

## AGENDA

### SOUTHERN MAINE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 26, 2023

**SMPDC Conference Room, Saco Island, ZOOM**

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM+/-

### **1. Minutes of the September 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting.**

*The minutes for the meeting are enclosed.*

*Move to accept the minutes of the September 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting.*

### **2. Treasurer's Report**

*There are a few items for the Treasurer's report.*

*We have included:*

- 1. The accounting "dashboard" for September 2023*
- 2. The most recent Financial Statement from QuickBooks*
- 3. The most recent loan activity and info*

*Move to accept the most recent financial reports.*

### **3. Recent SMPDC Project/Grant Approvals**

*We have recently had a tremendous run of success with some project applications. They really point to the creativity and professionalism of our team. Staff and myself will provide a synopsis of the following:*

- Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant – 800k*

*This is a fantastic grant that Karina wrote and was successful in a highly competitive environment. Karina is away, but I have enclosed the abstract and can summarize.*

- **Housing Study from DECD – 75k**

*This was funded through the money associated with LD 2003. We have come up with a model GIS project which will hopefully best describe the locations for new and higher density housing.*

- **Microtransit Pilot Program between Sanford and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard – 480k (not publically announced yet)**

*This project arose out of our Joint Land Use Study with Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the town of Kittery. Steph put this together with YCCAC. Raegan will summarize.*

- **Open Space Planning for Berwick, South Berwick and Eliot – 60k**

*Over the past few months, we received three open space/conservation plan grants for 3 adjoining towns, who are all covered by the same Land Trust. While they differ a bit in their approach we hope they can be transitioned in to a regional approach for conservation planning by municipalities.*

*I should point out that a lot of these funds will be subcontracted out (with the exception of the Open Space and Housing work).*

## **4. Dues**

*Although I feel like we just went through this, towns are asking for our dues for the upcoming year. I have been telling them a 3% increase which has been our tradition.*

*You all know that we collect less in municipal dues by practically all metrics than any other RPO. GPCOG collects \$2 per capita (for a total of about 450k). Mid coast COG collects \$1.5 per capita (for a total of 200k.). Our total with about 220,000 people is about 150k and reflects a combination of valuation and population -which I actually think is a better mix.*

*We can certainly continue with the 3% path and raising it by any major amount is always fraught with danger. Right now revenue is not an issue with all the grant funding. But I do feel it warrants a big discussion on whether we are short changing ourselves. I would propose that we continue with the 3% increase but that we establish a process (god forbid a committee) to examine an alternative dues structure..*

## **5. Legislation**

*Two pieces of legislation to track regarding our work:*

*LD 1976 – rewrite of Comp Planning Statute*

*LD 1934 – Study from GOPIF, due December 2023, to create better communication and coordination amongst state agencies and Regional Planning Organizations.*

**Next meeting: November 30<sup>th</sup>**