



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Executive Committee & EDD Governing Board —*MINUTES*

Date & Time:	Thursday, June 14, 2018/ 5:00 p.m.
Location:	FRCOG Offices, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA – Room 218
Facilitator:	Bill Perlman, Chair

### Representatives Present:

- Jay DiPucchio, Regionally Elected
- Bill Perlman, Regionally Elected
- Kevin Fox, Council Appointee
- Jim Basford, FRPB Appointee
- Bill Martin, Council Appointee

### Staff Members Present:

- Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director
- Rebekah Boyd, Admin Services Coordinator
- Phoebe Walker
- Jessica Atwood, Economic Dev Prog. Manager
- Bob Dean, Director of Regional Services

### Guests:

John O’Rourke, FRCOG Council Chair

### 1. Review and adopt 4.12.18 Executive Committee minutes

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

**Kevin F. moved adoption of the 4.12.18 minutes. Jim B. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

### 2. Convene Economic Development District (EDD) Governing Board, adopt minutes, and review draft CEDS

Bill P. opened the EDD Governing Board meeting at 5:25 p.m. Jessica Atwood reminded the committee that they are also the EDD Governing Board and presented the minutes from the last meeting convened before they took office. Members discussed approving minutes from a meeting they had not attended, but noted that these minutes had been reviewed and signed by a previous EDD Governing Board member who was in attendance.

**Jay D. made a motion to accept recommendation of former clerk of the EDD Governing Board, Gary Dillensneider, to accept as written the record of what happened, thereby adopting the EDD Governing Board minutes from February 28, 2018. Bill M. seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Jessica explained that the 2018 CEDS Annual Report is the 3<sup>rd</sup> update to the 2015 CEDS Plan. There will be one more update to the 2015 CEDS Plan, and then a new five-year plan will be created for 2020. The Draft 2018 CEDS Report was opened for public comment from May 11 to June 11. Five individuals

submitted comments and additional updates have been included into the revised Final Draft Report being presented. The CEDS Committee voted to approve this Final Draft Report at their meeting on June 13. The final Report must be sent to the EDA Philadelphia Office by June 29. By completing the CEDS planning process under this federal framework, the region maintains its eligibility to certain EDA funding programs.

Jessica reviewed the updates and changes incorporated into the Final Draft Report. They were:

- Emphasizing the economic role of broadband.
- Acknowledging underemployment in the region.
- Stating that Census Tracts have been certified as Opportunity Zones, and not just nominated for the designation; and adding a map which shows these certified Census Tracts.
- Adding to the SWOT analysis items such as the strength of the expanding healthcare sector and the weaknesses of inadequate funding for transportation and enrollment decline for funding public schools.
- Adding the statement that outreach regarding economic resilience will be part of the 2020 CEDS Plan development.
- Stating that a three-year pilot project will increase passenger rail service serving Greenfield in 2019.

Bill M. asked if the report is an active document. Jessica confirmed that it is an evolving document. Jim B. wondered if the marijuana industry, which might create jobs and other growth regionally, will ever be included in the plan. The report discusses state-level changes, said Jessica, acknowledging marijuana legalization and new casino licensing. She noted the report also states that the economic impact of marijuana legalization, as yet, is unknown.

**Jay D. moved adoption of the 2018 CEDS Annual Report, as presented, with amendments. Kevin F. seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Jay moved adjournment of the EDD Governing Board. Bill M. seconded. The meeting closed at 5:46 p.m.**

### **3. Discuss future protocol and procedures for County Road Petition objections**

Linda asked members to discuss county road petition objection protocol because of Hawley's frustration with the most recent road action process. Hawley town representatives felt that they emailed formal objections to the recent road closure in their town, but Linda expressed her feeling that a formal objection occurs when someone comes to the meeting to object. She hopes a protocol can be outlined and announced at the next Council meeting so that towns understand that we're listening and responsive to their feedback.

Jim B. asked why the FRCOG doesn't simply discontinue all county roads and bequeath them to the towns. Members discussed FRCOG's previous research into that very idea; the reasons why it didn't happen (liability to towns and massive costs to create layouts and to file, primarily); the writing of legislation that allowed FRCOG the flexibility to step back from the picture, but still afford the right to rationally adjudicate road actions, taking the onus off the towns to do so; whether having a 3<sup>rd</sup> party in charge of what happens to a road is in the best interest of the town; challenges involved in discontinuing a road if it travels through 2-different towns; the pros and cons of creating law-modifying

state legislation that would allow discontinuance of all county roads in a single decision, rather than one road at a time, and the riskiness of such legislation due to town liability; and so on.

