



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Executive Committee —*MINUTES* (Amended)

Date & Time:	Tuesday March 8, 2016/ 5 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
- 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
- Phoebe Walker, Director of Community Services

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA:

1. Adopt 1/7/16 minutes

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

Sam L. moved to adopt the 1/7/16 minutes. John P. seconded. Unanimously passed.

2. Whately Road Action Continuation

Bill P. opened the Whately Road hearing at 5:08 p.m. Because Whately is still talking to MassDOT, no action was deemed necessary on the relocation of the Egypt Road hearing except for a continuation.

Sam L. moved a continuation of the Egypt Road relocation hearing to the next Executive Committee meeting on April 14, 2015. John P. seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Sam moved to close the hearing at 5:10 p.m. J. Paciorek seconded; unanimously passed.

3. Deerfield Road Layout

Bob D. Reported that MassDOT has laid out a section of road in Deerfield and is now informing us and asking us to sign off upon receipt; it's proforma, he said.

4. Pipeline Update & Review of DPU testimony

The Department of Public Utilities (DPU) is holding public comment hearings in several towns across the region for interested parties to come and make their opinions known regarding whether or not Kinder Morgan (KM) should be allowed to come on private land to survey for areas of environmental concern. A revised first draft of testimony to be given by staff during the DPU hearing, to be held

March 30 at 7 p.m. at the Greenfield Middle School, will be sent to Executive Committee members tonight, said Linda, adding that if members have significant comments, they should send them to her, not to the entire committee, to avoid violation of open meeting law.

Sam L. said if the DPU gives blanket permission for KM to go on people's land, there will be a process of appeal. Local Conservation Commissions need to make decisions about whether surveying itself requires a notice of intent, he said, adding that KM will need to take out legal vernal pool application if they come across these sensitive wetlands.

Bill M. asked if there had been any discussion about gas contracts. When metering for solar energy changes, people will be forced to depend on gas, he said. Bill P. said the need for gas is being talked about on every level and that Berkshire Gas contracts and others are being challenged to see if they're legitimate. KM has 41-50% capacity contracted for, but the lowest capacity FERC has ever granted certificates of public convenience (FERC Certs) for was 60%. So 50% would be extremely low, he said.

Bill M. pointed to the argument of needing gas to generate electricity. Another argument might be that we can produce electricity differently, he said. If net metering policies are passed the way utilities want, there will be fewer solar projects and less need for electricity. (As an aside, Linda said that the committee may want to look into taking a position on the net metering legislation.)

Sam L. said the testimony to be given at the DPU hearing will focus on how FRCOG feels about KM land taking via eminent domain on 460 locations in the path of the proposed pipeline. DPU is trying to ascertain if there is opposition to KM surveying for environmental reasons or for eminent domain positions.

5. FCECS Update

Bill reported that since being retimed, the Emergency system is functioning better than it has in a long time. Ashfield radios have never been clearer after tower redo in Plainfield. Erving coverage remains a problem, however. He expressed the oversight committee's concern for the expense of maintaining the obsolete, in some cases no longer supported, equipment in the future. The system uses 450 band megahertz, but there's some talk of emergency services moving to 800 bands. If this happens, we will have to replace radio equipment. Digital vs. analog equipment is another issue; digital radios are \$3000, while analog are currently \$900. These changes would be far beyond our means, and we have no idea if state or federal funding will be available, said Bill.

Sam L. asked if there were some way to begin to plant the seed to let legislators know of our growing inability to maintain the system. If FCC yanks the bandwidth, then we can suggest they have to replace it. Linda said she will send legislators a quick letter.

Bill P. said that lots of changes are coming in ambulance response. A Federal internet system is planned. It's early, but we need to start thinking about ways to finance this or give the system to someone who can afford it, he said. Bob added that the timing to start this is now. The state is talking about an 800 megahertz system.

6. Accounting Software Conversion Decision

Linda recommends the agency not proceed with the accounting software option before us. The vendor that supplies current software offered a deal where we wouldn't have to buy new software, but rather, only pay for data conversion. Pat is eager to proceed as technical support for the current software, Fundware, will discontinue at some point. The deal is on the table until 3/31. Pat says the town accounting staff is uncomfortable with a July conversion. They want time to clean up and condense beforehand. FRCOG finance staff hasn't built conversion into their schedules and express the need to prepare as well.

Bill P. wondered if anyone has asked the company if they will honor the current deal in the future, if we do not convert now. Linda replied that we have asked and the company says no. However, Linda feels it is certainly possible that this deal or another like it will present itself again when the technical support discontinuation date is formally announced but this is not guaranteed.

Greenfield converted last year, said Bill M. The department heads didn't want to convert initially, and it took time to get past the frustration, but once everyone was trained, most were okay, he said. Linda said there will be a point where we say, "We are going to convert" — not July FY17, but plan for, say, July 1, FY18, the start of the fiscal year.

On Linda's recommendation, the Executive Committee came to consensus not to enter into agreement with the accounting software company for a 2016 conversion.

7. Business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance

Phoebe Walker asked if the committee wanted to receive any specific data about the flu clinic when she returns to their May meeting. Bill reminded the committee that Phoebe is reporting back as planned when they voted last year to have CPHS staff sign for Medicare reimbursement. Sam would like to learn if the program was a success.

Linda updated the committee on internal changes at MBI.

John P. moved to adjourn the meeting. Sam L. seconded. The meeting closed at 5:54 p.m.

Documents Distributed:

- Agenda
- Minutes of 1/7/16 meeting
- MassDOT letter and McClelland Farm Road, Deerfield, MA layout No.8471
- McClellan Farm Road Plan