose replied that these costs have been there for quite some time. When Len Bandrup was the transportation director and trying to encourage businesses to Pleasant Prairie, this \$14,000 figure was created to be the City's contribution. They do get federal funding for the bus service. They are now at the City limit and passing it along.

Fred Ekornaas asked if anyone has consulted the businesses about getting a shuttle. It's a business issue they have been burying. Are the businesses taking any action to deal with this themselves? Mr. Rose replied that the owners of the buildings won't spend more money. Todd Battle learned this from the owners. He did not ask the companies themselves.

Mr. Rose said there are may be 50 - 70 riders per week. Carolyn Feldt heard that sometimes there's standing room only on a couple of the runs.

Ms. Feldt stated that the Western County Transit is in its last year of a demonstration grant for a rural transportation project. To be eligible for this grant, it has to be in a service area of less than 50,000 which is why it is west of the Interstate. It's open to the general public as well as to disabled persons. The 80% funding is done after 2011. Regular funding will be at 65% afterwards.

Mr. Gentz suggested maybe doing fewer trips per day or increasing the cost to the riders. The cost is currently \$1.50.

Mr. Goebel commented that we save money keeping people working rather than being unemployed.

David Celebe asked if anyone looked into the alternatives. The businesses will need to look for new employees. Maybe a shuttle service could be used for the shift. Mr. Gentz added that maybe we could get a city bus to go to the shopping mall and then a shuttle could pick them up from there.

Mark Molinaro stated he has little confidence in this. There is no 2/3 vote for the money to come from the General Fund, as he has talked with other County Board Supervisors. People are talking about bus routes and there are so many questions here. It isn't our decision to determine how the property owners or LakeView Corp. Park will get their employees there. This is not within our purview to do this.

Mr. Rose stated that some of these people will not get to work and may end up on public assistance. Mr. Molinaro countered that we should not assume this.

Mr. Rose said that he had talked with John Jansen and John Milisaukas about possible funding in the Workforce Development area. Mr. Milisaukas said there is nothing available. Their funds are for people who are unemployed, not to keep people employed.

Mr. Rose proposed using money from the General Fund.

Mr. Goebel commented that by the time we come up with a remedy, these people will be out of a job.

David Arrington said we want to do the right thing but we don't have all of the information. This is the City's responsibility. The bottom line is, we can't make a decision. He asked that the City be at the next meeting to explain all of the details and what they have done. Mr. Goebel agreed, adding that we should also hear from the businesses. Mr. Gentz said we also need to know how much riders are willing to pay. Who will help? The State? The businesses?

Mr. Arrington stated that the City has to shoulder their responsibility to the citizens. The City didn't see this coming? He doesn't like pulling money out of the General Fund. That should be reserved for a natural disaster. He suggested paying for 3 months.

Mr. Rose said he would contact Frank Pacetti asking him to meet with this committee in one to two weeks. Mr. Goebel stated that we should have the business park and business owners here as well.

Mr. O'Day asked where we are with KABA. They can't tell people to move to Pleasant Prairie and then have no way for them to get to work.

David Arrington moved to temporarily fund this Kenosha transit service for 90 days with the money coming from the General Fund in the amount of \$14,500. Mike Goebel seconded the motion.

Mr. Gentz said he has a problem with throwing money at something to which there is no solution. Sometimes we can't do things by ourselves. You will need KABA, the landlords, the City, etc. This will not pass at the County Board. We don't have any answers, so how can we talk money here? He can't support this motion now.

Mr. Goebel replied that this gives us 3 months to get everyone together and come up with a solution. To which Mr. Gentz said that in 3 months and "no" solution, we would be out \$14,500.

Mr. Arrington explained that he proposed this to help persons go to work, to use the transportation which was taken from them.

Mr. Gentz stated that the City knew they were not going to fund this way back when they started their budget. It would be nice to see a consortium get together to try to solve this.

Mr. Goebel said the aldermen ambushed the ridership.

Fred Ekornaas opined that he thinks this is a problem for the businesses to resolve - not the County Board. Lots of people run shuttles for their employees. This is not something for us to deal with. If you do it for them, then what about St. Catherine's Hospital and Bristol?

This is a larger issue to be dealt with by Regional Transit. I would not vote to supplement the City bus service at the Finance Committee or on the County Board.

Mr. Rose said that these are people who are very low income and can't afford to go out and buy a car. This is an important issue.

The vote was taken on the motion above, with Jeff Gentz and David Celebre voting 'no'. Motion passes 3-2.

6. Such Other Business as Authorized by Law
7. Committee Members Comments
8. Adjournment

It was moved to adjourn by Mike Goebel, seconded by David Arrington. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Davis
KCDHS Secretary

F:Sharon/HSCmin 1/4/11