Returning to the topic of town objections to road actions, the committee weighed a request to “please wait” (as was the case with Hawley) vs. an out-and-out rejection to a petition action request. Bill P. feels Hawley was not objecting to the action itself; they were objecting to the timeline. Hussain Hamdan wanted to hold up the road action until they got an agreement from the state to continue to receive \$8000 a year in chapter 90 funding, which Rep Paul Mark was trying to make happen. The chapter 90 was a separate issue — not the committee’s business. Thus, the discontinuance was agreed upon.

Bill P. offered that an objection must be made in person or filed by certified mail. The committee is obliged to not act with an objection is in place and, according to state law, to stop the process and post another public hearing. The committee can’t continue to next month after an objection. Instead, they must start a new hearing. The law further states that any one individual or board can object to one hearing, but there’s only one chance to redo the petition.

Member consensus was that an objection can only be made by attending the hearing or by sending a certified letter to the chair of executive committee. If an email comes in as an objection, a letter will be sent asking that it be presented in person or by certified letter. Members agreed to remain flexible about how long a petition can be continued because sometimes it’s out of a town’s control.

#### **4. Review letter to FERC re: improvement to regulatory process**

*(Moved to 3<sup>rd</sup> agenda item.)* Linda said the FERC letter came to the committee a month ago. Since then, staff incorporated comments from Bill P. and members of the FRPB. FERC is, perhaps, considering changes to the regulatory process for gas pipeline installation. Staff spent a lot of time trying to understand that process and had much to say, so drafted this letter of comments. Consensus of the committee was that they sign and send letter.

#### **5. Review letter to Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health (SCOLARPH)**

*(Moved to 2nd agenda item.)* Phoebe W., who serves on the SCOLARPH, explained that it was accepting feedback on the overall direction of their work. The Commission is currently in process of holding listening sessions, and Phoebe reported that the one held in Franklin County was the best attended in state. She came to the meeting to ask if members were willing to authorize the letter. The committee had no objections and agreed it should be sent.

#### **6. FCECS update, including review of letter to DTC re. E911 rate increase**

Staff had the opportunity to meet with EOPSS Secretary Bennett and with Pat Carnevale, the Governor’s new western MA liaison. Secretary Bennett suggested FCECS move forward more quickly by doing its own engineering study. Pat Carnevale was in Gill when a radio call came in and heard how bad radio transmission was. He reported this to EOPS which, nevertheless, said Franklin County needs to be patient. Carnevale then offered to write a letter to the governor to say this move into the state system needs to happen swiftly.

The reason the state hasn’t done the engineering study for the revamp of the Commonwealth Radio System is because the increase to the 911 surcharge has not been approved by DTC, and that’s how

rehabilitation of the system is to be funded. Staff quickly wrote a letter (see handout) to DTC supporting the surcharge increase. DTC will rule July 7.

People from EOPSS close to the situation suggest FRCOG waits until after July 7 and the DTC ruling to determine a path forward. The committee agreed to reconsider the engineering study after July 7.

In other news, Kurt Wood is leaving EOPSS to become Secretary of the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS).

#### **7. Receive petition for alteration of East Main Street Road Layout in Montague**

Bob Dean reported that the road alteration petition came from Robert Obear who essentially wants to restore the 38 East Main building to its former glory as the Millers Falls Inn. However, a reading of the county layout suggests that an alteration is needed to allow for the addition of a new porch to the building (see handouts). The Executive Committee needs to receive the petition and schedule a view and public hearing.

**Jim B. made a motion to accept the petition for alteration of East Main Street in Montague. Kevin F. seconded. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention.**

**Jim B. then motioned to set the date and time for the VIEW on July 12, 2018, at 4:30 p.m. at 38 East Main Street, in the village of Millers Falls, Montague, MA; and the HEARING following the view at 5:30 p.m. at the Olver Transit Center, 12 Olive Street, Greenfield, room 221. Kevin F. seconded. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention (Jay D.).**

#### **8. Business Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance**

**Jim made a motion to adjourn. Kevin seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.**

##### **Documents Distributed:**

- Agenda
- 4.12.18 Executive Committee minutes
- Draft Letter to Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioners re: FERC Regulatory Process for Gas Pipelines — Docket PL18-1-000
- Letter to the Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health re: Input on its direction and draft recommendations.
- Letter to the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable re: Support of the enhanced 911 surcharge.
- Petition from Robert G. O'Bear to allow for expansion of the front porch at the property at 38 East Main Street, Millers Falls, MA.
- Plan of Proposed County Relocation of portions of East Main Street in Millers Falls, Montague, MA, dated February 7, 2003.
- Order of Layout and Taking, East Main Street in the village of Millers Falls, Docket #1781, dated December 18, 2002.