



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Executive Committee —*MINUTES*

Date & Time:	Wednesday, May 11, 2016/ 4 p.m.
Location:	JW Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street Greenfield, MA – Shared Meeting Room
Facilitator:	Bill Perlman, Chair

Representatives:

- Bill Perlman, Regionally Elected Representative
- Sam Lovejoy, Regional Planning Board Representative
- Bill Martin, Council Appointee
- John Paciorek, Regionally Elected Representative

Staff Members:

- Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director
- Phoebe Walker, Director of Community Services
- Lisa White, Nurse

Regrets:

- Kevin Fox, Colrain Representative

Guests:

- Bill Ennen, Last Mile Broadband Liaison

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA:

1. Adopt April 2016 minutes

Bill P. opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Linda apologized that the minutes are not yet ready and will be brought to the June meeting.

2. Whately Road Hearing Continuation

Sam L. motioned to open the Whately Road hearing at 5:05 p.m. John P. seconded. Whately was not ready to present anything this month. Sam L. motioned to continue the hearing to June; John P. seconded; all approved.

3. FRCOG letter to FERC Re. K-M NED Pipeline

Peggy S. reported that our pipeline attorney recommends that we send a letter to FERC asking for dismissal of the K-M NED Pipeline application. A draft letter was sent to Executive Committee members last week for advance review. John motioned to send the letter as written to FERC; Sam seconded.

Mayor Martin asked why the letter didn't address the proposal that ratepayers pay for the pipeline through tariff. Peg responded that the tariff issue is a state issue and would potentially be addressed in a new MA Energy Bill expected to be released soon. We will review the bill when it is released and if it includes the tariff concept, we will write a letter to the Governor and state legislators.

Pending no further discussion, all voted in favor of sending the letter as written to FERC.

4. Flu Vaccination Program Review

Lisa White and Phoebe presented a power point that reviewed this year's flu vaccination program.

After the presentation Sam asked if there was a way to use the flu vaccination program as a way to expand participation in the CPHS. Phoebe described how the program is marketed now through the Annual Report but also said that CPHS is a very good size and configuration right now.

The Mayor asked whether a mobile health unit could be used to provide more health care and described an effort Greenfield is pursuing. He wondered if there was an opportunity for Greenfield and the COG to work together to expand mobile services. Bill P. noted that the Cummington Fair has a mobile eye clinic. Phoebe responded that, to some extent, the service model of CPHS, which includes satellite offices and home visits, is a version of the mobile unit that the Mayor is describing. She agreed that she and the Mayor should meet to discuss his idea further.

The Committee agreed that the flu vaccination clinics were a success this year although continue to believe that the use of personal Social Security numbers to get Medicaid reimbursement is a flawed system and asked staff to pursue federal legislative change.

Sam motioned to continue the flu clinics for one more year in its current configuration; Mayor seconded; unanimous approval.

5. Last Mile Broadband Changes

Bill Ennen, who has been named by the Governor to be the western MA implementer of last mile broadband, was introduced. Linda and Bill provided background on the current state of the broadband project. Linda explained that she invited Bill to the meeting specifically to discuss the idea of Bill becoming an employee of the FRCOG sometime on or after July 1. Bill's interest in this is to show both the Governor's staff and the people of western MA that his job is to work directly with the towns of western Mass and to be locally based. Bill also noted that the FRCOG has a solid reputation in the region that he believes will help in his efforts. Linda described the potential relationship as similar to our role as fiduciary of Homeland Security in which our staff reports to EOPSS and the Homeland Security Council but also has a supervisor at the FRCOG. In this case, EOHEd and the FRCOG would have a contract that fully paid for Bill's costs. Members discussed the benefits and risks of the idea, which included:

- if Bill succeeds in moving broadband forward the FRCOG's reputation would benefit but could also be hurt if Bill was unsuccessful;
- the state could decide to pursue a different direction and let Bill go leaving the FRCOG with unemployment costs although those would be shared with Bill's other employers;
- towns outside of Franklin County could be concerned that their needs would not be expeditiously.

The biggest obstacle, members determined, was a question of who Bill's master would be – the FRCOG or EOHEd. After discussion all members agreed that they were comfortable with Bill becoming an employee of the FRCOG if that was the direction that looked best for Bill, the FRCOG and the project but asked that the contract with EOHEd be carefully crafted to protect the FRCOG and Bill.

6. Business Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance

None

John P. moved to adjourn the meeting. Sam L. seconded. The meeting closed at 5:43 p.m.

Documents Distributed:

- Agenda
- Letter to FERC asking for dismissal of the K-M NED Pipeline application
- CPHS Flu Vaccination Program Update
- CPHS 2015-2016 Flu Vaccine Distribution Tally Lists