

AGENDA

SOUTHERN MAINE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

January 14th, 2010
Anderson Learning Center, 21 Bradeen St.
Springvale, Me.

9:00 AM

1. Minutes of November 12th Meeting

The minutes for the meeting are enclosed.

2. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for December is enclosed.

3. Brownfields Grant

I am enclosing an application from the town of South Berwick for a Brownfields Grant for \$200,000 (it may in fact be less than that) to remove asbestos, lead paint and mold from the interior of a former church purchased by the town last year, which is proposed to be turned in to a new municipal library. While the final plans for the library have not been developed, the clean up of the hazardous waste issues are critical in order to get the project going.

A representative from the town will be on hand to discuss the project. The funding would come from our new Brownfields allocation of \$1.7 million of which approximately \$500,000+ may be spent on grants.

We are trying to work out some final issues with EPA, which we can discuss at the meeting. However, Chuck and I, as well as the town, wanted to get the project before the Board as soon as possible.

4. Executive Directors Report

- a. *Personnel – Julia Dawson our Senior Transportation Planner will be leaving at the end of the month to return to England. Her work and contributions (as well as her British accent) will be missed. We are now advertising for a replacement.*
- b. *Health increases and salaries – I have enclosed a sheet showing the impact of health insurance increases on the take home pay of a “typical” SMRPC employee. I can explain in more detail but the bottom line is that from 7/1/08 until now (and possibly to 6/30/10 or two years) the take home pay of the employee has only increased by \$20 – mainly due to health insurance increases (and also due to the fact we did not increase salaries this year). I realize this is a difficult time and likely a problem throughout the country, but I would like to suggest we put together a group to look at this issue for the well being and satisfaction of the employees here.*
- c. *I have also enclosed a form given to us by our insurance rep, called “Employee at Will”. The document needs to be referenced in our Personnel Policies, which requires a vote of the Board. I can more fully explain at the meeting.*
- d. *I have enclosed a letter from a newly formed networking group of young entrepreneurs and professionals who were formed through a grant from the Maine Development Foundation and assisted by the Community College. They wish us to maintain their books - something which will not take much work for the time being- while they get the organization going and eventually apply for non-profit status. It is something worth assisting with in the short-term, but I wanted to make sure Board members have no problem with us providing a minimal level of assistance.*

5. York County Advocacy Project

The York County Advocacy Project is continuing as I referenced in an e-mail a few weeks ago. Based on the responses I received, Board members were OK with the SMRPC role, which is to do the bookkeeping, and assist with administrative matters while also attending the events scheduled with Legislators in Augusta . All involved with the effort wanted to be clear that there will be no “lobbying” involved. I have made an additional effort to make sure that folks who will be receiving a request for funds know what is going on.

I have attached the meeting minutes from December. There will be a meeting on January 21st at noon in Augusta with legislators to discuss some of the issues that have arisen and are highlighted in the minutes. There is a great deal of energy behind this initiative and I believe it is an important role for SMRPC to undertake.

6. Possibility of DECD position to be located at SMRPC

Due to budgetary issues at DECD there has been some discussion about moving the Business Development Representatives (DECD employees) to the regional level and contracting with the Economic Development Districts to provide the same type of service. This is only preliminary at the present time, but I would like talk with the Board about what may be involved.

Other

Next meetings:

February 25th

March 25th