

Municipal Oversight Committee (MOC) Meeting Minutes - 2/12/09

Voting Members:	Member present
Bridgton	Alan Manoian
Cape Elizabeth	
Chebeague Island	
Casco	Dave Morton
Cumberland	
Falmouth	Theo Holtwijk
Freeport	Donna Larson, Chairperson
Gorham	Tom Ellsworth
Gray	George Thebarga
Harpswell	Carol Tukey
Harrison	Lisa Villa
Long Island	Kate Power
Naples	Derick Goodine
New Gloucester	David Lunt
North Yarmouth	Dick Brobst
Pownal	
Raymond	
Scarborough	Jay Chace
Sebago	Allen Crabtree
South Portland	Erik Carson
Standish	Caroline Biegel
Windham	Tom Bartell
Yarmouth	Julia Martin
County Commissioner	Dick Feeney
Ex-Officio Members:	Keith Luke, Westbrook
Staff:	Elizabeth Trice, County
Others:	Neal Allen, GPCOG Caroline Paras, GPCOG

Materials:

Handouts:

- 1) Meeting agenda
- 2) Memo concerning distribution of 2007 "carry-over" funds

1) Welcome and Introductions – Chairperson Donna Larson

2) Distribution of 2007 "Carry-Over Funds"

Tom Ellsworth: Gorham had ribbon-cutting for Food Pantry project. They used money out of client services fund to finish building. Request would pay back client services fund. The original request was for \$50,000, and was awarded \$44,000, so this would make up the difference.

George Thebarga: Gray had put in for \$150,000 and was awarded less. This money (\$20,000) would help with the side and rear facades, which are in worse shape than the front facades which are being treated.

Naples wants \$5000-\$10,000 to help with appliance and water filtration issues that have come up.

Motion: by David Lunt, Theo Holtwick seconds, to distribute \$5,000 to Gorham, \$20,000 to Gray, \$10,000 to Naples.

Discussion:

Dick Brobst: remembers that there was discussion last year that any left over funds would go to Gray.

Lisa: How much did Gorham go over?

Tom: Moving and site work took \$46,000. The group raised \$25,000 to do fit-up. Suggestion of distributing money equally.

George: There's no expectation from Gray to receive all the funds. Would support motion to distribute as moved between three towns.

Tom E: Will vote for motion as it is now, comfortable with split as proposed.

Tom Bartell; asks if there's a problem with leaving \$3,380 unspent.

Elizabeth: not sure. Worst case scenario would be to come back and spend it in 6 months.

Dave Morton: would like amendment to give extra money to Gorham. Motion withdrawn, and Amended by Dick Brobst: \$8,380 to Gorham, \$20,000 to Gray, \$10,000 to Naples. Unanimously approved.

3) Westbrook Entering Program

Keith Luke: proposes that Westbrook enters with \$250,000 set-aside. Westbrook is at a income disadvantage, ranking 21st in household median income. Westbrook has not set a bottom line, but wants what's best for low-mod pop in county.

Elizabeth and Caroline remind group that original reasons for set-aside for South Portland was to keep them whole in their entitlement status. Bridgton, Westbrook, and Brunswick as service center communities with high levels of poverty were offered set-asides.

Theo Holtwijk asks the group's role in admitting a new community.

Westbrook does not need a vote of MOC to join group. The MOC has to decide the terms of Westbrook joining. The MOC would make recommendation to county commissioners, who would create a memorandum of understanding.

Erik Carson explains that when he was Economic Development Director in Westbrook, Frank O'Hara had done analysis of LMI and other factors to create set-aside estimates. Brunswick chose not to join based on issues of the Brunswick Naval Air Station (NASB) redevelopment. Erik's argument at the time

was that joining the program was a good idea. The Westbrook Council didn't think it was enough money.

QUESTION FOR AARON: Confirm that Westbrook can join at will?

QUESTION FOR AARON: Does Bridgton bring in more money than they get?

Derik Goodine: Has no problem with Westbrook joining.

Keith Luke has no problem with there being a percentage rather than a fixed dollar amount.

Donna Larson: Aaron's recommendation was to create a small group.

David Lunt: How do overall LMI numbers from Westbrook affect us via the formula?

Caroline. In general, yes, but Westbrook brings so many poor census groups to the table that some other groups fall off the beginning.

David Lunt: Supports Westbrook joining supports small group forming.

Theo Holtwijk: Small group can do the work and come back to big group with some proposals.

Dave Morton: Doesn't like the idea of someone coming in late and setting their own terms.

Keith Luke: It was Aaron who approached Westbrook and reminded them of original terms.

Derik Goodine: Concerned that entitlement communities want to fund economic development position with Federal funds. Would prefer to see set-aside funds go directly to projects.

Motion: by Dick Brobst, seconded by Erik Carson to create subcommittee of five. Motion passes.

Subcommittee: Westbrook, Bridgton, Donna Larson, Dave Morton, Neal Allen, Tom Ellsworth.

Tom Ellsworth: Wants Westbrook in the program but not with set-aside. Sees it as dilution of program. Would eventually like to see Bridgton not have set-aside. Finds giving \$250,000 out of \$300,000 brought in as offensive- contrary to the spirit of the program.

Tom Bartell: If Westbrook brings \$300,000 are we taking a full 15% for administration? What is the net contribution to the pot?

Neal: was not involved in original deal, but is philosophically against set-asides; it's a regional program.

Tom Bartell: worried that if it gets too difficult to get funds out of program that communities may leave to go back to state.

Erik Carson: It may be good for the group to look at net benefit of the set-asides. .. does money to Bridgton take pressure off Harrison and Naples? For example, homeless from Westbrook end up in Portland Shelter. If Westbrook gets its own funds, they could take care of their own?

Theo: Thinks its OK to come up with fair proposal for set-aside, but agrees that spirit of the program should be wean towns off set-asides, and it's useful to know what Westbrook would do with set-aside. . will it have regional effect? Also thinks \$250,000 is a lot ...if they bring in \$300,000 a 50-50 split may be more appropriate. "It will keep Keith sharp if he has to compete with the rest of us" The set aside at first is a good olive branch. Similarly, would like to see what Bridgton has done with its set-aside.

David Lunt: Agrees.

Donna: it sounds like the group wants Westbrook in the program, but that set aside should be small and/or decrease over time, and that overall program should be for regional benefit.

Derik asks a larger community to join the group: Erik says he doesn't think he should serve, Tom Bartell will ask Tony if he would join the group. Whatever the subcommittee proposes would have to be voted on by the large group- perhaps in late March when the group convenes to approve funding.

4) Application Review Team

Elizabeth reads Aaron's suggested list.

Carolyn Beigle; not sure if it's possible to be impartial.

Donna: process will be public and not allow advocacy. Members will not be able to score projects from their town, answer questions about project, or advocate on behalf of project.

Group agrees to move forward with group as proposed. Carolyn, Tony, and Deb Cabana have all agreed to serve.

5) 2008 Project Updates

Septic project Bridgton is going very well. "We couldn't have done it without a set-aside."

Meeting adjourned, 4:30PM