

**Transportation Coordination Committee
Public Hearing
December 3, 2008**

The Taylor County Transportation Coordination Committee regular meeting was held 11:00 am, December 3, 2008 at the Medford Senior Center, Medford, Wisconsin. Approximately 20 people were in attendance.

Commission on Aging Director Diane Niggemann, introduced the Transportation Committee members.

Commission on Aging Transportation Programs were explained. Questions regarding the minibuses and volunteer driver programs were answered.

Bus Fare Increases:

Bus fares will increase beginning January 1, 2009 as follows:

<u>Riders Age 55 & Over / or Disabled</u>	2009 Fares	2008 Fares
Round trips within Taylor County	\$5.00	\$4.00
Round trips to Marshfield, Wausau, Eau Claire	\$7.00	\$6.00
Round trip to Appleton	\$10.00	\$6.00
<u>General Public</u>		
Round trips within Taylor County	\$6.00	\$5.00
Round trips to Marshfield, Wausau, Eau Claire	\$8.00	\$7.00
Round trips to Appleton	\$11.00	\$7.00

85.21 Application for 2009

Diane Niggemann explained the 85.21 application for 2009 and the breakdown of how funds are used. The total budget is \$164,247.

Public Hearing was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Brehm, Commission on Aging Secretary

**Transportation Coordination Committee Meeting
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2008**

The Taylor County Transportation Coordination Committee regular meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Bizer at 10:02 AM, December 3, 2008 at the Taylor County Multi-Purpose Building, 845 E. Broadway, Medford, Wisconsin.

Members Present: Dave Bizer; Dave Hemke; Paul Thornton; Diane Albrecht

Also Present: Diane Niggemann, Taylor County Commission on Aging; Kaaron Keene, Memorial Health Center; Michelle Brehm, Taylor County Commission on Aging.

Member Absent: Rollie Thums (excused)

Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

MOTION by Diane Albrecht, second by Dave Bizer to approve September 8, 2008 meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Approve Agenda

MOTION by Diane Albrecht, second by Dave Bizer to approve agenda for December 3, 2008 meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Public Input: None

Review / Approve Bus Fare Increases:

Diane Niggemann explained the need for bus fare increases due to budget shortfalls. Proposed an increase in minibus fares beginning January 1st, 2009 as follows:

<u>Riders Age 55 & Over / or Disabled:</u>	2009 Fares	2008 Fares
Round trips within Taylor County	\$5.00	\$4.00
Round trips to Marshfield, Wausau, Eau Claire	\$7.00	\$6.00
Round trip to Appleton	\$10.00	\$6.00
<u>General Public</u>		
Round trips within Taylor County	\$6.00	\$5.00
Round trips to Marshfield, Wausau, Eau Claire	\$8.00	\$7.00
Round trip to Appleton	\$11.00	\$7.00

MOTION by Albrecht, second by Bizer to increase 2009 minibus fares as stated above.
MOTION CARRIED.

Review / Approve Black River Industries Contract:

The 2009 contract between Taylor County Commission on Aging and Black River Industries was reviewed. Although the contract cost will not increase, service hours will go from 2,000 to 1,800 and miles will be reduced from 40,000 to 35,000. These adjustments were made because the current service hours and miles allotted have not been reached. The contract also states if gas prices fall below or above \$3.00 per gallon either party can renegotiate the contract.

MOTION by Albrecht, second by Bizer to approve the 2009 Black River Industries contract.
MOTION CARRIED.

Review / Approve 85.21 Application for 2009

Diane Niggemann explained the 85.21 Application for 2009. The total budget is \$164,247 broken down as follows:

DOT	\$ 64, 551
County (20% Match)	12,910
County Funds	12,400
Donations / Minibus Fares	6,000
Medical Assistance	41,910
Taylor County Human Services	14,476
Medical Assistance Administration	<u>12,000</u>
	\$ 164,247

127,000 volunteer driver miles are budgeted for 2009. Drivers will receive \$.50 per mile.

MOTION by Albrecht, second by Bizer to approve 85.21 application for 2009. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Black River Industries Report / Paul Thornton

Black River Industries has received two new buses – a 13 passenger minibus and a bus to accommodate 18 passengers or 12 seated plus two wheelchair passengers. \$71,000 in funding was received, Black River Industries paid 20% above.

A grant has also been approved for two additional minibuses - one in 2009 and one in 2010. The funded amount is \$80,000.

Taylor County Human Services Report / Dave Hemke

Medical Assistance transportation and budget shortfalls were discussed. Dave stated limits cannot be placed on Medical Assistance Transportation for those providing their own transportation to appointments, but rides provided by county volunteer drivers may be based on driver availability.

