

Worcester Jobs Fund Oversight Committee Meeting

December 9, 2015

10:00am

242 Mill St., Worcester, MA

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Co-Chair - Leonard Cooper, Co-Chair - David Minasian,
Committee Members - Karen Pelletier, Jeffrey Turgeon, Frank Kartheiser, &
Leo Miller

Guests:

Meeting Start: 10:00

- Co-Chair Cooper welcomed everyone and called the meeting order after a quorum was established.
- A meeting agenda was distributed to all.

Previous Meetings Minutes:

- The minutes from the Dec. 4, 2015 meeting at 44 Front St. were reviewed and unanimously accepted via a motion by Mr. Kartheiser and a second by Mr. Minasian.

City Economic Development Update:

- Tabled due to the absence of Paul Morano, Economic Development Director – City of Worc.

Worc. Jobs Fund Financial Report:

- Mr. Turgeon provided the expenses by month dating back to July of 2015.
- There has been a total of \$ 6,991.12 expensed.
- With regard to the active initiative directed at providing Commercial Drivers License (CDL) training to potentially four Worcester residents, Mr. Turgeon noted that he expects the Class C license training to be approximately \$ 800.00 for four students, and the Class B license training to be approximately \$ 1200.00 for four students.

Worc. Jobs Fund Program Director Vacancy:

- There was a general discussion about how best to revisit the process of recruiting and interviewing for a new Program Director. During the discussion, there was acknowledgement by all that there were likely candidates within the active city applicant listings, and the best approach may be to reactivate a sub-committee to review the active listings, as well as any new applicants after a 2-week job posting, and then to interview as desired. After the interviews are completed, the WJF Sub-Committee will make a recommendation to the full Oversight Committee, who may

then consider and decide whether to recommend hiring to the Executive Director of the Central Mass. Workforce Development Board.

- The Applicant Review & Interview Sub-Committee shall consist of Committee Members Jeff Turgeon, Leonard Cooper, Leo Miller and a fourth to be determined after outreach to other Committee Members not in attendance.
- Mr. Minasian noted that the proposed starting date for the position posting is December 10th.

Federal & State Dept. of Transportation Projects, and Pre-Apprenticeship Programming Update:

- Mr. Minasian provided a status of the Worcester Building Pathways initiative. He noted that the recent resignation of the WJF Program Director has most likely created a potential delay in the earlier proposed training starting date in April and there is now a considerable void with regard to pulling together the curriculum and the various sponsoring apprenticeship programs role in the curriculum. Mr. Minasian and Mr. Miller recommended that consideration be given to asking for some limited administrative assistance from the Boston Building Pathways Program even if that assistance may come at a cost. Mr. Miller offered to reach out to Brian Brousseau and the Boston Building Pathways Program to lobby for a meeting between them and Jeff Turgeon so things could continue to move forward.
- Mr. Minasian noted to the Committee that going forward it may be best to utilize Brian Brousseau, President of the Worcester-Fitchburg Building Trades Council, as the primary contact for the WFBTC role as parental sponsor for the Worcester Building Pathways Program initiative., and to use Jeff Turgeon, Executive Director of the Central Mass. Workforce Investment Board, as the primary contact for the administrative oversight of the Program and the associated funding.

CDL Training Project:

- Mr. Turgeon and Mr. Cooper both provided updates with regard to the CDL Training initiative, which is directed at providing entry-level certification to four Worcester residents so they may take advantage of a hiring opportunity with the Worcester Department of Public Works.
- Mr. Cooper noted that he, Janice Weeks (Workforce Central), and Jeff conducted interviews of applicants and they feel they have at least four candidates to move forward into a CDL training sessions. A fifth applicant seems to have already completed similar training but has yet to take and pass the CDL test. It is the understanding that this applicant will be kept in the process, but with the stipulation that he complete the licensing piece.
- Mr. Turgeon noted that there are still some issues to be worked out with regard to the State's oversight to the funds being relied upon. He noted the state's attention being primarily focused on a concrete tie to a union apprenticeship program that will maintain a commitment to accepting the targeted training group. It was also noted that these specific trainings were in response to unfilled openings within the city's DPW, and that

the specific union associated with the DPW jobs does not have an associated apprenticeship program in place. Mr. Miller and Mr. Cooper both spoke on the efforts made to engage this same union through its current elected President, and his willingness to speak to upper levels of his union to consider playing a more meaningful role.

Next Steps:

- Mr. Kartheiser noted a concern from a key legislative representative as to the status of funds lobbied for and designated for Worcester resident jobs. A discussion ensued relative to the various funding sources and the stipulations associated with them. Mr. Turgeon spent some time explaining the flow and oversight within the City's administration and also the Central Mass. Workforce Board. He offered to put together a simplified summary of what the current financial resources are and how they may be used.

Adjournment:

A motion was made to adjourn at 12:10 PM by Mr. Kartheiser, seconded by Mr. Minasian, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by L. Miller – 12/9/2015

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