

REGIONAL SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hosted by the Town of North Brookfield

March 5, 2009

DRAFT

Location: North Brookfield Emergency Management Center
and North Brookfield Elementary School Cafeteria

10 New School Drive
North Brookfield, MA 01535

Time: 6:00 PM

Minutes

Meeting Call to Order by Mary Walter, North Brookfield BOS at 6:10 PM

Attendees: State Representative, Ann Gobi, Stephen McGoldrick, UMASS Boston, Marty Goulet, New Braintree BOS; Jim Allen and Rudy Heller, Brookfield, BOS; Mary Walter and Jason Petraitis, North Brookfield, BOS; Leo Fayard and Larry Gordon, East Brookfield BOS; Barry Naden, Tom Long and David Eisenthal, West Brookfield, BOS; Robert Souza, Jr. and David Delanski, Warren, BOS; Sergeant Doug Blood and Gary McComas North Brookfield EOC, J.P. Ellery, Telegram and Gazette, David Dore, Spencer New Leader

Minutes of December, 2008 Meeting – The minutes of the December, 2008 are Attachment 1 of these minutes.

I. Sergeant Douglas Blood
North Brookfield Emergency Management Center

Sergeant Blood presented an overview of the functionality of the NBEOC and gave examples of how it could be effective as a regional communications center for the dispatch of equipment, emergency personnel and other resources to surrounding communities in the event of any State of Emergency. He further explained how sharing could reduce the cost of equipment resources and storing non duplicated resources within the emergency management groups of participating towns.

Sergeant Blood indicated that there was already a group of Towns that had entered into an MOU for Emergency Management Operations and that Grant Money to Regionalize the EOC was available if the center were adopted as the Regional Operations Center for this group of Towns.

Meeting Recess to move to Elementary School Cafeteria

The meeting was reconvened at the North Brookfield Elementary School Cafeteria at approximately 7:30 PM.

**REGIONAL SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hosted by the Town of North Brookfield**

March 5, 2009

**II. Steve McGoldrick
UMASS Boston**

Mr. McGoldrick attended the meeting at the suggestion State Representative Ann Gobi to give the concept of regionalization a broader definition to encourage Towns to work together in a variety of ways to make the transition to Regional entities more simple and to promote receptivity.

Mr. McGoldrick facilitated an informal question and answer period with the Town representatives present on topics such as Regional Planning Agencies, Council of Governments, Collective Purchasing, and Intergovernmental Councils. He encouraged the group base decisions on projects that have worked and to study projects that have not been successful and try to determine why.

III. West Brookfield

- a. COG update
- b. MORE
- c. Western Mass Casino Task Force

David Eisenthal gave a summary of advantages of a COG and encouraged that the group continue to review all possibilities for moving in that direction including association with an existing group or expanding the current group of Towns. A guest speaker on MORE will be asked to attend the next meeting. MORE has suspended dues through 2010 to encourage participation.

Mr. Eisenthal also mentioned that the Western Mass Casino Task Force was a group that we should investigate and participate in since Casino locations are being revisited in Palmer and Warren. The Next meeting of the Task Force is at the Monson Selectmen's Office on April 22.

IV. Brookfield

- a. Discuss Regionalization possibilities
 - 1. Animal Control
 - 2. Tree Warden
 - 3. Inspectional services – Trench Safety, Building Inspector, Plumbing, Gas, Wiring Inspectors, etc.

These items were discussed. There was agreement that they should be pursued, particularly Animal Control and Inspectional Services.

Sergeant Doug Blood gave a brief overview of the possibility of regionalizing Animal Control. Mr. Long asked that he put a proposal together for the next meeting.

**REGIONAL SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Hosted by the Town of North Brookfield**

March 5, 2009

- b. Federal Assistance Foundation Monitor – There did not seem to be an interest in this subscription program at this time.
- c. Energy Audits – Towns were all sent the application for DOER grants Mr. Heller emphasized the advantage of as many towns participating as possible. Mr. Allen indicated that he had applied for a grant in this regard.

V. North Brookfield

- a. Conservation
 - 1. Wetlands Bylaw
 - Grant
 - Seminar

Mary Walter gave a very brief overview of the DELTA grant for developing a Wetlands bylaw and encouraged Towns to participate with North Brookfield in developing a bylaw that could be adapted if necessary for individual needs in the Towns. A free seminar with K&P will be scheduled specific to the writing of sustainable Wetlands bylaws.

VI. East Brookfield

VII. Plan for Moving Forward – Regionalization Activism

- a. Discuss – Do – Plan
- b. Meetings?
- c. Sub-Committees?

It was the consensus of the group that more frequent meetings on a monthly basis would facilitate moving forward with planning and creating specific projects.

VIII. Next Meeting/s - April 2, 2009 in West Brookfield at the Town Hall at 6:00PM.

IX. Adjourn – the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Walter
North Brookfield, BOS