



MINUTES
NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Executive Committee
February 18, 2004

Present: Frank Bolmarcich, Chairman
Kathy Hersh
Bill Parker
Howard Dilworth, Jr.
Nelson Disco
Andy Prolman
Marilyn Peterman
Mike Fimbel

Members Absent: John Eresian, Vice Chair

Others Present: Stephen Williams, Acting Executive Director

Motion made at 6:05 PM by Peterman, seconded by Dilworth to enter into non-public session, pursuant to RSA 91-A:3IIc, regarding personnel issues. The motion carried with a roll call vote:

Bolmarcich	YES
Hersh	YES
Dilworth	YES
Disco	YES
Parker	YES
Peterman	YES
Prolman	YES
Fimbel	YES

The committee reentered public session at 6:35.

There was a motion by Dilworth, seconded by Peterman to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Motion passed.

Chairman Bolmarcich called the regular meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Minutes of the January 21, 2004 Meeting

Motion by Disco, seconded by Peterman to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2004 meeting. The motion passed.

December Finance Report

Williams reviewed the December Finance Report with the committee. He stated that the agency was in very good shape financially. As of this month the agency is 50% through it's fiscal year. Overall, income is at 46.8% of budget, while expenses are at 43.3%. Indirect expenses are somewhat high, at 57.1% of budget but this is due to the fact that Andrew Singelakis charged a majority of his time at the end to indirect, and that payment of his accruals at separation went against indirect.

Legislative Forum Update

Williams pointed out that a copy of the final agenda for the Legislative Forum was distributed in the packet that was mailed out. He stated that everyone who was asked to speak had agreed and that all were confirmed. Williams warned the committee that the management at the Budweiser brewery had implemented a security system that would require all attendees at the Legislative Forum to be escorted.



Grant for Lower Merrimack River Watershed Management Plan

Williams pointed out the grant application that had been approved for funding by DES. He stated that he was very pleased to receive the grant and that the opportunity arose on very short notice. He and Angie Rapp worked for two days to put the application together for immediate submittal to DES. The project will be funded with money from a fine being paid by Hampshire Chemical for some violations. It will be 100% money and will pay for a project that we thought was a high priority.

Report on Oral Arguments on Commuter Rail

Williams reported on the oral arguments on the Article 6A lawsuit brought by the NH Motor Transport Association. He stated that there was a good showing of people in support of the commuter rail project, but that it was impossible to tell which way the court was leaning. Williams indicated that a ruling was expected by the court by the beginning to the middle of April. He also said that he was very concerned about the results for the region if the ruling went against the project. He stated that he was going to put together a proposal for use of the committed grant funds for other projects in the region in case the lawsuit went against the project.

Status of 10 Year Plan and Outreach to Legislators

Williams noted that as stated in the staff report, the Governor's version of the 10 Year Transportation Plan did not include many of the priority transportation projects in the region. However, the previous week, the House Public Works committee recommended that the GACIT version of the 10 Year Plan, that is much more favorable to the region be the one submitted to the full House for consideration. Williams stated that he would keep the committee apprised of the outcome in the legislature.

Williams also reported on the federal omnibus transportation reauthorization. He stated that the Senate approved a \$318 billion authorization the previous week with Senators Sununu and Gregg both voting against. The Senate version includes a 50% increase in MPO funding. The House is considering a \$375 billion reauthorization that includes an increase in the gas tax. The administration is supporting a \$256 billion reauthorization with no changes in funding and threatening to veto anything larger than that.

Pending Legislation

Williams provided copies of the pending legislation that would be discussed by the legislators at the Legislative Forum.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.