



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

## Executive Committee —MINUTES

Date & Time:	Thursday, September 8, 2016/ 5:00 p.m.
Location:	JW Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street Greenfield, MA – Shared Meeting Room
Facilitator:	Bill Perlman, Chair

### Representatives Present:

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

### Staff Members Present:

- Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director
- Rebekah Boyd, Administrative Services Coordinator
- Bob Dean, Director of Regional Services

### Regrets:

- Bill Martin, Council Appointee

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA:

### 1. Adopt 8/11/16 minutes

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

**Sam L. moved adoption of the minutes of 8/11/16. John P. seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

### 2. Egypt Road, Whately, Road Action Continuation

**Sam L. moved to reopen the Egypt Road, Whately, Road Action hearing at 5:03 p.m. Bill P. seconded.**

Bob Dean reported that Whately has not completed the transfer of ownership of the property on which the new section of road will be situated.

**Sam L. moved a continuation to October 13. John P. seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Sam L. moved closure of the road hearing. Kevin F. seconded. Unanimously passed.**

### 3. FCECS Funding Request

Bob reported that the roof at the Erving emergency communication tower site shelter leaked for several years and, although the roof has been replaced, mold is now a problem. Bob passed around photos for the committee to examine. The FCECS oversight board is concerned about the health effects of techs that enter the shelter for preventative maintenance and has suggested removal of the offending wallboard, reinsulating, and installation of a fire resistance material over it. The radio system operator offered a quote of \$21,782 as the cost of doing that work, said Bob. Linda told the group that

the operator believes a new air conditioning unit is also needed to keep mold down and equipment cool. She said FRCOG would have to go out bid for any work to be done on the unit.

The committee discussed strategies for resolving the problem, including use of a product to kill the mold; repairing rather than replacing the heavy duty air conditioner; using a pre-made structure, such as one made of concrete, that could not be penetrated by moisture; having someone do the abatement of the moldy materials, and then hiring tech school students to reinstall what was needed; having the walls merely scraped and disinfected, if plaster; the use of the FCCIP to inspect the shelter and make recommendations; and so on.

Bob said the insurance company declared that unless the damage to the shelter was due to a specific incident (such as a fallen tree) they would deny the claim. He said the FCECS oversight committee hoped to have the issue resolved before winter and explained that the board is asking for the Executive Committee's recommendation before asking the Finance Committee to use the fund balance for replacement or repair.

Members were hesitant to come up with a specific cost figure to recommend to the finance committee until the FCECS oversight board reexamines the issue, taking into consideration some of the Executive Committee's suggestions, and goes out for quotes for the necessary work.

**Bill P. moved that the Executive Committee recommend mold remediation and purchase of new AC if necessary. Sam L. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

#### **4. Acceptance of Trudell Bartlett Trust funds**

While cleaning out old files, Jeff Wilson found a savings passbook for a Trudeau and Bartlett trust fund for the Franklin County Commission created in 1995 for \$5,000. FRCOG Attorney Donna McNichol removed the mysterious trust, now worth \$6119.34, from Greenfield Savings Bank (GSB) and put it into her trust account, while trying to determine the original intent of those taking out the trust. She discovered that any funds related to the jail, registry of deeds, or courts, must go to the state. GSB had already changed the trust from that of the County Commissioners to that of the FRCOG. Trudeau and Bartlett is a former local law firm. Donna examined the FRCOG's Enabling Legislation and found that "funds held in trust .... shall remain under custody of FRCOG." The Atty. believes we can legitimately take this funding and use it for charitable or program purposes.

**John P moved the Executive Committee accept the Trudell Bartlett trust of \$6119.34 to be used for programmatic or charitable reasons, with the specific purposes to be determined at a later date. Kevin F. seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Linda reported that, so far, the staff had come up with a number of possible uses, including, but not limited to:

- Mini grants for healthy living in towns
- Revolving fund for low-income citizens
- United Way donation
- A best practices guide for towns
- FRCOG 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary event

## 5. Advocacy Issues

Members discussed whether it was advisable or helpful to Franklin County residents for the committee to take a position on one or more of the questions appearing on the state ballot in November (*see Ballot Questions handout*). If so, asked Linda, how are we communicating our stance and to whom?

The board decided that although other agencies have publically shared their opinion on several of the ballot questions — all of which effect regional residents, they felt — doing so was not a role for the FRCOG Executive Committee.

### DLTA

Linda and Bill P. shared a September 8, staff-crafted letter requesting Governor Baker’s administration “*prioritize expenditure of the 2.8 million of DLTA funding and ... authorize DHCD to enter into FY17 contracts with the FRCOG and the Commonwealth’s other twelve Regional Planning Agencies.*” (*See handout.*) Staff asked members to consider endorsement of the letter written to the Governor, explaining that in years past DLTA money has been used to revise zoning and subdivision regulations, regionalize vet’s services, create a regional dog kennel and shelter, and create a regional EMS service, among other projects.

**John P. moved committee support and adoption of the letter written to Governor Baker and his administration. Sam L. seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

## 6. Request for Lease Review Assistance

Linda explained that the time may have come to have the lease with the FRTA reviewed to be sure we are being charged appropriately. We may need to fund the review by an attorney, she said, but felt a motion was not required at this stage.

## 7. Business Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance

Bill P. reported that in response to the letter written by staff to our Federal legislators to express concern over and request changes be made to the FERC pipeline permitting process, Congressman Jim McGovern said he will take the lead and join with the Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New York delegations to attempt redress of some of the issues. Senator Richard Neale remains silent on the topic, Bill said.

Sam L. suggested and the committee agreed to add a regular catch-all “Announcements and Updates” item to each agenda.

**John P. moved adjournment. Sam seconded the motion. The meeting closed at 5:51 p.m.**

### Documents Distributed:

- Agenda
- 8/9/16 minutes
- State Summary of 2016 Ballot Questions
- September 8, 2016 draft Letter to Governor Baker regarding DLTA funding