

Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes 04/14/2010

4:15 p.m. Attendees; Mr. Rad Nichols, Ms. Diane Smith, Mr. Jeremy LaRose, Ms. Carol Gulla, Ms. Deb Bartley, Mr. Don Brieseldon, Ms. Deb Perou, Ms. Sylvia VonAulock, Ms. Julie Gilman, Mr. Russ Dean, Mr. Don Woodward (Mr. Scott Bogle @ 5:00p.m.)

Topics of Discussion

1). Coast Bus Funding,

Rad Nichols began the discussion with an overview of Coast Bus Funding. Exeter's service is 5.4% of Coast's Budget & this is where the \$20,800 request came from. The Budget Recommendations Committee's \$18,777 to Coast was derived to flat fund general operating expenses due to tight economic conditions. The Warrant Article for that funding was approved in the General elections in March. That left Coast under-funded by roughly \$2,000. The under-funding would not impact the two NHDOT/ Transportation Grants that were applied for in 2009 however the 2010 NHDOT/ CMAQ Grant and any future NHDOT applications would suffer penalty points. The penalty would be a percentage of the amount of under-funding. A neighboring community was penalized half the penalty points on their application due to that town funding only half of what the Coast Bus request for 2009 was. Coast Bus does provide Senior and Handicapped ADA service to Exeter Residents to commute to jobs as well as providing out-of-town residents rides to Exeter Hospital, something that could be taken into consideration when interpreting the warrant articles that established the Local Option Fee.

Rad noted that per Federal guidelines, this service must be within $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the Current route 7 in Exeter.

Julie & Russ, discussion included the timeline of budget recommendation committee meetings and Selectmen's Budget approval meetings as there are different deadlines and operating calendars.

Russ asked how other cities & towns fund coast; Rad noted that Greenland and Dover also use a local Option Fee, while other towns use their town's general budget.

Jeremy LaRose from Coast has been doing some analysis of the current route 7 System and there may be some opportunity to improve ridership by using a peak Service schedule & route and an off-peak schedule & route. A meeting at some point in the future with Stratham, Newfields and Newmarket town officials and residents to develop on off-peak, Quick-turn around route will be a topic for a future committee meeting.

Russ mentioned that surveys for resident input and suggestions could be put in water & sewer bills, however this would take at least 3 months as the bills all don't go into the mail at once, but rather sent out to different areas over the course of a billing quarter. Other internet-based surveys would reduce response time.

The meeting ended at roughly 6:00p.m.

The next meeting of the Transportation Committee will be May 12th, All attendees were in agreement that the second Wednesday of the Month would be a convenient schedule.

Don Woodward, Chairperson, 04/16/2010