

AGENDA

SOUTHERN MAINE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

March 12, 2009
Anderson Learning Center
21 Bradeen St.
Springvale, Me.

9:00 AM

1. Minutes of December 23rd Meeting

The minutes for the meeting are enclosed.

2. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for February is enclosed.

3. Brownfields Loan

On February 24th the Brownfields Revolving Loan Committee approved a second loan for the North Dam Mill project in Biddeford (phase 2). The amount of this loan was \$362,000. I have enclosed the Loan Agreement for your perusal. The project has been moving forward with residential rental units to UNE students and commercial rentals as well.

As always please consider any personal financial information on the document to be confidential.

Assuming the approval of this loan, we will have about \$160,000 left for either grants or another loan. We are anticipating another grant application which we can discuss on Thursday (and may in fact have additional info on that by then).

4. SMRPC Attorney

As you may recall, at our meeting in December we decided it was time for SMRPC to have an Attorney at our disposal for issues that may arise, particularly due to possible issues with the Brownfields program and our growing status as in the non-profit world. We received two proposals, one from Perkins/Thompson and another from Jensen-Baird, both from the Portland area, although Jensen has a Kennebunk office as well.

I have the proposals from both firms if folks would like to see them. Both firms are extremely talented and knowledgeable about issues related to municipal government and many of the fields we cover. I believe the talents of both firms are similar. In the end I suppose it comes down to price. Jensen Baird offers a discounted municipal rate of \$150 per hour. Perkins Thompson charges \$175.

I would be interested to hear of any experiences with either of the firms. I plan to review them in more depth with staff and have a final recommendation on Thursday.

5. Budget

Enclosed is a rough budget for the upcoming year. I will likely be making some changes to it as we move into April and May (when we need to forward it to the Annual Meeting). As with everyone else things are tight.

In fact I am not sure we can afford to give out raises or cost of living increases. I am raising this as an issue for discussion as I met with Chuck, JT and Tom last week. Their feeling and mine was that we should possibly forgo salary increases this year, or possibly see how we are doing at mid-year and provide a bonus if the situation improves. Our personnel policy allows for this. I would like to get the thoughts of the Board on this issue.

6. Board Members

I have been informed by Virginia Reid, Wally's wife and Kennebunkport Town Manager that Wally is no longer able to attend our meetings. They have named a replacement for him, Ken Burford, who is willing to serve on the Executive Committee.

I would suggest the Board approve this replacement until the Annual meeting at which time he can be approved by the General Assembly.

I would also like to note that Wally has served on our Board since it's inception over 40 years ago while serving many years as Chairman. We will certainly do something for Wally at our Annual Meeting.

7. Stimulus

As some of you may know stimulus money is filtering into Maine. Recently, DOT apportioned 130 million of that money throughout Maine. Unfortunately York County got less than 1% of that (in the Biddeford/Saco area) and I believe Oxford County (Lovell) received 400k. I say this because there were a number of upset municipal officials as well as legislators. SMRPC is being asked to play a larger role in advocating for these dollars to come to our region. I want to make sure the Board is aware of what is going on and also to see if there are any issues or concerns with that.

Other

Next meeting :