Chairman Morales called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Discussion

Bob Nigrello shared information that he gathered regarding the Rockingham County Complex’s solicitation of quotes for electricity service from 15 different electricity providers. His contact indicated that the Complex would be willing to have East Kingston participate in the final negotiated rate agreement with the winning bidder, but it was necessary to first consult and get approval from the appropriate Complex management.

The Final Report of the “Survival Through Regionalization” project sponsored by the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission (SNHPC) was discussed in general terms. The project outcomes were as follows:

- A list of existing resource sharing and group purchasing agreements within SNHPC
- The areas of highest interest for cooperative purchasing and resource sharing within SNHPC
- Six models for group purchasing and resource sharing
- A recommendation for the creation of a “Mutual Sharing Advisory Committee”

Of the six models developed, the models dealing with Office Supplies, Fuel Purchasing and Utility Purchasing seemed to have the most immediate relevance to the East Kingston.

It was noted that, through the many existing State contracts with vendors, the State plays the role of the “lead participant” for many purchased items except energy purchases (electricity, propane, heating oil and natural gas). It would be preferred that the State take the lead in establishing cooperative purchasing groups (towns, schools, agencies…) for energy purchases, but the path to that end is not clear at this time.

Therefore, it was decided to begin exploring the establishment of a new cooperative purchasing group for energy purchases of which the Town would be a “participant”, if not the “lead participant”, according to the process outlined in the SNHPC Final Report. The following purchasing entities were proposed to be the initial “core participant” group: East Kingston, Rockingham County Complex, SAU 16, SAU 90, SAU 17, Stratham, Kensington, South Hampton,
Kingston, Brentwood, Newton and Exeter. The first target will be the purchase of electricity by the core participant group, and additional participants and energy targets will be added once successful cooperative purchasing has been demonstrated.

The next step in advancing the Cooperative Electricity Purchasing Initiative (CEPI) will be to assess the proposed core participants’ interest in the program. An initial telephone contact will be made with each proposed core participant followed by a letter which will contain more detail regarding the proposal. **Steve Smith will create a draft of the follow-up letter. Ron Morales will contact Kingston, Brentwood, Newton, and Exeter, while Bob Nigrello will contact the remaining proposed core participants.** Those entities which have expressed an interest will then be invited to a meeting to discuss the next steps to be taken. The Rockingham County Complex will be invited to be a participant, but this Committee would prefer that the Complex agree to take the lead in this first initiative as they will be a major stakeholder.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.