



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Executive Committee —*MINUTES*

Date & Time:	Thursday, March 12, 2015 /5:00 p.m.
Location:	JW Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street Greenfield, MA – First Floor Meeting Room
Facilitator:	Bill Perlman, Chair

ATTENDEES:

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

STAFF:

- Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director
- Rebekah Boyd-Owens, Administrative Services Coordinator
- Bob Dean, Director of Regional Services
- Pat Auchard, Finance Director

1. Adopt 1/8/15 minutes

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

The minutes of 1/8/15 were not yet available for review and adoption.

2. Audit Management Letter

FRCOG received the (FY14) audit management letter and Pat did an overview of the audit results. The Single Audit did not identify any significant deficiencies, material weaknesses, or findings, and we qualified as a low-risk auditee. Pat let committee members know that prior year management issues (two) were resolved. Auditors suggested FRCOG staff contact area banks to determine if anyone is currently using our tax ID number. Pat discovered that a bank account for the Franklin County Police Chiefs Association was long ago established using our tax-exempt ID. Pat asked if the Exec Com could direct her to write a letter asking them to close the account that is authorized under the FRCOG's Tax ID number.

Sam moved to have the Executive Committee support the writing of a letter to the Franklin County Police Chiefs Association requesting that they close the account that is identified with our Federal Tax ID number. Bill Perlman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Broadband Update

Linda explained that former Gov. Patrick approved an IT bond for Broadband work, but the bond funding was not released before his term expired. MBI is working with Governor Baker's team to get the funding released.

Kevin Fox relayed his frustration over MBI's premise identification timeline which gave Colrain only one day to complete forms. Premises counts that WW and MBI have don't always match up. The premise counts could make a difference for Colrain and other town warrants. Linda explained that the short timeline is to try and get town's accurate cost figures before Town Meeting but agreed that the timeline is too short.

Bill P. said the wording in letters to towns from WW makes their service sound like a done deal. Towns don't know it's still up in the air and may vote based on little information. Linda described the outreach planned for Senator Rosenberg's Municipal Conference and in meetings with town officials following the conference.

MBI recognizes that for the financial solvency of the network, it should be run as a regional network. The design and engineering will be such that service is contiguous, even with different operators. Linda will find out if residents will be able to choose their provider. Bill M. wants to know why everything must go to Springfield and back rather than stopping at GCC.

Kevin conveyed that small towns are dealing with confusion late in game, but if selectmen don't bring the warrant article to voters, they'll be accused of sandbagging the project. Linda suggested they bring the article, and if they're not ready, they can recommend voters pass over the warrant article.

Kevin and Bill P. described WW's \$49 subscription campaign done to gauge interest but with an uncomfortable degree of assertiveness. Linda reminded the committee that 20 towns out of 45 told Gov. P. that they wanted fiber to homes, they wanted WW to provide it, and that waiting another year to get the project more settled was unacceptable. The MBI is trying to do what those towns originally demanded.

Sam asked if the Exec Com should take a position and recommend neutral warrant language to selectmen. Linda suggested that if WW sends letters saying the warrant should include WW, then the committee could then meet to suggest language.

Linda explained that MBI is also trying to gather premise and strand validation for the partial cable towns. The challenge, she explained, is that strand maps are as old as 1999.

4. Pipeline Update

Last week staff met with Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs) serving towns from MA, NY, and NH potentially impacted by the pipeline. RPAS came up with 14 environmental impact issues that they'd like the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to examine during the EIS. Staff has held one meeting of all towns on either the original or the revised route, and next week Nat Karns of the Berkshire RPA will talk about host agreements. Scott Jackson, the UMASS professor who has been mapping resources will also attend. Berkshire RPA plans to hold one grant-funded safety workshop — a "train the trainers" workshop.

5. FCECS Update

Bill explained that the Shelburne Mountain tower, which was deficient due to corrosion, has been fixed. Operators are still experiencing some issues, however, such as tones that don't reach the proper destination. Interference from a police unit has been resolved. There is some overlap of the five

towers, so if set too high or timing is off, the signal can be garbled. The oversight committee is working to fix all this. No one has used the computerized complaint form to date.

6 – Business Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting

- 1.) Gov. Baker’s Budget: Exec Com asked Linda to draft a letter expressing our concern for changes in services, particularly regional school transportation funding.
- 2.) The FRTA business manager said costs for snow removal, etc., have not been too bad, and that the budget it is decent shape, relative to the harsh winter.

Bill M. moved to adjourn the meeting; Sam seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Documents Distributed:

- Agenda
- Minutes from 1/8/15 Meeting
- Excerpt from Audit Management Letter, for year ending June 30, 2014.