



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Executive Committee —MINUTES

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| Date & Time: | Thursday, November 19, 2015/ 8:30 a.m. |
| Location: | JW Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street Greenfield, MA – Shared Meeting Room |
| Facilitator: | Bill Perlman, Chair |

Representatives:

- Bill Perlman, Regionally Elected Representative
- Kevin Fox, Colrain Representative
- Bill Martin, Greenfield Representative
- Sam Lovejoy, Regional Planning Board Representative
- John Paciorek, Regionally Elected Representative

Staff Members:

- Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director
- Rebekah Boyd-Owens, Administrative Services Coordinator
- Bob Dean, Director of Regional Services
- Peggy Sloan, Director of Planning & Development

Guests:

- John O’Rourke, Council Chair

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA:

1. Adopt 10/8/15 minutes

Bill opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m.

Sam moved to adopt the 10/8/15 minutes. Kevin seconded. Motion passed with one abstention.

2. Whately Road Action

Bob reported that Mark Pruhenski, Whately Town Administrator, told him the town has been working with MassDOT, but doesn’t yet have plans for the new road layout.

Bill Perlman opened the hearing for the Whately County Road action at 8:32 a.m. No one from Whately was present. Sam asked if the small piece of land from the trucking company had been considered for purchase. Linda said that she understood it was being considered but there is no word yet as to whether the town will purchase that additional parcel to straighten the road.

Sam moved to continue the hearing on the layout of the Whately road until the next regularly scheduled meeting, Dec 10, at 4:30 p.m. Kevin seconded. Unanimously passed without discussion

3. FCECS Update

Bill reminded members that the Western Mass Homeland Security Council recommended having the entire emergency communication system tested, and in the process of doing so, inspectors found many things wrong, difficulty in finding one tower, and the requirement of a new set of block timing

specs among them. Last week the FCECS implemented those timings, and the system has never sounded so good. This is a big step in the right direction, he said. Unresolved problems in Erving and in New Salem remain, however. Maintenance people continue to replace antennas that are the incorrect type.

Sam asked if the FCECS has the finances to cover these costs. Bill reported that they had spent \$9000 this past week which they had in maintenance budget. They took money we would have spent on preventative maintenance to pay for the consultant, feeling this is preventative maintenance. As of last night, one hole in Buckland's Apple Valley they believed would never have coverage is now filled, he added. There's more to do, he said, and they'll need to report back to homeland security.

Linda said FRCOG has taken a fair amount of grief about the system's problems in the last year. She asked if the FCECS would authorize staff to send out a letter reporting the progress to towns. Bill thinks this may be premature: The Erving problem is large, he said. Sam feels it may make sense not to wait for Erving, but to send out the PR now. Bill said they can certainly send out an update. Fire Chiefs and other emergency personnel will have seen a significant improvement this week, he said.

4. Intervenor Status Application and other pipeline issues

Intervenor Application

A second draft of the FRCOG Intervenor Status Application was distributed to committee members. In this iteration staff worked to address the suggestions of the committee by referencing research and other sources related to environmental and other negative impacts. This draft also offers more of a flavor of Franklin County and describes the role of the FRCOG in the region, as suggested by our attorney. Peg thinks we might want to add comments on the deficiencies of the Kinder-Morgan Tennessee Gas Pipeline (KM –TGP) application to our motion to intervene.

The KM-TGP application will be filed tomorrow. FERC then has up to 10 business days to determine if it's complete and issue a Notice of Application. If deemed complete (around Dec 3), we have a 21-day window for filing for intervenor status. All comments will be due around Christmas Eve, she said. Once a notice of application is issued the KM-TGP document becomes public.

Kevin move to approve FRCOG's intervenor status application as written. John Paciorek seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Ashfield No Longer Member of Regional Pipeline Advisory Committee

The FRCOG received a letter from Ashfield saying the town no longer wants to be a part of Regional Pipeline Advisory Committee now composed of the 7 towns impacted by the proposed pipeline. The town leaders felt FRCOGs to work to "mitigate" potential impacts was tantamount to concession to the idea that the pipeline would be built in Franklin County. Linda responded with a letter explaining FRCOG's fact finding position, efforts made to determine if there's even a need for the pipeline, and efforts made to prepare towns if it is built.