Dave Bizer suggested looking at transportation software programs and checking what other counties are doing to manage transportation issues.

MOTION by Albrecht, second by Bizer to approve researching transportation management software programs. **MOTION CARRIED.**

2008 & 2009 Budget

Diane Niggemann explained the 2009 budget and the shortfalls, especially in the Volunteer Driver Budget.

Other Business

The STRAP grant application was discussed. Taylor County has not yet been notified if grant will be received.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 9:30 am, March 5, 2008 at the Multi-Purpose Room, Medford, Wisconsin.

MOTION by Diane Albrecht, second by Dave Bizer to adjourn meeting at 11:20 AM. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Brehm, Commission on Aging Secretary

Transportation Coordination Committee Meeting MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2008

The Taylor County Transportation Coordination regular meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Bizer at 1:35 PM, September 8, 2008 at the Taylor County Courthouse, 3rd Floor Board Room, 224 S. Second Street, Medford, Wisconsin.

Members Present: Dave Bizer; Dave Hemke; Paul Thornton; Diane Albrecht

Also Present: Diane Niggemann, Taylor County Commission on Aging; Ron Bohn, Taylor County Ambulance Service; Paul Pernsteiner, PDQ Medical Transit; Michelle Brehm, Taylor County Commission on Aging.

Member Absent: Rollie Thums

Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

MOTION by Diane Albrecht, second by Dave Bizer to approve June 17, 2008 meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Approve Agenda

MOTION by Diane Albrecht, second by Dave Bizer to approve agenda for September 8, 2008 meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Public Input

Ron Bohn, Taylor County Ambulance Service spoke on return transports. There is an increasing problem of ambulances needing to transport patients brought to Memorial Health Center by ambulance but not admitted, back to their residence. Medicare will not pay for return trips. County has to pick up the cost. Looking for solutions, especially during the 6:00 pm to 6:00 am time period. This is a statewide problem for rural areas.

Paul Pernsteiner, PDQ Medical Transit, LLC stated they plan to be up and running in the near future. Located in Medford, services include non-emergency transportation, wheelchair accessible, available 24/7.

Review January-June, 2008 Transportation Reports:

Reports were reviewed by Diane Niggemann & Michelle Brehm.

S.85.21 Semi-Annual Report: Diane explained 85.21 funds are used for the minibus transportation and volunteer driver reimbursement. Jan–June, 2008 totals were: \$11,377 (Volunteer Drivers) and \$37,227 (minibus).

Volunteer Driver Report: Report was reviewed. It was noted that driver miles steadily increased throughout period.

Review Locally Developed Coordination Public Transit-Human Services

Transportation Plan: Plan was reviewed. Plan was derived by Northwest Regional Planning based on needs specified at meeting held between Northwest Regional Planning and representatives throughout Taylor County on August 4, 2008. Comments and suggested changes to plan will be forwarded to Sheldon Johnson, Northwest Regional Planning.

Review / Approve STRAP Grant

Grant was reviewed. Taylor County is applying for \$20,000 to be used for a comprehensive transportation survey to assess and plan for transportation needs in Taylor County.

MOTION by Albrecht, second by Bizer to approve STRAP grant application. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Review 2008 & 2009 Budget

Budget was reviewed by Diane Niggemann. Diane stated 85.21 funds will not meet expense for 2008 & 2009.

Increased Requests for Volunteer Drivers

Discussed how to prioritize increased requests for drivers and the need for a mobility manager in Taylor County.

Black River Industries Report / Paul Thornton

Paul stated he has not yet been notified of whether grant application for bus purchase has been approved.

Taylor County Human Services Update / Dave Hemke

Dave reported that Badger Care Plus may eventually be expanded to include childless adults.

Other Business: None

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 10:30 am, December 3, 2008 at the Multi-Purpose Room with Public Hearing to follow at 11:30 am at the Medford Senior Center, Medford, Wisconsin.

MOTION by Diane Albrecht, second by Dave Bizer to adjourn meeting at 3:00 PM.
MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Brehm, Commission on Aging Secretary

Transportation Coordination Committee Meeting MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2008

The Taylor County Transportation Coordination regular meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Bizer at 10:04 AM, June 17, 2008 at the Taylor County Community Building, Medford, Wisconsin.

In attendance: Dave Bizer, Dave Hemke, Paul Thornton, Rollie Thums, Diane Albrecht, Diane Niggemann, Bruce Strama, and Michelle Brehm.

Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

MOTION by Diane Albrecht, second by Dave Bizer to approve March 25, 2008 meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Approve Agenda

MOTION by Diane Albrecht, second by Rollie Thums to approve agenda for the June 17, 2008 meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Introductions

New committee member Rollie Thums was introduced and welcomed by the committee.

