



MINUTES
NASHUA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Executive Committee
January 21, 2004

Present: Frank Bolmarcich, Chairman
John Eresian, Vice Chair
Howard Dilworth, Jr.
Nelson Disco
Andy Prolman
Marilyn Peterman
Mike Fimbel

Members Absent: Kathy Hersh, Bill Parker

Others Present: Stephen Williams, Acting Executive Director

Chairman Bolmarcich called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Debbie Beauchesne of HealthTrust made a presentation on the health coverage options currently provided to NRPC employees: Blue Choice New Hampshire Three-Tier, Matthew Thornton Blue and Lumenos. Discussion was held with regard to the pros and cons of each of the alternatives. Williams provided a spreadsheet showing yearly and weekly prices for each option for single, couple and family coverage under the current policy of 90% coverage by the agency. Beauchesne stated that the agency could change its offerings at the beginning of any month and HealthTrust would accommodate that with a special open enrollment period for the employees. The consensus of the committee was that Williams should return at the April meeting with options for consideration and that the Executive Committee would make a recommendation to the full Commission as part of the adoption process for the FY 2005 budget in June.

Motion made by Eresian seconded by Prolman to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2004 minutes. The motion was passed.

Administrative Issues

The finance report for November 2003 was reviewed. Williams stated that although the fund balance was down by about \$23,000 for the month, it was up about \$15,000 for the year and that the year to date figure was more reflective of the actual agency position. He stated that this situation arose from the contracts with NH DES and NH OEP that pay on a task basis. Since the agency did quite a bit of work on tasks, but only completed a few for payment, those grants are currently showing a large deficit. Once those tasks are complete, payment will catch up to billing and that will erase the negative fund balance.

A discussion was held of the agency retirement policy and its impact on long term employees, specifically Shirley Vance. Methods for dealing with those impacts were discussed. The committee directed Williams to develop a more specific proposal based on the "catch up" provisions for the 457 plan and bring the information back in April.

Policy Issues

Williams gave the members of the committee copies of the current text of the Floor Amendment for SB95 that was to be put to a vote by the NH House the following day. There was a general discussion of the provisions of the legislation and housing needs in the region in general. Williams stated that staff would be following the legislation closely because there was believed to be a high likelihood it would pass.

Williams handed out a proposed agenda for the Legislative Forum.



Williams called the attention of the committee to the Commuter Rail Amicus Brief that was submitted to the Supreme Court. He stated that Oral Arguments on the lawsuit had been scheduled for February 11 at 1:00 pm in Concord at the Supreme Court. Williams informed the committee that staff would be inviting a group of people to go and hear the oral arguments.

There was a discussion of the Economic Development Initiative begun by Andrew Singelakis. Williams reviewed some of the history, supplemented by members of the committee who had been directly involved. There was a general discussion about the pros and cons of involvement in economic development by the agency. There was a concern expressed that any economic development initiative that is pursued fairly treat both Nashua and the eleven towns. Williams was directed to continue investigating the economic development initiative and report back to the Executive Committee.

Williams provided to the committee a summary of legislation currently pending in the General Court and summarized the provisions of some of the legislation with greater impact on municipalities or RPCs. Williams and Fimbel indicated that they would be attending the New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions meeting in Concord the next day that would discuss some of the same pieces of legislation.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM.