

ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
November 29, 2017

The Addison County Regional Planning Commission's Executive Board held its regular meeting at the Regional Planning Commission's office in Middlebury with Chair, Jeremy Grip, presiding.

ROLL CALL

Ferrisburgh Tim Davis
Leicester Diane Benware
Lincoln Steve Revell
Middlebury Ted Davis
Middlebury
Ripton Jeremy Grip
Shoreham Nick Causton

STAFF: Adam Lougee, Director

Jeremy opened the meeting at 6:35. With the permission of the remainder of the board, he changed the order of the meeting to put the audit review under old business first so the Board could speak with the Commission's auditor, Vance DeBouter. Vance explained the audit procedure. He noted that the audit fairly represented ACRPC's financial statements and that he gave a "Clean, Unmodified Opinion" he found no misstatements or problems with ACRPC's finance statements or procedures. Vance walked through the entire audit and answered all the Executive Board's questions. **At the end of the discussion with Vance, the Executive Board voted unanimously to pass the draft audit to the full commission for its approval at the December meeting.**

MINUTES

October 25, 2017 Minutes: Steve Revell moved to adopt the August 23, 2017 minutes. Ted Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote with all approving, except Nick Causton, who abstained.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Adam distributed the Treasurer's report. It showed that our balances are in good shape. In the current fiscal year, revenues exceed expenses, but not by enough to satisfy Adam, given the prepaid income that we enjoy. Adam noted that several of our new programs will need to be billed at the end of the project, impacting our cash flow. He also noted we still have some October billing to do. **Nick Causton moved to adopt the Treasurer's Report as presented. Tim Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed by a voice vote with all in favor.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Act 250/248, Steve Revell reported that the committee met, reviewed several applications, including a very preliminary request for approval by Tractor Supply, which the Committee sent back requesting more information. Steve expressed his concern that the Committee needs to stay within its charge and review “Regionally Significant Projects as defined within the Plan. He also noted that new competition was not a review factor. Lastly, he stated that the Municipality and the Region needed to support their plans in the hearing process and expressed concern that the new 9L criteria would usurp power to the State.

On the 248 front Adam informed the Board that the Greenline had withdrawn its application. Adam stated he believed it was withdrawn because of factors outside the Region, mainly the excess cost to upgrade the grid and the competition around the Mass RFP.

Adam also noted that the LK Holdings Solar facility in Whiting, which the Commission opposed in support of and at the request of Whiting has been appealed by the applicant to the Supreme Court. Adam has continued to file briefs on behalf of ACRPC and Whiting. He expects arguments this winter and a decision by spring.

Finally, Adam noted that the Town’s lawsuits against TDI for property taxes is on hold until after Massachusetts issues its RFP results.

Energy: The Committee did not meet. It will meet December 12th to review a new draft of the Energy Section Adam is working on. Also, work continues on Town Energy Planning for Ripton and Weybridge and a new letter to the second group of towns went out last week.

Local Government Committee: The Local Government Committee will review the Bridport Town Plan in December and the Panton Town Plan in January. It also expects to see Shoreham, Leicester and Middlebury shortly.

Natural Resources: The Committee met just prior to the November full commission and reviewed the South Lake Basin Plan.

Transportation Advisory Committee: The TAC met in November with representatives of VTrans and member municipalities to discuss truck traffic in the Region, especially centered on Vergennes, but will also discuss the Route 17 road closure next summer. At the end of the meeting, all had acknowledged that Vergennes had a heavy truck issue. VTrans and ACRPC agreed to work with Vergennes and its neighbors to study alternatives again, including a western bypass.

OLD BUSINESS

Review of draft Audit: Please see notes above.

Lease of Property: Adam noted that our lease of the current building ends June 30, 2018. Adam has asked the Landlord to renew the lease. They are debating their options concerning the entire parcel they own and have not responded to date. Adam believes we have a good relationship

with the Landlord and will not have any crisis, but he also recommended that he look at other opportunities pending their decision. The Board approved that course of action.

Other: Steve Revell noted that we had allowed our program to run to long again. He stated we should finish it each time in 45 minutes to an hour and needed to stay on top of our speakers and members.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 2019 (July 1, 2018- June 30, 2019) Dues: Adam presented the Board with a document showing our current dues structure and two possible increases, one for three cents per capita, which raises about \$1,000 between the 21 municipalities. And the other showing a six-cents per capita raise. He noted that we did not raise dues last year, that expenses continue to rise and that he believes the towns get excellent service for the price of their dues and should support an increase. After some discussion, **Ted Davis moved that the Board support a three-cent increase to keep up with inflation, Steve Revell seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**

Other: Ted Davis noted that ACTR was moving its main transfer hub to Academy Street. Ted hoped it would be successful as it appears to be much safer than the previous hub at Merchants Row.

ADJOURNMENT

Ted Davis moved to adjourn. Steve Revell seconded the motion. All approved and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Adam Lougee