

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Minutes of Meeting  
January 12, 2011  
Kenosha County Administration Building

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

Committee Members Absent: Jeff Gentz (excused) and Ryan Joseph-YIG (excused)

Staff Present: John Jansen, Laurie Staves, Carolyn Feldt

Others Present: Louis Rugani, Jeremy Mitchell, City Administrator Frank Pacetti, Pleasant Prairie Administrator Michael Pollocoff, Co. Bd. Supervisor Dayvin Hallmon, Co. Bd. Supervisor Ronald J. Frederick, Co. Bd. Chair Mark Molinaro, Joe Potente Kenosha News, David Cole WGTD Radio.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Terry Rose.

2. Citizen's Comments

Louis Rugani voiced his support of a bus route to Lakeview Corporate Park for jobs. Mr. Rugani suggested transit to Lake Geneva be re-routed to include all the communities or route transit to stop at the various job sites.

Jeremy Mitchell voiced support for the resolution. Mr. Mitchell urged the committee, as a leader, to bring all the involved parties together and bring them to agreement during the 90 day period.

3. Resolution to Temporarily Fund the City Bus Service to Lakeview Corporate Park in Pleasant Prairie for 90 days, with the Money, in the Amount of \$14,500, to come from the General Fund

Terry Rose introduced City Administrator, Frank Pacetti and Pleasant Prairie Administrator, Michael Pollocoff. Mr. Rose reports speaking with Representative Peter Barca earlier in the day and learning there isn't any funding available from the Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation. Mr. Rose reported there may be some federal funding available in the future but that is unknown at this time.

Michael Pollocoff reported the Village of Pleasant Prairie originally agreed to pay money to the City of Kenosha for the bus service; the routes have expanded significantly since then. Businesses within Lakeview Corporate Park provide a significant tax base, but most are in a TIF district. The tax money in the TIF district goes back to the bonds. Mr. Pollocoff pointed out that the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) is at least 7 years late in updating the transit plan; they are basing the update on the year 2000 census data. The Pleasant Prairie route is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most used route, with the St. Joe's route being the least used. Mr. Pollocoff advised that the Lakeview route would have even greater ridership if people could get where they are going at 6:00 AM versus 6:50 – 7:00 AM. Mr. Pollocoff also suggested Lakeview Corporate Park may be willing to pay more if the route ran earlier. Mr. Pollocoff suggested all the routes be evaluated, changed and/or ended if necessary.

David Arrington asked for an estimate of how many people ride the bus to work. Mr. Pollocoff responded that in 2007 90 people were riding the bus. Mr. Pollocoff went on to suggest the County regionalize, within the county, the transit system and develop a transit plan. Frank Pacetti reported there are currently 50-60 people riding the bus to work. Mr. Pacetti states that some time ago the bus did run earlier, but there weren't any riders. The earlier run was eliminated after a period of time due to a lack of interest.

Mike Goebel stated the County felt ambushed and asked why the County wasn't notified. Mr. Pollocoff reports the Village was notified in September. Village officials met with representatives from Lakeview Corporate Park, St. Catherine's Hospital and other various users of the bus service and informed them of the increase in cost. Almost all came back with a negative answer and believe the increase is too much.

Mike Goebel asked why anyone wasn't looking for grants if the notice came out in September. Mr. Pacetti stated the City is getting the maximum amount and can't get anymore. That includes federal dollars, all of the grants funnel through the state to the city. Grants, Cash Box Fares and revenue from property taxes are the only funding sources available to the City. The city bills \$1.69 per mile for bus service; the actual cost is \$7 per mile. Communities outside the city limits will have to pay \$1.69/mile to receive bus service.

Mike Goebel asked whether the people riding the bus to Lakeview Corporate Park are residents of the City of Kenosha. Mr. Pacetti replied that may be the case, but the bus will not go outside the City limits if no-one pays for it.

