

## **TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **September 9, 2014**

Commission on Aging Director Richmond called to order the meeting of the Transportation Sub-Committee at 9:03 a.m., on September 9, 2014, at the Vilas County Commission on Aging office in Eagle River, Wisconsin.

**Present:** Main, Hayes, Radtke, Bluthardt, Weiss, Deaton, Johnson, Schwartz, Jensen, Pekarske and Samuelson. Members excused were Thompson and Wise. Staff present were Richmond and Gleason. Guests present were Dave Lowe, Consultant and Michael Biszak, Veterans Service Officer.

**Approve Agenda:** Agenda has been properly posted. Radtke moved and Main seconded approval of the agenda. Carried.

Richmond thanked the group for coming and introduced guests, Veteran's Services Officer Biszak and speaker Dave Lowe.

#### **Presentation by Dave Lowe, Consultant for Regional Transit Commission.**

##### **Discussion on Presentation**

- Hayes questioned how the proposed transit system would affect Veterans in scheduling medical appointments. Lowe said the volunteer programs (V.A. and C.O.A) will still exist, transit will supplement. Biszak indicated the Veteran's office no longer has a volunteer driver however there are van routes in place at this time.
- Richmond stated funding is tight and volunteers are low, people need to be flexible. One on one service is not always possible. Lowe stressed providing for needs not wants so services can be provided year-round. Richmond added the transit system will expand service in Vilas County. Discussion held.
- Schwartz questioned the effect the transit system would have on the Lakeland Senior Center and grant monies. Lowe indicated it will not affect anything currently. Discussion held.
- Pekarske suggested coordinating with area clinics. Lowe suggested working with Nicolet Area Technical College as well. Discussion held.
- Samuelson questioned the cost to riders. Lowe stated that had not yet been determined. Discussion held.
- Pekarske mentioned concerns regarding cost of maintenance, gas mileage, not getting enough people to utilize the program and losing funding. Discussion held.
- Schwartz questioned funding available for those who cannot afford the rates. Discussion held.

- Radtke questioned how many regional transportation systems exist currently, if this will be modeled after them and requested numbers from these systems. Lowe stated some of the ideas would be used but it is a unique situation in having existing services that will be brought in as opposed to starting from scratch. Lowe can get numbers. Richmond advised the committee that while we can look at the numbers, Vilas is different. The public will have to be educated. Lowe stressed the Transit Commission will need to become dependable. Discussion held.

**Discussion/Approval of 85.21 Fund Request for 2015**

Richmond stated our 85.21 funding was reduced by the Department of Transportation for 2015 and expressed appreciation for some of the Clubs budgets coming in reduced without the knowledge of this cut. The requests for 85.21 funds are as follows:

Lakeland Retirement Foundation	\$4,429.00
Eagle River Transportation	\$14,500.00
Phelps Senior Citizens Club	\$9,550.00
Northwoods Seniors	\$7,656.00
Lac Du Flambeau Seniors	\$7,444.00
Headwaters, Inc.	\$9,254.00
St. Germain Prime Timers	\$11,094.00
Escort Program	\$13,053.00
Administrative Costs	<u>\$9,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$85,980.00

Hayes questioned why St. Germain Prime Timers request was higher this year than 2014. Radtke responded that they have over the years put money in from their fundraising and this year they spent \$40,000.00 to build a garage to house the two vehicles. Richmond confirmed that she encouraged Radtke to request the actual amount of expenses since they had put so much money into the new garage building.

A motion to approve the requests for the 85.21 funds for 2015 and to send it to the Commission on Aging Committee was made by Radtke, seconded by Jensen. Carried.

**Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Submitted by:

Approved by:

Rebecca Gleason  
Administrative Secretary

Susan Richmond  
Director