

Metro Regional Coalition Meeting Summary: April 12, 2007

The Metro Regional Coalition met on April 12, 2007 at the Westbrook Public Safety Building.

All members of the Coalition were represented. Attendees were: **Cape Elizabeth** – Town Manager, Michael McGovern; **Falmouth** – Town Manager, Nathan Poore and Police Chief Ed Tolan; **Portland** – Councilor Jim Cohen, City Manager Joe Gray, and Police Chief, Tim Burton; **Scarborough** – Police Chief, Robert Moulton; **South Portland** – Councilor Maxine Beecher and City Manager, Ted Jankowski; **Westbrook** – Administrator, Jerre Bryant; **GPCOG** – Neal Allen.

The following is a summary of the meeting.

Meeting Summary of February 9, 2007

On a motion by Maxine Beecher, seconded by Ted Jankowski the Meeting Summary of February 9, 2007 was unanimously approved.

Organizational Discussion and Designation of Chair

Maxine Beecher suggested that the Coalition meet every two months with meetings starting at 8 a.m. There was full consensus for her suggestion. It was also agreed that meeting locations will rotate and that the next meeting (May) will be held at the Cape Elizabeth Town Hall.

Jim Cohen asked for a volunteer to serve as the Coalition's Chair for the next year as provided for in the Resolution of support that the six municipalities had agreed to. There being none, Jerre Bryant nominated Jim Cohen to serve as the Chair of the Metro Regional Coalition for the next 12 months. This was seconded by Joe Gray and unanimously approved by the Coalition members.

Regional Crime Lab – MOU – Review and Discussion

Tim Burton reviewed the April 10, 2007 DRAFT (as prepared by Liz Boynton of the City of Portland Corporation Counsel office) of the Interlocal Agreement between the Municipalities of the Metro Coalition and County of Cumberland. He noted that the Town of Cape Elizabeth was inadvertently omitted from the first draft.

The following comments and suggestions were made:

- Joe Gray mentioned that in a recent meeting with Maine's Congressional Delegation he had asked for \$2 million for this project and reported that there was strong interest.
- Ted Jankowski said that the upfront cost is the big issue.
- Maxine Beecher suggested that a letter to the Delegation be drafted from the group to which Jim Cohen suggested that the letter be signed by each Mayor and/or Council Chair.

- Neal Allen offered that GPCOG would develop an appropriate letterhead for such a letter.
- Jerre Bryant raised a question regarding the County's financial participation and the resultant issue of municipalities therefore paying twice; he further mentioned that the County would not be doing any crime lab work for the Coalition communities.
- Jim Cohen suggested that a separate funding formula may be necessary to address the County issue.
- Ed Tolan and Joe Gray asked about other communities participating to which Tim Burton replied that the MOU was a Facilities Agreement only. Participants will need to provide trained personnel.
- In response to a question, Tim Burton said that the Lab will be able to accommodate up to ten (10) staff at a time.

With respect to going forward, there was consensus on the following:

- A letter to the Delegation will be drafted.
- Any federal grant would be through the City of Portland.
- The MOU can be used as a model to be shared with the District II Police Chiefs but there was consensus that the service should initially be developed by just the coalition communities.
- Key questions to address are determining the formula for net cost/community.
- A separate "smaller" meeting including Coalition representative(s) and the City of Portland will be scheduled with Cumberland County to explore funding options.

New Opportunities

- Nathan Poore reported that there has been serious discussion among the northern suburban communities (Falmouth, Cumberland, Yarmouth, Freeport) to consider incorporating regional dispatch in Falmouth's new police station.
- Jim Cohen reported that the Portland City Council recently adopted a Resolution in support of Governor Baldacci's school consolidation proposal. Joe Gray added that the Council felt it was important to go on record in support of the concept.
- Road striping: Joe Gray will have Mike Bobinsky contact South Portland to explore a collaborative approach.
- Traffic light maintenance, equipment standardization.
- "Green" assessments and energy audits.
- With respect to public works related items, there was consensus to work through the public works directors and have a representative of that group report back to the Coalition with any ideas or suggestions.

The next meeting of the Coalition will be held at the Cape Elizabeth Town Hall at a date in June to be determined.