



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Executive Committee — *MINUTES*

Date & Time:	Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. NOTE: Road Action Hearing at 5:00 p.m.; Regular Meeting Followed
Location:	Remote meeting using videoconferencing technology
Facilitator:	Jay DiPucchio, Chair

Executive Committee Representatives Present:

- Jay DiPucchio, Regionally Elected
- Jim Basford, FRPB Appointee
- Bill Perlman, Regionally Elected
- Dani Letourneau, Council Appointee (alternate)
- Kevin Fox, Colrain Representative

Staff Members:

- Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director
- Bob Dean, Dir. of Regional Services
- Rebekah Boyd, Admin Services Coordinator

Guests Present:

- John Michalak, Nitsch Engineering
- Heather Butler, Buckland Town Admin
- Shirley MacLean, 5 Summer St., Buckland
- Laura Davis, 65 Conway St., Buckland
- Ann Brauer, 2 Conway St., Buckland
- James Boehmer, 14 Main St., Shelburne
- Mark Violette, Nitsch Engineering
- Kevin Fox, 141 Charlemont Rd., Buckland
- Joni Session, 46 Conway St., Buckland
- Vickie Selleck, 5 Summer St., Buckland
- Nicole Freeman, Conway St., Buckland

1. Welcome and Introductions

Following a public view of the route by video, Jay convened the Public hearing meeting at 5:09 p.m. **Bill made a motion to convene the public hearing, seconded by Dani, which passed with all in favor.** Committee members introduced themselves. Member Kevin Fox recused himself from the discussion and voting during the public hearing, as he is a resident of Buckland.

2. Public Hearing on a petition for relocation of the county layouts of Conway, Summer, and South Streets; and Conway Road in Buckland.

Bob Dean reported that the town of Buckland has petitioned the Executive Committee with a request for relocation of county road layouts from State Street (close to the iron bridge in Shelburne Falls) all the way to the Conway town line. The town seeks state funding and assistance to rectify public safety and storm-water drainage issues along these roads, and to bring the route up to ADA compliance with newly constructed sidewalks and other improvements. Previous county road actions occurred in 1853, 1872, 1970, and 1972. Because Buckland’s engineers designing the project are having difficulty locating existing county layouts, MassDOT feels the best option is to lay out the route anew, with the engineers laying out all four roads as one continuous route, based on existing layout descriptions. Once

done, future layouts will be easier to complete. Bob made clear that reestablishment of the county road layouts was the sole purpose of the afternoon's hearing and that no easements or takings would be discussed or considered.

Bill P. moved to dispense with the reading of the notice, seconded by Jim B. The motion passed with all in favor.

None of the committee members or guests had questions, comments, or objections to the petition.

Bill P. moved to approve the petition, seconded by Jim B. The motion passed with all in favor.

Bill P. moved to sign the relocation plan, seconded by Jim B. The motion passed with all in favor.

Bob explained that the Order of Layout was not yet completed, and that the committee will need to take up that matter at its next meeting.

Bill P. moved to adjourn the hearing, seconded by Jim B. The motion passed with all in favor and the hearing adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

3. Review and adopt 10.8.20 Executive Committee/EDDGB minutes

Bill P. moved adoption of the 10.8.20 Executive Committee/EDD Governing Board minutes as written. Kevin F. seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.

4. Consider candidates for appointment to the Franklin and Hampshire Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners

After review of resumes and recommendations, **Kevin F. moved appointment of Michael Cucchiara and Gary Fentin to the Franklin and Hampshire Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority Board of Commissioners. Bill P. seconded the motion, which passed with all in favor.**

5. CoMIRS (Commonwealth Interoperable Radio System) updates

Linda reported that steps made towards migration to the CoMIRS system continue. Most recently:

- FRCOG will receive an approximate \$2.7m grant for the purchase of mobiles, portables and other necessary equipment for Franklin County to migrate to CoMIRS. This will include making changes at the Greenfield and Montague Dispatch Centers. EOTTS told FRCOG staff that they need to make a case for the dispatch center improvements and specifically that the EOTSS grant will only pay for necessary improvements to the centers and not enhancements and upgrades. Both municipalities are writing letters describing the need and requesting assistance. The grant will also include funding for the FRCOG to program all radios and for installation of mobile units.
- The grant requires FRCOG to send serial numbers for every replace radio. Staff hopes equipment retirement can happen after radios are replaced, so old radios won't be taken out of service.
- Motorola has changed their pricing some (lowered it).

- Dan Nietsche, FRCOG’s Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, who is overseeing the migration on behalf of the FRCOG, sent an email to all towns saying anyone who would like to test the functionality of the equipment can volunteer to be a tester.
- FRCOG received MOAs from all municipalities except Hawley and Monroe. Deerfield Chief John Paciorek spoke with Hawley officials, informing them that if they don’t sign the MOA, they won’t benefit from the grant. Though they could, perhaps, be served by the Berkshire system, FRCOG will need to know their definitive plans soon.
- The timeline and order of the system rollout is still not set.

6. Business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting

In other developments, the Emergency Preparedness Program is completing an after action report about the FRCOG’s and the region’s response to COVID-19.

Bill moved adjournment, seconded by Kevin, which passed with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Documents Distributed:

- Agenda
- Notice of Road Action Hearing
- Town of Buckland Road Action Petition
- Public hearing protocol for a remote hearing
- Draft language for possible motions
- Buckland engineer’s relocation plan for Conway, Summer, and South Streets; and Conway Road in Buckland, and FRCOG video of the route
- Minutes from your October 8, 2020 meeting
- Resumes and appointment requests for Michael Cucchiara and Gary Fentin to the FC Regional Housing and Rehabilitation Authority Board of Commissioners

Minutes taken by Rebekah Boyd.