Mike Goebel suggested since Uline wants a bus route, the Village work out an agreement with them. Mr. Pollocoff responded that such an agreement will have to be developed and promoted and could be part of a regional system plan. The Village would like to see the increased cost added to the property tax roll. Currently there isn't any bus service in the Village.

Co. Bd. Chair Mark Molinaro stated the County wasn't ambushed; the issue belongs between the City and the Village. Mr. Molinaro stated that this is a problem that can't be solved with a stopgap plan, there will need to be a plan to fill the gap in 3 months. Mr. Molinaro said it's a difficult statement to make, but he doesn't believe that cutting the bus route for 50 – 70 people will place an undue burden on Human Services.

Mike Goebel stated the 3 months of money should give the City and the Village time to come up with a remedy. Mr. Pollocoff reiterated a lot of the Village's tax base is in the TIF district and going to bonds. The Village would need a developed plan with achievable goals detailing how much money and who it will serve.

Terry Rose asked if the bus route is seen as having a positive or negative impact, from an economic point of view. Mr. Pollocoff reports the impact as neutral. Pleasant Prairie hasn't lost employers because of not having bus service. Mr. Pollocoff believes that a significant percentage of the Village's population works in Illinois and would have no use for a bus.

Co. Bd. Sup. Dayvin Hallmon reports most of the population growth in Kenosha County is in the Western County, it has exceeded 2013 expectations, there may be a need for bus service. Mr. Hallmon suggested this committee send a resolution to SEWRPC urging completion of the Transit Plan.

Terry Rose asked why the City wouldn't qualify for regional dollars. Mr. Pacetti responded the City doesn't have jurisdiction outside the city limits. Mr. Rose suggested applying for regional dollars stating the City is providing service to other municipalities. Mr. Pacetti doesn't believe this will work. Mr. Pollocoff stated there isn't any money to be had. Mr. Rose stated the purpose of the resolution is a stopgap (\$14,500 for 3 months); this is to

give the City and Village time to look for more. If there isn't money available, the \$14,500 is wasted.

Mr. Pacetti clarified, the costs for the Pleasant Prairie routes have increased \$17,930 for the year and the Lakeview Corporate Park route has increased \$35,900 for the year. The Lakeview Corporate route is the most used in the Village and the St. Joe's route has the least ridership (St. Joe's has never contributed any money for the route). Currently there isn't any bus service in the Village; the busses aren't traveling beyond the city limits.

David Arrington stated the Human Services Committee got involved based on the needs of the people, the committee has learned this is a bigger issue than the Lakeview bus route and what everyone is looking at for the future could take up to a year to accomplish. With no support for funding we are at a standstill.

Terry Rose asked Mr. Pacetti and Mr. Pollocoff if the resolution is passed will there be any effort to look for money? Mr. Pacetti responded no, the City will bill \$1.69 per mile until the \$14,500 is used up and then stop the bus service. Mr. Pollocoff suggested the \$14,500 may be better used if put toward a regional transit plan.

Co. Bd. Chair Mark Molinaro advised the group that he will be touch with SEWRPC and find out what's what; he will make a call tomorrow.

Terry Rose asked if the County gives \$14,500 will the City and Village each contribute some money. Mr. Pacetti responded no. Mr. Pollocoff agreed to bring it back to the Village Board and ask them to check their resources. Mr. Pacetti responded the City doesn't have money for social service programs, the County does. Mr. Rose suggested the Village might be more receptive if the City contributed some money. Mr. Rose suggested with the County contributing \$14,500 the City and Village should be able to come up with the remaining \$20,000 to keep the bus running for a year. Mr. Pollocoff reiterated he will take it to the Village Board and Mr. Pacetti agreed to speak with the mayor. Both will report what the decisions at the February 1, 2011 meeting.

Terry Rose suggested the resolution be tabled and put on the February 1, 2011 meeting agenda.

Motion to table the resolution until February 1, 2011 by Mike Goebel, seconded by David Arrington. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Such Other Business as Authorized by Law - None
5. Committee Members Comments - None
6. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nina Jones  
KCDHS