Diane Niggemann:

- Marketing the Bus Service: The ad on WIGM to advertise the minibus service has resulted in two new passengers and will continue to run. The committee discussed additional ways to market the minibus. It was suggested posters advertising the service be placed at local businesses.
- AARP Driver Safety Classes: 20 participants took the class in May. A state patrolman spoke at the class and answered participant questions. Diane encouraged all age 50 and over to take the class.
- Review Tool Kits – 2008 Locally Developed Transportation Coordination Plans: The tool kits were reviewed and discussion followed. Northwest Regional Planning will derive the plan based on needs but the end result will be based on funding availability.
- Supplemental Transportation Rural Assistance Program (STRAP) Application: Taylor County will apply for a \$20,000 grant which will be used for planning and assessing transportation needs in Taylor County. The application deadline is September 15th.

Paul Thornton:

The gas inflation clause stated in the Black River Industries / Commission on Aging contract is in place for nutrition and meal transportation only.

Dave Hemke:

Dave stated transportation requests are likely to increase due to high fuel costs.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 10:30 am, September 3, 2008 at the Taylor County Community Building, Medford, Wisconsin.

MOTION by Diane Albrecht, second by Rollie Thums to adjourn meeting at 11:20 AM.
MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Brehm, Commission on Aging Secretary

Transportation Coordination Committee Meeting MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2008

The Taylor County Transportation Coordination regular meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Bizer at 10:08 AM, March 25, 2008 at the Taylor County Community Building, Medford, Wisconsin.

In attendance: Dave Bizer, Mike A. Roiger, Dave Hemke, Diane Niggemann, Diane Albrecht (*arrived at 10:17 am*), and Michelle Brehm.

Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

MOTION by Mike Roiger, second by Dave Bizer to approve December 18, 2007 meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Approve Agenda

MOTION by Mike Roiger, second by Dave Bizer to approve agenda for the March 25, 2008 meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Public Input: None

Diane Niggemann:

- AARP Driver Safety Classes are scheduled for 2008 as follows:
 - Medford:** May 22 & 23 and July 17 & 18 from 1- 5 pm and September 17 & 18 from 5-9 pm at the Multipurpose Room.
 - Gilman:** June 11 & 12 from 1-5 pm at the Gilman Community Center. Cost is \$10. Call 748-1492 for information or to register.
- Diane passed out a letter from Vance Forrest, AEGIS regarding recommendations for updating the Volunteer Driver / Passenger Brochure. The letter stated that when volunteers are acting under the guidance of the Commission on Aging Office they have full general liability protection under the county policy. Therefore, the brochure should reflect what is allowed and not allowed by both volunteer drivers and passengers. Dave Bizer suggested laminating the updated brochure for drivers to keep in their vehicles as reference.
- An ad on WIGM to advertise the minibus service has so far resulted in one new regular passenger. The ad will continue. Also, magnetic signs reading "Taylor County Commission on Aging" and the COA phone number have been placed on the outside of BRI buses. Paul Thornton suggested contacting Arlen Albrecht regarding bus service needs for the Hispanic population in Taylor County.
- The following 2007 Transportation Reports were reviewed:
 - Medical Assistance Transportation Report: The total cost of T-19 Transportation for 2007 was \$184, 655.37 up from \$161,662.31 in 2006. Medical Assistance Revenue for 2007 was \$12,998.79.
 - Transportation for the Elderly: The number of elderly unduplicated riders was 1,912 in 2007 up from 1,837 in 2006. Diane explained although a fare is charged there has been no increase in the past few years.
 - Financial Report: S.85.21 funds received in 2007 were \$61,865 with a 20% county match of \$12,373. Diane stated that any funds not used can be placed into a trust fund. Total S.85.21 expenditures for 2007 were \$140,470 less passenger revenue received of \$17,644 for net expenditures of \$122,826.

MOTION by Mike Roiger, second by Diane Albrecht to approve all 2007 Transportation Reports. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Paul Thornton:

Paul explained the policy regarding the safe transport of mobility devices (including scooters) on Black River Industries buses. He stated that transportation is accessible to anyone using a mobility device as long as certain criteria (*stated in the policy*) are met.

Dave Hemke:

Discussion took place about rising fuel costs and the likelihood of increased transportation requests.

Mike Roiger suggested scheduling the Transportation Meetings and Commission on Aging Meetings on the same day to save on travel costs.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 10:00 am, June 17, 2008 at the Taylor County Community Building, Medford, Wisconsin.

MOTION by Diane Albrecht, second by Mike Roiger to adjourn meeting at 10:58 AM.
MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Brehm, Commission on Aging Secretary