



State of New Jersey

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MEMORANDUM

To: Budget & Finance Committee
From: Lisa J. Plevin, Executive Director *LJP*
Subject: Committee Meeting Minutes – March 7, 2019
Date: March 13, 2019

A Budget and Finance (B&F) Committee meeting was held on Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 10:00am. Committee Members present were: Committee Chair Holtaway, Member Visioli; and via phone Council Chair Richko, and Member James.

Also, present via phone: Lauren Nathan-LaRusso, Governor’s Authorities Unit Associate Counsel.

Staff Members present: Lisa J. Plevin, John Maher, James Humphries, Christine LaRocca, Herbert August, Maryjude Haddock-Weiler, Keri Green, and Annette Tagliareni.

Committee Chair Holtaway opened the meeting at 10:00am.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 – Highlands Protection Fund Capital Budget

Mr. August reported that at Council’s December 6, 2018 meeting, the Council approved a resolution authorizing the expenditure of \$1,107,000 to various municipalities and counties for plan conformance grants out of the total available budget of \$2,182,000. At this time for the committee’s review and recommendation to the Council for consideration, Mr. Humphries gave an overview of the allocation of previously approved funds for plan conformance petitions for 4 towns (\$195,000) and the awarding of new funding (\$551,500) to additional municipalities and counties for standard plan conformance and the new Environmental and Economic Sustainability (EES) Grant programs.

Member James recused himself from any discussion and/ or approval regarding funding for Passaic County.

The remaining funding is equal to \$523,500 and available until the end of Council’s fiscal year (or June 30, 2019).

Member Visioli asked if there is anything else coming up for the remaining funding. Mr. Humphries referred to the agenda item referencing matching funding for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NJWF) Grants. The total grant value is \$6M and is being made available for projects to conserve and restore fish and wildlife habitat and water quality in the Delaware River Watershed of NJ, NY, and PA. It was noted that an email blast was sent to 38 Highlands municipalities (Mayors and clerks), as well as non-profits, included in the Delaware River watershed. The remaining funding from the Council's FY2019 Highlands Protection Fund Capital Budget could be used towards this grant.

Committee Chair Holtaway asked for a motion to approve the additional FY2019 Highlands Protection Fund Capital Budget, excluding Passaic County, for plan conformance and EES grant funding. Member Visioli made a motion and Council Chair Richko seconded it. All were in favor.

Committee Chair Holtaway asked for a motion to approve the grant funding of \$50,000 to Passaic County. Member Visioli made a motion and Council Chair Richko seconded it. All were in favor with one (1) recusal by Member James.

Council will consider this resolution at its March meeting.

Composite Zoning Map Contract Award

Mr. Humphries reported that the Highlands Council issued an RFP to request services to update the Council's Region-wide Composite GIS Zoning layer. It is a base data layer that the Council utilizes to develop many aspects of the RMP, including build-out analyses, wastewater management planning, center planning, and smart growth planning. The Composite GIS layer takes all 88 municipal zoning maps and standards and combines them into one region-wide zoning GIS layer. The last update was in 2005. Council staff received seven (7) proposals and made a recommendation to award the contract to Neglia Engineering Associates.

Member Visioli expressed concerns with the cost differentials among consultants. Committee Chair Holtaway noted that from his experience, consultants sometimes escalate the cost because they may not want the job but want to remain on the bidder list.

Council staff did extensive research on Neglia Engineering Associates since they came in with the lowest costs and checked the firm's references to confirm their ability to complete the tasks outlined.

Committee Chair Holtaway asked for a motion to approve the contract award to Neglia Engineering Associates. Member James made a motion and Member Visioli seconded it. All were in favor.

Rutgers Regional Stormwater Management Proposal

Mr. Humphries noted that staff met with Rutgers University Cooperative Extension, Water Resources Program regarding a Stormwater Management Proposal. Ms. Plevin added that after meeting with several municipalities through staff's outreach efforts, staff learned that one of the top issues for municipalities is their stormwater management and flooding issues. Council staff is

researching whether this would be something the Council could benefit from. Council staff will come back to Budget & Finance Committee to discuss further, if needed.

The committee meeting adjourned at 10:26am.