

Celebrating Fifty Years of Service - 1963-2013

Approved: November 22, 2014

CMRPC Physical Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2014

Present: Vice Chair Otto Lies, Bob Hassinger, Chris Baehrecke, Al Lanni, and Peter Krawczyk (Quorum – Yes)
Absent: Tim Wheeler, Kathleen Keohane
Staff: Chris Ryan, Janet Pierce, and Trish Settles
Guest: Leo Fayard, East Brookfield

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Minutes: MOTION was made by Mr. Lanni to approve the minutes of June 19, 2014 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Baehrecke, the motion carried unanimously.

CDAP Report

Chris Ryan provided updates on the Data Common, Freight Rail, Energy and Priority Development Feasibility Projects. Trish provided updates on Housing, Farm Survey, Buy Local Initiative, and Prioritization/Regional Land Use Plan. Janet provided updates on Berlin Boylston School Regionalization and Human Resource projects, Procurement, and EMS Purchasing.

New DLTA Applications

Chris presented a request for an additional \$1, 840 in funding to complete the Freight Rail Pilot Study and \$6,618 in funding for a related Worcester Regional Freight-Based Economic Development Site Selection Project. The committee questioned Chris at length to clarify the relationship between the two projects, the project progress and expenditures to-date, and expected tasks and funding needs. Chris pointed out that the Worcester Business Development Corporation (WBDC) and Worcester Chamber of Commerce (WCoC) are also investing in the project. This project will involve significant effort related to the upcoming Build NE Conference to be held at the DCU Center and the production of a white paper. The committee asked for a complete multi-account budget for the rail project to have assurance that the project will be completed after the new request within the revised budget.

A motion was made by Bob Hassinger to allocate the requested \$6,818 and \$1,840 for the efforts as two separate projects. Al Lanni seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Janet introduced Leo Fayard, Chair of the East Brookfield Board of Selectmen and provided some background on the East Brookfield school system feasibility study. A request for \$10,000 was presented to assess options available to East Brookfield in its efforts to find a more suitable school system that meets the town goals at accountability and cost effectiveness. There was a concern that the report should not make a recommendation unless there is a higher level of review.

A motion was made by Bob Hassinger to allocate the requested \$10,000 for the project. Al Lanni seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Budget Update

During the project requests, two spreadsheets prepared by Janet were referenced. Referencing a spreadsheet prepared by Janet, the committee has \$3,093.95 remaining in DLTA funds.

Committee Vacancy

With Bill Linnane resignation, a vacancy now exists on the committee. Trish suggested that Larry ask Howard to make an announcement at the September 11th quarterly commission meeting regarding the vacancy and solicit indications for interest from commissioners who might want to serve on the committee.

Announcements/Other Upcoming Meetings

Community Innovation Challenge Grants are due October 10th. There is a little less funding than last year. Janet already has four (4) requests to assist with proposals from our region.

Next meeting: Thursday, September 18, 2014 at 7pm.

Adjournment: A MOTION was made by Mr. Lanni, seconded by Ms. Hassinger, and all present voted in favor to adjourn at 9:02p.m.

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