Four Towns Funding Research

Conway, Montague, Northfield, and Erving are now working together and have contributed municipal funds for legal and technical assistance related to the impacts of the proposed pipeline. The impacts on

roads and bridges will be the focus of the Nov 30 meeting as K-M has recently asked Northfield about the bond and rate on roads.

Pipeline Expansion Involving Article 97 Land

Last Wednesday a public hearing was held regarding expansion of an existing pipeline through Sandisfield public land protected by Article 97. House No. 3690 proposes to invoke an emergency mechanism law that makes it easier to override Article 97 protection as it does not require the usual 2/3 super majority vote by the legislature. Staff have drafted testimony and a letter that says FRCOG doesn't think it's wise to use the emergency measure, as it is a dangerous, precedent-setting event.

Environmental Health Education Program

No Fracked Gas in Mass has approached the FRCOG for our sponsorship of a presentation of the public health impacts of a gas pipeline and especially compressor stations. They would like to offer an educational presentation in MA but recognize that they should not necessarily be a sponsor because of perceived bias. Linda has contacted other regions slated to get compressor stations to see if they're interested in sponsoring or hosting the program as well. Linda asked the committee if they felt FRCOG should sponsor the presentation.

Kevin asked why they need a sponsor. Linda explained they are looking for local support. Sam said GCC likes a local sponsor for their programs. Bill suggested that as sponsors we'd help with spreading the word about the program, too. Kevin wants to know who they are exactly.

Linda suggested it also be contingent on the involvement of other regional planning agencies.

Sam moved that the FRCOG be a sponsor of Environmental Health Project public health presentation if deemed to be a credible group and if multiple supporting sponsors are involved. Kevin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Personnel Projects Update

Bill reported that the Personnel Committee (PC) is in the midst of the Wage Study. Linda said the Committee has also been engaged in a complete review of the personnel policy. Both projects are going slower than expected, although the group knew the wage study was going to be complicated as there is no organization like ours anywhere. Linda hopes that we'll be receiving enough info from the drafts of these projects to make recommendations to the Finance Committee to assist with the creation of the FY17 budget.

Bill explained that we may be reducing the total number of grades in the organization by eliminating the lowest 4. Sam opined that it is sometimes handy to keep lower grades for short term hires. Linda explained that they only deleted grades not requiring a high school diploma.

When asked about timeline, Linda told the committee that the personnel policy consultant is hoping to deliver the official first draft of the document by Monday, Nov. 23. It looks as if the full council won't vote on changes until April.

The wage study consultant knows the Finance Committee needs information to build the budgets, but the study won't be complete, said Linda. Once they've received her input, staff will do a rough

calculation and put money into the budget to cover eventualities, but won't have hard numbers until the spring. It won't take longer than this fiscal year, Bill added.

6. Business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance

Linda read a letter from the Housing and Redevelopment Authority asking the committee to reappoint Leslie Brown, of Erving, to their board of commissioners.

John Paciorek motioned to reappoint Leslie Brown of Erving, MA to the Housing and Redevelopment Authority's Board of Commissioners. Sam seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Linda on Medical Leave — Linda told the committee she will be out of the office from 12/11 until the first or second week of January as she plans to have surgery.

Linda invited the committee to the holiday gathering December 17th.

FRTA I.D. System — Sam asked if it's possible for the staff to use the bathroom without having to use the security pass. Linda said the ID locking plan was a major negotiation with FRTA and the current situation (2 key cards stashed near the door) was a compromise.

John P. moved to adjourn. Sam seconded. The meeting closed at 9:15 a.m.

Next meeting: December 10, 2015

Documents Distributed:

- Agenda
- Minutes of 10/8/15 meeting
- *Motion to Intervene of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.*